



HOUSING and SUPPORTIVE SERVICE NETWORK

Providing a Continuum of Care for Vulnerable Populations in Washington County

Wednesday, October 7, 2015 ~ 8:30 to 10:00 a.m.

>>> The Beaverton Building at "The Beaverton Round" <<<

Third Floor Training Room

12725 SW Millikan Way, Beaverton, OR 97005-1641

AGENDA

I. INTRODUCTIONS: 8:30 a.m.

II. GUEST SPEAKER: 8:35 a.m.

Ms. Mellani Calvin, Program ASSIST

- Assertive SSI Service Team Program

Mr. Matt Davis, Washington County Environmental Health

- Washington County's Ordinance on Fireplace and Woodstove Use, and Woodstove Replacement Program

III. APPROVAL OF MEETING MINUTES: 9:15 a.m. Action Item

IV. GENERAL BUSINESS: 9:20 a.m.

- FY2015 McKinney-Vento CoC Program NOFA Timeline – Target submittal of application by November 18, 2015.
- FY2015 CoC Program Request For Proposals (RFP) for new Permanent Housing Bonus projects not to exceed \$409,250 for OR-506CoC. RFP published September 24, 2015, with Permanent Housing Bonus project proposal presentations and scoring. Action Item

Project Proposal(s):

1. New Rapid Rehousing sponsored by Community Action Organization

2. Clover Court sponsored by Luke-Dorf, Inc.

V. ANNOUNCEMENTS: 9:50 a.m.

VI. ADJOURNMENT: 10:00 a.m.

Next Meeting: Wednesday, November 4, 2015

Guest Speakers:

Ms. Cynthia Valdivia, "Preparing Together" Disaster Training

Jill Cuyler, Oregon Employment Division Research on Lower Income Employment and Housing

Department of Housing Services

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Equal Housing Opportunity

HOUSING AND SUPPORTIVE SERVICES NETWORK

Maintaining a Continuum of Care in Washington County

Beaverton Building

September 2, 2015 at 8:30 a.m.

Goal: Housing and supportive service agencies working to bring a broad spectrum of organizations together as partners in the community to secure funding and other resources needed in providing a continuum of care for individuals and families who are homeless or with special needs.

ATTENDEES:

Bonvino, Cecilia—Community Action Organization	Nelson, Barbara—Community Volunteer/Veterans Advocate
Berkowitz, Mose—Transition Projects	Orr, Patrick—Cascade AIDS Project
Bundy, Valerie—Domestic Violence Resource Center	Perkowski, Kaja—Open Door Counseling Center
Burton, Valerie—Luke-Dorf, Inc.	Peters, Stephanie—Bridges to Change
Clevidence, Veronica—Washington County Housing Svcs	Rainey, Ann—Veteran's Administration HUD-VASH
Dickey, Belinda—Community Action Organization	Ram, Sarala—CODA, Inc.
Doty, Julia—Northwest Housing Alternatives	Rittenhouse, Ron—Goodwill Industries Job Connection
Earp, Eric—Bridges to Change	Rogers, Jessica—Community Action Organization
Evans, Annette—Washington County Housing Services	Rogers, Patrick—Community Action Organization
Galian, Katherine—Community Action Organization	Salvon, Jeff—City of Beaverton
Heart, Annie—Family Promise	Sechrist, Lauren—Wash. Co. Community Development
Huggins, Sarah—Family Promise	Sell, Wendy—Lifeworks Northwest
Layton, Amber—HomePlate	Seward, Michelle—Lifeworks Northwest
Linder, April—Housing Independence	Trunnell, Alan—City of Beaverton
Loverin, Robert—Sequoia Mental Health Services	Weaver, Evan—Oregon Food Bank
McKenna, Marielle—HomePlate	Weller, Sarah—Write Around Portland
Mott, Holly—Housing Independence	

Chair: Annette Evans, Public Agency Representative annette_evans@co.washington.or.us

Co-Chair: Katherine Galian, Nonprofit Agency Representative kgalian@caowash.org

I. INTRODUCTIONS

II. GUEST SPEAKER

Review of Community Connect, Washington County's Centralized Assessment System

Ms. Katherine Galian and Mr. Pat Rogers, Community Action Organization

Katherine Galian and Pat Rogers gave an overview of Community Connect's origins, guiding principles, data-driven outcomes, and functions. A centralized assessment for accessing homeless programs was identified as a strategy in *A Road Home: 10-Year Plan to End Homelessness*, and became a federal requirement under the HEARTH Act, CoC Program 24 CFR Part 578.7 and Emergency Solution Grant 24 CFR 576.400. Community Connect was created be one point of contact for those who are literally homeless or at-risk of becoming homeless to access all housing resources available to them within the community. Expected outcomes included reducing first-time homelessness, reducing unsheltered homeless populations and increasing rapid exits to permanent housing.

The system was designed to take clients through three-steps: screening for homeless eligibility, assessment of housing need, and referral to housing programs and providers based on assessed need. The assessed need is based on a scoring system which takes

several factors into account, including physical and mental health, homeless history, employment and financial status, housing history, domestic violence (DV) and criminal history. Those who are literally homeless are immediately placed (dependent upon availability) in Monika's House (DV), the Family Shelter Network, Safe Place Youth and Severe Weather Shelters. Others are referred according to their score and specific needs to transitional housing, permanent supportive housing and rapid rehousing and prevention with or without case management.

While created in early 2014, Community Connect wasn't implemented across the board until July 1, 2014. From July 1, 2014 to June 30, 2015, 2106 households have been screened. Of the 2106 households, 57% were literally homeless and 48% were at-risk of becoming homeless. Of those screened, 1409 households went on to be assessed, with 52% literally homeless and 48% at-risk.

Some clients who come through the system find that there are resources to assist them, while others leave their appointment knowing that they have already exhausted all resources, and there is nothing available to them in Washington County for their current situation. Some of the barriers experienced by those coming through Community Connect during the 2014/15 fiscal year include criminal history (50%), lack of income (28% had no income at all), poor rental history (35% had prior evictions, and many owed their prior landlord(s), with the median landlord debt being \$4200), poor credit history, and lack of family supports (18% have a history of foster care, compared to 1% of the general population). Barbara Nelson asked what the county is doing about landlord price-fixing and no-cause evicting in order to rent units for more money. Annette responded that a Washington County Legal Clinic is being developed which will serve those who need assistance with legal barriers, the first of which will be held in October 2015, and Washington County Thrives is working toward developing more low-income and affordable housing.

Some systemic barriers to housing include lack of official documentation, lack of housing options, high screening criteria, employment issues, and no-cause evictions. For those that are seniors or medically fragile (69%), it can be difficult to find a sponsoring agency for Shelter Plus Care (SPC). Annette Evans added that because of the severe lack of affordable housing in Washington County, the CoC had to deobligate about \$200,000 in federal funds for assistance that had been awarded to clients who could then find no eligible housing.

Looking back at FY2014/15, Community Connect has accomplished the initial goals identified. The system is easy to access and covers the entire jurisdictional area, access is equal for all homeless people and rapid exits to permanent housing have increased.

The group felt that an annual update on Community Connect would be beneficial.

Oregon's Focus on Ending Homelessness and Alignment of Funding

Ms. Marilyn Miller, Oregon Housing and Community Services

Marilyn Miller said the state has been working to align the guidelines for its five state-funded programs with federal and CoC guidelines. These programs include Emergency Housing Assistance (EHA), State Homeless Assistance Program (SHAP), Low Income Rental Housing Funds (LIRHF) and Emergency Solutions Grant Program (ESGP). All five programs utilize HUD's (Housing and Urban Development) four categorical definitions of homelessness and at-risk of homelessness: Literally Homeless; Imminent Risk of Homelessness; Homeless under Other Federal Statutes; and Fleeing/Attempting to Flee

Domestic Violence. The state added a fifth category for eligibility to all programs except ESG to retain flexibility in serving the homeless. The fifth category is Unstably Housed, defined as those at risk of losing their housing but do not otherwise qualify as homeless under HUD's four definitions, provided that they have been notified to vacate their current residence or otherwise demonstrate high risk of losing current housing, and lack the resources or support networks to obtain other permanent housing.

The performance of the five state programs is measured by the percentage of those who exit to permanent housing and those who retain permanent housing for six months or longer. The state is also aligning with continuums of care (CoC) in requiring active grantee participation in their local or regional CoC including utilization of coordinated or central assessment and intake system(s) and compliance with CoC service standards.

Marilyn provided documentation comparing Washington County and Oregon with national demographics in terms of population, poverty rates, unemployment rates, and poverty population characteristics. Washington County's population has increased by 17.5% between 2000 and 2013, compared to Oregon's 11.6%.

Also provided was data on Oregon's 2015 Point in Time count, which is new data for 2015 and offers a more comprehensive view of the homeless situation statewide. Marilyn is asking for help from the continuums in determining what role the state could play in making the data more helpful and easier to collect. She also asked if there is a need to standardize how the data is collected for a better statewide overview. Annette Evans asked how the data is utilized by legislators and lawmakers in their decision-making process. Marilyn responded that the Oregon Housing and Community Services uses the data to help determine to which partners the funding should go, but since there has not historically been statewide data, it hasn't been used in the past. She is hopeful that since the data is now available, legislators, stakeholders, officials and others who influence resources will use the data. Barbara Nelson asked if the state is tracking people migrating to Oregon from other states, and how that might be increasing the homeless population. Marilyn said while that data is not currently being tracked, the state is tracking how those migrating to Oregon might be increasing housing costs and lowering vacancy levels. They have been working with the regional HUD office to make a case to get a waiver to the full-market rent. While this won't fix all of the issues, it might help. There is an investment in affordable housing in the state, and Marilyn's office is hoping to access some of those funds as well. Marilyn was asked whether the state has looked at the possibility of providing tiny houses, as they are becoming so popular. Marilyn responded that the state hasn't looked into that, but she encouraged people to take ideas to their legislators. Mose Berkowitz asked if there was a centralized place for people to access affordable housing in general, and Marilyn responded that it was a great idea, but might work better on a local level.

III. APPROVAL OF MEETING MINUTES

Motion: Approve the August 5, 2015 HSSN meeting minutes.
Action: Katherine Galian
Second: Lauren Sechrist
Vote: Approved, unanimous.

IV. GENERAL BUSINESS

Emergency Food and Shelter Program (EFSP) Funding Allocation

Annette Evans explained that the EFSP is a Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) program created to supplement the work of local social service organizations within the United States to help people in need of emergency assistance. Each jurisdiction

must meet a threshold based on poverty and unemployment to be eligible. The local EFSP Board consisting of Washington, Clackamas, Multnomah, and Clark counties is moving forward with the application process in anticipation of a funding award; however, there is no guarantee that funding will be available.

Historically, when an award has been granted to Washington, Clackamas and Multnomah counties, Washington County has received 28.45% of the funds awarded. Of the 28.45% received in past years, the allocation has been: 23% for food/meals, 30% for shelter, 0% for off-site lodging, and 47% for rent and mortgage assistance (though the county has focused recently on rent assistance rather than mortgage assistance).

There was discussion regarding whether the historical allocation percentages were the best way to allocate, and Katherine Galian and Evan Weaver asserted that with the limitations on how the funds are spent, there is more flexibility in the historical allocation to address the needs in the county.

Annette will take an action item to review the data with the HSSN next September to determine whether the allocations should be changed at that time.

Motion: Recommend allocating Phase 33 funding in Washington County to 23% Shelter, 30% Rent/Mortgage, 47% Food/Meals and 0% Off-Site Lodging categories.
Action: Lauren Sechrist
Second: Ron Rittenhouse
Vote: Approved, unanimous.

Lauren Sechrist asked about the Off-Site Lodging category, and Annette responded it could be used to pay for a hotel room or similar accommodations for someone who perhaps arrives at a shelter very ill, so that the other people aren't exposed to illness. Katherine Galian added that as we get closer to "functional zero" for the homeless, this category might make more sense. Annette will add it to the discussion for next September.

Update: FY2015 McKinney/Vento CoC Program Competitive Grant Application
Annette Evans shared that the Notice of Funds Available has not yet been released, but the HSSN Workgroup did rank and rate the renewal projects for tier 1 and tier 2. She will provide updates as they become available.

V. ANNOUNCEMENTS

- Lauren Sechrist announced the Draft of the 2014 Consolidated Annual Performance and Evaluation Report (CAPER) is out for public comment online, and she will send the link when she gets back to the office. There will be a Fair Housing Landlord Forum on 9/23/15 from 4-8pm with a light dinner. Information will be sent via email. Also, Lauren announced her last day with the county will be 10/30/15.
- Sarah Weller announced Write Around Portland will be presenting an anthology release party and public reading on 10/2/2015 at 6:30pm at PCC Willow Creek, and invited everyone to attend to show support.
- Valerie Bundy announced the Domestic Violence Resource Center's 40th Anniversary celebration "An Autumn Affair" on 9/26/2015 from 6pm to 11pm at NW Events and Environments, 2900 SW 229th, Suite 100 in Hillsboro.
- Annie Heart reminded everyone October is Homeless Awareness Month, and the third week in October is Family Promise Awareness Week.

- Katherine Galian announced there will be an exhibit on the history of poverty in Washington County at the Washington County Museum in Hillsboro on 9/10/2015.
- Annette Evans reminded the group of the handouts to take and distribute for the upcoming Safety and Library levies and Community Connect referral cards.

VI. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting adjourned at 10:00am. The next meeting is October 7, 2015 at 8:30am.

Minutes prepared by Veronica Clevidence
Washington County Department of Housing Services

To be added to the HSSN email list, contact Annette Evans at
Annette_Evans@co.washington.or.us