

State Advisory Council on Homelessness

Attendees: Bill Block, Diane Christie, Cathy Cochran, Judy Combes, Annie Conant, Lael Duncan, Melinda Dyer, Lupita Gutierrez-Parker, Joe Ingram, Megan Karch, Jean Kim, Mary Looker, Chris Lowell, Tom Pennella, Nola Renz, Kathy Wahto, Gary Williams, Larry Wright.

Interested Parties: Corine Knudsen

CTED Staff: Kathryn Stayrook

Welcome and Introductions: The group introduced themselves around the table and three new members were introduced: Lael Duncan of Okanogan County Community Action Council, Larry Wright of the Washington State mentoring Partnership, and Gary Williams of the Whatcom County Health Department.

Approval of Minutes: Minutes for the June 14, 2006 meeting were approved with revisions.

Update on State 10-Year Plan to End Homelessness: The State Plan is on schedule. The Homeless Grant Assistance Program (HGAP) applicants will be county governments working with contractors. Applications are due November 8. The review committee will invite each county to make a 10-minute presentation of their application to be completed over a 2-day period. Each county will be given time to respond to any review committee questions. They can confer with their partners and report back to the review committee. The awards will be announced in December.

There was a motion from Joe Ingram that SACH recommend to CTED that the HGAP application presentations be made by representatives who reflect their project; that up to three presenters per county are allowed to meet with the review committee. The motion was seconded by Gary Williams, voted on by the council and passed unanimously.

SACH members discussed the latest activities in their county related to their homeless plans. Several counties had funded programs out of the revenue collected from 2163 funds thus far. King County has an extensive planning and community process built around their 10-Year Plan. Their local governing board has broad political and business participation. Areas such as Okanogan County are relatively new at developing a local homeless plan; however, they have formed a strong local coalition to begin addressing the unique needs of a small rural population dispersed within a county that, by square miles, is the third largest county in the United States. A consistent theme in the updates given by SACH members is that local providers are being relied on by their elected officials to make sound decisions on how 2163 resources will be used in their county. This is indicative of the stronger bonds of cooperation that are being forged as a result of 2163.

Update on Interagency Council on Homelessness (ICH): During the discussion, it was recommended that since ICH may want to hear reports from each county, that SACH recommend a panel to make a presentation of the reports to ICH.

It was also recommended that the SACH agenda of topics for each meeting align with the ICH calendar's topics for discussion, and that topics for the meetings be sent early to SACH members so they can have a report ready.

There was a motion by Bill Block that the ICH investigate whether the authority exists for ICH member departments to combine funding in a single application/reporting process for pilot projects addressing homelessness through a combination of departmental resources, and if that authority does not exist that the ICH consider requesting legislative authority in the 2007 session that would allow such combined-funding pilot projects should the ICH wish to implement them in the coming year. The motion was seconded by Joe Ingram and unanimously approved by the members.

Homeless Voucher Program (HVP): Annie reported on the final distribution of the \$1 million that was made available during the last legislative session (see hand-out). Of the amount set aside for rental assistance, the following were the agencies who received HVP funds from CTED:

- King County
- Skagit Community Action
- Community Action Council
- Chelan Housing Authority
- Okanogan Housing Authority
- Benton Franklin Community Action

Membership Discussion: Members whose terms will end in January 2007: Jean Kim, Nola Renz, Paul Carlson, and Steve Moss. Annie will contact members to discuss their interests in being re-appointed to the SACH. It was recommended that for vacancies people representing the education field should be sought after. It was also suggested that the governor's office be asked about possible representatives from the Gates Foundation.

Member Updates: Members gave updated information on the activities of their organizations.

Planning for Next Meetings:

- December:
 - We want to align with ICH on discharge planning and reentry strategies—including the youth perspective.
- March:
 - Data collection
 - Provide feedback and comments on performance measures including employment and accessing mainstream services.
 - Youth Perspective
- June:
 - How should the 10-Year Plan be updated for next year? (This topic is on the ICH Agenda for June). Counties could report on updates of their homeless plans.

Adjourned

The next meeting will be December 7, 2006, at the Red Lion Hotel, SeaTac.