

## Interagency Council on Homelessness

March 7, 2007

9:30 a.m. – 12:30 p.m.

Olympia, Washington

### **Attendees:**

Kari Burrell, Senior Policy Advisor, Office of the Governor

Blake Chard, Deputy Secretary, Department of Social and Health Services

Kathy DiJulio, Assistant Commissioner for Operations Division, Employment Security Department

Will Graham, Assistant Director for Housing, Department of Community, Trade and Economic Development (ICH Chair)

Mary Looker, Primary Care Office Manager, Department of Health

Absent: Alfie Alvarado Ramos, Deputy Director, Department of Veteran's Affairs;

Mary Leftridge Byrd, Deputy Secretary, Community Corrections Division, Department of Corrections; Theo Yu, Office of Financial Management

Guests: Donna Gober, Correctional Industries, DOC; John Lane, Office of the Governor; Paul Perz, Bev Emery, and Mike Masten, CTED

Staff: Lynn Davison, Common Ground; Cathy Cochran, DSHS; Kaye Atkins, DOC; Annie Conant, CTED; Tedd Kelleher, CTED; Anee Brar, ICH staff.

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The agenda was adjusted to start the meeting with re-entry/legislative update being the first topic of discussion. Kari Burrell from the Governor's Office discussed the Governor's position on re-entry. The Governor has made it clear that DOC should not be part of housing offenders after they leave custody because housing is not DOC's core competency. The Governor also feels that once offenders leave state supervision, they are members of the community. At that point, offenders are no longer the state's responsibility, and the community's needs to play a role in serving these individuals as their neighbors. The Governor is looking to the ICH for setting policy direction according to top priorities relative to local plans.

Correctional Industries (CI) staff Donna Gober presented a proposal to the ICH which was initiated by Stephen Buxbaum before he left CTED. The proposal is to provide jobs to offenders in custody through a pre-apprenticeship program. Offenders could build modular homes for farmworkers, and/or build self-help housing to move into upon release. Currently, DOC offers several life skills programs in partnership with ESD, but none of them are apprenticeship programs. In this model, WorkSource would conduct assessments for offenders while they are in prison, and provide technical skills training. Upon exit into the community, the offenders would have marketable job skills, in this case, construction skills which would also meet community needs addressing the shortage

and need for skilled construction workers. CI is anxious to work with the ICH to further develop this idea.

Next steps:

- Will Graham to contact CI for further follow-up.

Homeless Grant Assistance Program (HGAP) projects

Six out of the nine HGAP projects are focused on jails and re-entry and present an opportunity for the ICH member agencies to demonstrate systems change. Once these projects are implemented locally, stumbling blocks will be identified and negotiated at the local level, and then bumped up to the ICH staff level to be reviewed.

Next steps:

- Each ICH member agency to identify key players at the local level as a “go to” person for HGAP projects.
- CTED will circulate HGAP contracting logic models and performance measures to staff identified by ICH members. Staff will review performance measures for a “reality check” whether meet realistic, cost-effective and meaningful criteria.

DSHS Mental Health Division is currently developing a plan which aims to reduce costs to state and local hospitals. A draft of this plan was released in mid-March, and the final plan is due at the end of June. There are opportunities for closer collaboration and planning to coordinate housing and services resources across ICH agencies.

Next steps:

- Review Draft Mental Health Plan and identify opportunities for partnership between ICH agencies.

Re-entry Workgroup Status Report:

The interagency re-entry workgroup has met several times and is currently working on developing pilots for hard to serve populations.

Next steps:

- Re-entry workgroup will define “hard to serve” population
- Develop pilot project recommendations for consideration by the ICH in May.