

Interagency Council on Homelessness

July 11, 2007

9:30 a.m. – 12:30 p.m.

Olympia, Washington

Attendees:

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

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
Kari Burrell, Senior Policy Advisor, Office of the Governor, Kathy DiJulio, Assistant Commissioner for Operations Division, Employment Security Department
Mary Leftridge Byrd, Deputy Secretary, Community Corrections Division, Department of Corrections, Theo Yu, Office of Financial Management

Guests:

Staff: Annie Conant, CTED; Tedd Kelleher, CTED; Anee Brar, ICH staff; Anne Fiala for Mary Leftridge Byrd (DOC).

Review Point in Time Count Results

Tedd Kelleher presented the PIT results to the ICH. Although there are significant shortcomings to the data we have now, we know approximately how many people experience homelessness. Ongoing improvements in the quality of the data we collect on homelessness will be critical to creating appropriately sized and targeted strategies.

A total of 22,045 people were reported homeless in the second statewide point in time count that took place during the last week of January 2007 – a two percent increase over the 2006 count. The increase represents 219 additional people sheltered and an additional 199 people counted as unsheltered, and is probably caused by expansions of count efforts and creation of new transitional housing.

Next Steps:

- Incorporate results in the final update of the Ten Year Plan

Ten Year Plan Update

At the May meeting in Yakima, ICH members provided feedback on strategies 1-12. Due to scheduling conflicts, the June meeting was cancelled however CTED staff individually met with each of the ICH members' staff (Kaye Adkins (DOC), Cathy Cochran (DSHS), Barb Logan (DVA), Mary Looker (DOH)) to review the updated strategies and finalize specific action steps related to each strategy. At the July meeting, present members including Blake Chard, Will Graham, Mary Looker and Anne Fiala for Mary Leftridge Byrd agreed to the action steps associated with each of the strategies.

Simultaneously, stakeholder review was under way. The initial drafts of strategies 1-12 were circulated to WSCH, SACH, and Balance of State. On July 16, the final draft was released to the entire stakeholder list serve for public review. Stakeholders had until July 31, 2007 to respond and provide feedback.

Members also considered specific action items suggested by Lynn Davison. Members decided that all of the suggestions were premature to be added to the Ten Year Plan in this update because they impinged on the MHP, which is not yet finalized. However, members did suggest that they would consider the proposed additions for the next update cycle.

Next Steps:

- Obtain approval for the distribution of the Ten-Year Plan

Updates

Independent Youth Housing Program

CTED and DSHS staff are working closely to develop and implement the foster youth program. Program Manager Cheryl Bayle met with stakeholders at the SACH meeting on May 31 to discuss program details.

Timeline: Finalize program design in July; release the RFP in August; RFP responses due in September; and contracting to begin in November.

Offender Housing Program

CTED has received \$3.9 million to create an offender transitional program to establish a minimum of two pilot sites in communities that have Community Justice Centers. Currently, CJsCs are located in King, Pierce, Yakima, Spokane, Clark, and Snohomish counties. CTED has been conducting site visits with providers in order to develop program guidelines. Applications will be sent in September. The Local Government division at CTED is required to establish pilot community transition coordination networks (CTCN) to help offenders find services that might be available from the county.

Timeline: Finalize program design in July; release the RFP in August; RFP responses due in September; and contracting to begin in November.

Mental Health Housing Plan

Blake Chard mentioned that DSHS is currently reviewing the Mental Health Housing Plan developed by contractor Common Ground. A revised draft is schedule to be released in the fall which would provide details on implementation.

Next steps:

- Awaiting DSHS approval to release Mental Health Plan

HMIS

CTED is working with DIS to release the HMIS RFP to select a vendor. DIS has asked for some additional requirements. CTED has added those additional requirements, and awaiting DIS approval to release the RFP.