

Meeting Notes
September 7, 2007

State Advisory Council on Homelessness

Attendees: Bill Block, Paul Carlson, Diane Christie, Cathy Cochran, Judy Combes, Lael Duncan, Melinda Dyer, Kim Eads, Steve Gaulke, Judith Gidley, Marilyn Highberg, Joseph Ingram, Megan Karch, Jean Kim, Mia Navarro Wells, Alan Painter, Sara Levin, Steven Washington, Chris Lowell, Nola Renz, Kathy Wahto, Gary Williams, Tom Pennella

New Member: Steve Gaulke

Interested Parties: Frank Jose, DSHS

Guests: Christine Molnes, DSHS; Susan Muggoch, DSHS, Elyse May, DSHS; Corinne Mason DSHS-JRA; David Charler, DSHS-JRA; Pat Edwards, DSHS-JRA; Jim Malsen, DSHS-JRA

CTED Staff: Annie Conant, Kathryn Stayrook

Opening Remarks and Introductions: Introductions were made around the table and the Chair, Chris Lowell, welcomed the guest representatives from the Juvenile Rehabilitation System.

Approval of Meeting Notes from Last Meeting:

It was moved, seconded, and passed to accept the meeting notes without revision.

Navigating DSHS At-a-Glance:

The presentation by the DSHS staff started out with a game, "Do you know your DSHS acronyms?" There were prizes of chocolate handed out for having the most correct. The PowerPoint presentation and handout were titled *Navigating DSHS; A Roadmap to Programs and Services*. Each program or service was explained and discussed. There are over 50 field offices around the state to serve the *very* low income and resource families. There was a consensus that at least one DSHS CSO or representative needs to be at the table in all county and provider meetings for ending homelessness since there is a great need to expedite services.

There was a motion to have SACH recommend that the Secretary of DSHS send out a letter to all local CSOs directing them to participate with their community homeless coalitions on a regular basis and that they need to have representation in all sectors and at the 10-Year planning level. The motion was seconded and approved.

Whatcom County Resolution on High Risk Offender Housing:

Gary Williams spoke about the resolution from the Whatcom County Re-entry Coalition which would like to request that Governor Gregoire re-confer with the Secretary of the Department of

Corrections and the Attorney General's Office to consider reinstating previous 90-day housing assistance vouchers for "high risk" offenders re-entering the community. Losing this valuable resource is already having a detrimental effect on all counties. ESSB 6157 only serves a small population in two pilot counties. While the Offender Re-entry pilot program is a great program, it will take a long time for it to become what every county needs for re-entry housing.

Gary made a motion that he would like SACH to further the recommendation that the Governor review this decision and consider reinstating the previous 90-day housing assistance voucher program until there has been an appropriate transfer of funds and resources to continue this service. The motion was seconded and approved by the membership.

Gary will meet with Annie Conant and Bill Block to draft a letter to the Governor.

Corinne Mason of DSHA/JRA asked if Juvenile Rehabilitation Administration could be included in the letter since DOC had offered an opportunity for an adult juvenile parolee to be housed in an apartment complex in Olympia. The consensus was that Gary's motion was for a specific issue and that Corinne's question referred to a broader issue. Chris Lowell replied that JRA can present at the next meeting. The membership will need to be oriented and briefed further as to the broader issue.

Working with Churches – Opportunities:

Jean Kim would like for the counties to provide the church community with at least one contact from the county who is up-to-date on the 10-Year Plan. They would also like a list of agencies in each county who is working on the homeless issue. The church community would like to be an integral partner in the process, but needs contacts for guidance as to how to go about it.

Jean is also building a speakers team, so that whenever they have programs she will have someone to call on who is up-to-date on the 10-Year Plan and can speak to the subject. She would like members to sign up for the team and sent around a form for members to sign up.

Mia Navarro Wells is sending Jean an email with a link to the Homeless Coalition's Website that has a list, by county, of the local coalition contacts.

Bill Block said that the King County Community to End Homelessness is holding a symposium November 17 and 18 in Bellevue on what the faith communities and service clubs can do to create long-term housing to end homelessness.

SACH Operational Policies and Procedures:

Annie Conant talked about the Operational Policies and Procedures that a sub-committee drafted using the AHAB bylaws as a guide. Annie wanted to ask the members to deal with any questions they might have now at this meeting, but schedule a conference call in lieu of a special meeting to go over the draft and then adopt it. Members will need to review the draft document and can email any other comments and questions to Annie and the membership in order to prepare for the conference call.

A motion was made to approve the use of the terminology under special council meetings for the purpose of approving the SACH Operational Policies and Procedures. There was also an

addendum to the motion to change **XII. Special Council Meetings** to include the ability to have special meetings by conference call. The motion was seconded and approved by the membership.

Letter to Governor Gregoire:

The letter to Governor Gregoire was regarding the SACH recommendations. Annie had drafted the original letter, and then Bill Block added an overview and emphasis to needs.

Report on Joint AHAB/ICH Meeting:

Chris Lowell made a presentation at the combined meeting to brief them on the SACH letter to the governor. The first recommendation is to authorize and direct increased coordination and collaboration including two strong suggestions to combine our fees from the various departments where the funding services are combined at the state level, and then the coordination of reports and evaluations. The second recommendation was to invite the Office of Superintendent of Public Instruction to the ICH.

Chris took the opportunity to offer to take members of the ICH on two-hour tours of homeless projects that can be a representation of projects around the state. She also offered for the SACH to take on any issues or projects that the ICH may need regarding any expertise or work to be done.

The AHAB and the ICH decided to meet together once a year. If there was a strong pending issue they would, in addition, meet when needed.

Paul Carlson is in the process of organizing a joint meeting between the Oregon ICH and the Washington ICH in Portland on November 8. He feels that SACH should be represented at this meeting. Chris Lowell volunteered to represent the SACH at the joint meeting as an observer.

Currently the ICH is working on finishing the latest update to the 10-Year Plan. At the December meeting they will be mapping out the work plan for 2008. If SACH has any recommendations toward the ICH Workplan, they will need to make them in the interim since the next SACH meeting is in February.

ICH Presentation in the Fall:

Annie Conant put forth a recommendation that SACH send a panel to a future ICH meeting to make a presentation with a Q&A about what is happening in the local communities to continue the link of the ICH to local communities. Chris asked who would be interested in serving on the panel. Bill Block, Gary Williams, Chris Lowell, Steve Gaulke, Joe Ingram, and Nola Renz volunteered for the panel. They will have to be ready to go quickly *if* there is going to be an ICH meeting in October.

Member Updates:

- Nola Renz announced Project Homeless Connect will be held at the Tacoma Dome on October 10. Judy Combes recommended that the members come to volunteer and see if they would like to have a Project Homeless Connect in their community.
- Bill Block announced that on November 13 there will be a Community Resource Exchange which is similar to a Homeless Connect.

- Judith announced that Benton and Franklin Counties are working on three “Homeless Reconnects” next year. The first will be with adults and families, the second with youth, and the third with landlords.
- Gary announced Whatcom County is hoping to have a Project Homeless Connect in January to coincide with the Point-in-Time count.
- Frank Jose announced he will come back to SACH to give a presentation on DSHS’s Mental Health Housing project.
- Megan Karch announced that the National Association for the Education of Homeless Children is having their annual conference in Portland, Oregon at the convention center on ??? 10, 11, 12, and 13.

Planning for Next Meetings:

- **Schedule**

- ❖ **The next meeting is scheduled for January 25 at the Red Lion SeaTac.**
- ❖ **PLEASE NOTE: THE JANUARY MEETING HAS BEEN MOVED TO 2/22/08.**
- ❖ **Proposed 2008 SACH meeting dates and topics**

January 25	FEBRUARY 22, 2008	Discussion of the upcoming Legislative Session; discussion of HMIS
April 11		Review/Discuss legislative session
July 11		Make recommendations for next session.
September 12		Focus on progress in state and local 10-year plans.