

DRAFT

State Advisory Council on Homelessness

Attendees: Chris Lowell, Annie Conant, Melinda Dyer, Bill Block, Steve Gualke, Joe Ingram, Cathy Cochran, Toni Johnson (who will replace the retiring Cathy Cochran), Judith Combes, Lael Duncan, Judith Gidley, Jean Kim, Marilyn Highberg, Lisa Salmi, Kari Burrell, Tom Pennella, Gary Williams, Kathy Wahto, Bill Block, Megan Karch, Steve Washington, and Diane Christie.

Interested Parties: Mia Navarro Wells/WSCH, Frank Jose/DSHS

Guests: Blake Chard/DSHS, Rosemary Tureaud/DSHS

CTED Staff: Caryn Horn, Kathy Giglio, Bruce Yasutake

Opening Remarks and Introductions:

Introductions were made around the table. Of note: Toni Johnson was introduced as Cathy Cochran's replacement; and very special guests were Blake Chard, Deputy Secretary of DSHS; and Rosemary Tureaud, DSHS Government and Community Relations Director.

Approval of Meeting Notes from Last Meeting:

The meeting notes were approved as corrected. Judith Gidley's report from Benton Franklin needs to be included.

Shelter Licensing:

Lisa Salmi presented the DRAFT homeless shelter rules. The State Board of Health and the Department of Health (DOH) formed an advisory group to examine issues and draft shelter rules. This document will be presented to the Board on June 11. If the Board decides to move forward with rule making, a possible hearing date could occur as early as January 2009. The DOH is currently accepting public comments. Mia, Kathy, and Joe from the Council worked on the rules, along with members of several provider agencies.

Mental Health Housing Plan:

Frank Jose presented the Mental Health Division Housing Plan. A copy of the PowerPoint presentation on the plan was handed out. The Mental Health Division contracted with Common Ground to develop recommendations for a housing plan for people with mental illness. The Plan estimated a need for 5,000 additional permanent supportive housing units and the consultant recommended a goal of providing 40 percent of the 5,000 new supportive housing units by 2015.

Motion: Bill moved that the SACH commend the Mental Health Division of DSHS for recognizing that the work they do requires a comprehensive solution that encompasses

housing and services solutions to support people in recovery and we encourage state agencies to adopt the same approach.

Friendly Amendment: Chris added that besides the housing piece we need to add the operating and maintenance support of units to insure the long-term viability of affordable housing projects.

Seconded and passed.

Chris suggested that this message go forward to the other departments as well through the Interagency Council on Homelessness.

Action Item: Bill will write the letter.

Supportive Housing Institute:

Bruce presented information on the Supportive Housing Institute (SHI) that provides training for eight counties across Washington to receive technical assistance in developing supportive housing project plans. The consultant teams include the Corporation for Supportive Housing, Building Changes, and Common Ground. Funding for the Institute is provided by CTED, DSHS, and the Washington Families Fund. The eight counties attending the SHI are Skagit, Clallam, Pacific, Lewis, Okanogan, Benton, Walla Walla, and Spokane.

Retirement Presentation: A plaque was presented to Cathy Cochran for her service to the State Advisory Council on Homelessness. Cathy will be retiring from state service at the end of the month. Cathy introduced her replacement, Toni Johnson, from the Tacoma Housing Authority. Toni has been connected with AHAB and is set to attend the WSCH Annual Conference. She will be involved in everything Cathy has been involved in.

Chris suggested that Jody Becker-Green be invited to attend the next SACH meeting to update her on challenging issues facing local communities.

Legislative Session Discussion:

Bill suggested that SACH recognize the Governor, Speaker of the House, and the Senate Majority Leader for key legislation impacting the homeless this last Legislative session.

Motion: Bill moved that the State Advisory Council on Homelessness thank, by way of a letter, the Governor, Speaker of the House, and the Senate Majority Leader for their work in addressing the needs of the homeless, making significant strides in 2008 to bringing the state closer to the ultimate goal of ending homelessness in Washington State.

Seconded and Passed.

Action Item: Bill will write the letter.

Bill suggested that SACH use the July meeting to discuss the Legislative agenda for the 2009 session. The first bill signed by the Governor during the last session was funding for the Washington Families Fund. In a discussion on preparing for the July meeting, Bill offered to prepare a list of action items to be discussed related to the session. Further ideas can be emailed to Caryn at CarynH@cted.wa.gov.

Member Updates:

Member updates were presented around the table. Items of note include:

- Annie noted that the THOR program has been put in statute with an expanded service population.
- Steve Washington announced that HUD will hold a workshop, “Getting Your Seat at the Table”, on June 2, 2008, from 8:30 a.m. to 3:00 p.m., at the Lacey Community Center. This workshop will teach communities, faith based, and grassroots organizations how to access funding from HUD. Contact Steve at Steven.K.Washington@hud.gov for more information on the workshop. He also clarified that technical submissions for McKinney Grant applications are no longer required for RENEWALS only. New applications require technical submissions. Steve also asked that we use acronyms carefully because not everyone understands what they stand for.
- The Washington State Coalition for the Homeless annual conference is May 7-9. The coalition’s website is www.endhomelessnesswa.org for more information.
- Judith Gigley announced that the bi-county commission voted unanimously to designate Benton Franklin Community Action Committee as lead agency to bring the Consolidated Crisis Response Center to Benton and Franklin counties. They will be combining mental health services, the crisis response center 24 hour line, and detox into one housing unit in Kennewick that is being built by a private investor. When it’s built, it will be open to other agencies that provide services to the homeless as a one-stop service. The CACs responsibility is the housing end of the process. They are currently developing a feasibility study. This project will divert the homeless from the mental hospitals and local jails, and brought in off the street. The CAC is hoping to co-locate with a state agency.
- Gary announced that Whatcom County is awarding four contracts for the case management support for their newest project.
- Clallam County has completed 32 of 38 strategies stated in their 2005 10-Year Plan.
- The Thurston County Housing Authority has developed 100 permanent and 30 shelter beds, and is looking forward to 60 more shelter beds in the future. They are providing a 2-hour tour for state agencies or management so they can see what is being accomplished.
- Frank mentioned that DSHS Mental Health Division has a 17 minute video on their website, “I Want to Be”, that revolves around employment as part of the transformation process.

**THE NEXT SACH MEETING WILL BE HELD FRIDAY, JULY 11, 2008
AT THE RED LION, SEATAC, IN THE SEATTLE ROOM, 10AM TO 2PM**