

Interagency Council on Homelessness

August 13, 2008

9:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.

Olympia, Washington

Present:

Kari Burrell, Executive Policy Advisor, Office of the Governor

Peter Antolin, Senior Budget Analyst, OFM

Alfie Alvarado-Ramos, Deputy Director, DVA

Jody Becker-Green, Assistant Secretary, DSHS

Donna Cayer, Assistant Deputy Secretary, Community Corrections Division, DOC

Mark Streuli, Policy Manager, WorkSource Operations, ESD

Lisa Salmi, Executive Manager, Facilities and Services Licensing), DOH

Patricia Julianelle for Melinda Dyer, State Coordinator for the Education of Homeless
Children and Youth, OSPI

CTED Staff:

Annie Conant

Tedd Kelleher

Bruce Yasutake

Agenda Review, Welcome and Introductions

The agenda was reviewed and all were welcomed. Past members introduced themselves as did new members Mark Streuli from the Employment Security Department, Donna Cayer from the Department of Corrections, and Patricia Julianelle for Melinda Dyer from the newly appointed Office of Superintendent of Public Instruction.

Annie Conant spoke on Will Graham's behalf. Will was not able to attend the meeting because of a MacArthur Foundation grant site visit. More information on CTED's grant application and the "Window of Opportunity" grant can be found at:

<http://www.cted.wa.gov/DesktopModules/CTEDPublications/CTEDPublicationsView.aspx?tabID=0&ItemID=6277&Mid=870&wversion=Staging>

<http://www.macfound.org/site/apps/nlnet/content3.aspx?c=1kLXJ8MQKrH&b=4201209&ct=5321081>

<http://www.macfound.org/site/apps/nl/content2.asp?c=1kLXJ8MQKrH&b=1135955&ct=4620007>

Local Ten-Year Plan Update and Federal Interagency Council on Homelessness Perspective

Paul Carlson, Regional Coordinator (Region 10) with the U.S. Interagency Council on Homelessness (paul.carlson@hud.gov – www.usich.gov) gave an overview of state and local 10-year plans. Paul's role is to coordinate/facilitate the creation of statewide ICH's, statewide/local 10-year plans and decrease homelessness. Region 10 is one of the leading Regions in the number of local 10-year plans that have been completed. Washington State is the only State that has 10-year plans in place and being implemented in all counties. Key characteristics of effective plans include a single point of entry for comprehensive services and a "housing first" approach - <http://www.endhomelessness.org/section/tools/housingfirst>

HUD data shows a decrease in homelessness - <http://www.hud.gov/news/release.cfm?content=pr07-167.cfm> The data for veterans is well documented but is less reliable for families and not reliable for youth.

A question was asked about how successful local strategies are shared. The Washington State Coalition for the Homeless - <http://www.endhomelessnesswa.org/index.html> - annual conference (held in May in Yakima) is one of the primary ways that information is shared.

Local plan contacts can be found at:

<http://www.cted.wa.gov/DesktopModules/CTEDPublications/CTEDPublicationsView.aspx?tabID=0&ItemID=5131&MId=870&wversion=Staging>

Local plans are at:

http://housing-information.net/files/final_local_plans/

The Housing Grant Assistance Program (HGAP) is funded by the same legislation that created the Washington State Interagency on Homelessness. HGAP provides grants to counties to fund innovative projects that reduce homelessness and demonstrate systems change by integrating criminal justice, social service, health, and other state and local systems. HGAP project descriptions can be found at - <http://cted.wa.gov/site/1036/default.aspx>

Re-Entry Proposal Update

Several themes came from the recommendations that were made when counties submitted their 10 year plan updates and annual reports last year: decrease silos between state agencies and programs and both housing and services are needed for programs to be effective. To that end, the last ICH meeting in May focused on a joint CTED, DSHS and DOC proposal that would provide 1,600 subsidized housing vouchers (tenant or project-based) for people discharged from psychiatric and correctional institutions who are

without a sustainable housing plan. They would be explicitly linked to existing veterans, mental health, and other services.

This proposal was put forward through CTED's decision package process in May and June. Due to the current revenue climate, rather than requesting funds through the budget process, a smaller scale effort is being considered using future Housing Grant Assistance Program (HGAP) funds. When the state economic picture improves, the concept could be "scaled up" through the decision package process. (Proposal is at the end of these minutes.)

One critical piece of this proposal is a stronger relationship with the Housing Authorities.

The effectiveness of current HGAP projects was discussed. HGAP projects were first funded in 2006, for 3 years, and provide grants to counties for innovative projects that reduce homelessness and demonstrate systems change by integrating criminal justice, social service, health, and other state and local systems. CTED is beefing up its efforts to evaluate the projects.

Update:

Will Graham and Tedd Kelleher, will be attend Association of Washington Housing Authorities in Leavenworth September 11. Toni Johnson will also be attending.

Draft Homeless Plan

The proposed Homeless Plan has been refined further since the last ICH meeting in May. As discussed then the "Strategies," "Performance Measurement," and "Costs" chapters have been merged and dramatically reformatted. Each strategy now consists of a one-page dashboard showing the extent of strategy implementation, size of unmet need, recent progress, and performance measures (including targets).

The second page of each strategy dashboard shows "New specific actions for 2009", "Ongoing initiatives," and "Accomplishments" of specific actions from the 2008 plan.

The numbers detailing the existing homeless housing inventory and unmet needs are generated from a new system model that integrates the variables of people counted at a point in time, bed inventory, people served over the course of a year, and level of service needed by each cohort of homeless people. The new model also generates our first estimate of the number of people who experience homelessness in a year: 87,000 (vs. 22,000 at a point in time).

HMIS implementation will dramatically improve the quality of the inputs used in the model in 2009 and provide data by which strategies, initiatives and actions can be evaluated.

Action:

ICH members agreed to review, comment and update the draft plan in the following areas by August 29:

- Overall content, organization and tone
- Specific actions/accomplishments completed in 2007-2008
- Ongoing initiatives to be included in the updated plan
- New initiative to be included in the updated plan
- County recommendations

ICH members agreed that a cover letter from the ICH, with a section explaining why/how each agency supports and contributes to the plan. A statement from each agency and each agencies logo will be emailed to CTED by August 29.

This information will be incorporated into the draft plan and cover letter and will be emailed to you before the next ICH meeting on September 10.

Update:

A Homeless Plan timeline has been established as follows:

- | | |
|--------------|--|
| August 13 | ICH discusses draft plan |
| August 29 | Due from ICH members: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Draft plan format, tone and content• 2008 accomplishments• 2009 ongoing and new initiatives/actions• County recommendations• Paragraph for plan cover letter + agency logo |
| September 5 | Plan emailed to ICH members |
| September 10 | Next ICH meeting |
| September 15 | Plan emailed to key stakeholders |
| October 3 | Comments due from stakeholders |
| November 3 | Plan to OFM |
| December 31 | Final plan to the Legislature |

Announcements

Jody Becker-Green had two announcements - DSHS has formed a housing and homeless work group that will meet quarterly and the DSHS Assistant Secretary is meeting with Washington Families Fund staff to exchange information on September 5.

Lisa Salmi said the DOH is working with multiple agencies on several hotel closings in the Seattle and Everett areas.

Next Meeting Schedule and Agendas

September 10 – Final approval of 2009 Homeless Plan
Establish 2009 meeting schedule
December 10 – Legislative review

DRAFT - Housing for People with Severe and Persistent Mental Illnesses

Proposal

Dedicate 80 percent (\$1.6 million per year for 20 years) of unobligated Homeless Grant Assistance Program (HGAP) funding to providing housing for people with severe and persistent mental illness enrolled in the DSHS Program for Assertive Community Treatment (PACT).

Require large counties to match each state dollar provided, and require smaller counties to provide a 50 percent match.

HGAP funds (\$1.6 million per year) plus local match (\$1.2 million per year) could provide housing for about 400 PACT clients (50 percent of total caseload).

Explicitly ensure that eligible people being discharged from prisons and jails are considered for enrollment in PACT teams, and ensure PACT teams have the staffing to handle discharged offenders.

Work with Housing Authorities to administer the funding.

Background

Services provided to people without housing are ineffective.

The state's new \$16.9 million per year Program for Assertive Community Treatment (PACT) provides intensive and proven services for people who historically were housed in state psychiatric hospitals, but does not include funding for housing.

PACT clients by definition have severe and persistent mental illnesses, and cannot afford unsubsidized housing.

The state has an obligation to provide the basic necessities to severely disabled people that cannot be reasonably expected to support themselves.

There should be a direct linkage to housing for people with the most severe disabilities.

Although most PACT clients are housed, much of the housing is inappropriate, and PACT staff spends a disproportionate amount of time securing housing for their clients.

Twenty-one percent (80 people now, 160 at full implementation) of PACT team clients are delayed from release from expensive inpatient psychiatric settings due to a lack of housing.

Nine percent (34 people now, 68 at full implementation) of PACT clients were released from inpatient psychiatric treatment into homelessness or an emergency shelter.

Additional Proposal Details

1. Provide state-funded housing vouchers for 50 percent of PACT participants. (CTED HGAP funds, \$1.6 million per year; county Homeless Act funds, \$1.2 million per year)
 - a. Allow PACT teams to project-base most if not all of their vouchers in low-barrier permanent supportive housing projects.
 - b. Fund vouchers at 120 percent of area fair market rent to support landlord incentives for private market scattered site housing and/or fund the more intensive operating and maintenance costs associated with serving high-need clients.
2. Require formal mechanisms for jails and prisons to have their discharged clients promptly assessed for admission to the PACT programs, and ensure that admission criteria do not discriminate against persons with criminal histories.
 - a. Ensure that PACT program standards are adequate to appropriately and safely support the needs of participants with significant criminal histories. (DSHS PACT Program Standards)
 - b. Formally engage local jail and state corrections staff in PACT teams as appropriate to protect public safety. (DOC, Local Jails)
3. Provide intensive technical assistance to PACT teams and local housing partners to help them develop permanent supportive housing capital projects that include PACT participants that are competitive for state Housing Trust Fund dollars. (CTED - \$120,000 per year for technical assistance – existing Home Security Funds)
4. Contract with local Housing Authorities to administer the PACT housing vouchers. Ensure that new funds do not supplant existing county and housing authority funds dedicated to PACT teams.

Other Notes

PACT teams were explicitly funded to allow the state to close expensive state psychiatric hospitals wards. Homeless PACT clients may fall back into state psychiatric beds, thwarting state efforts to close wards.

The overall affordable housing system (Section 8, public housing) is primarily designed to assist relatively low-needs people whose primary problem is a low income.

The overall affordable housing system has a deficit of at least 218,000 units, so it is unrealistic and inefficient to expect PACT participants and the mental health

professionals that support them to consistently find appropriate subsidized housing for all PACT participants.

Although most PACT participants are in some form of housing, this proposal will free-up housing for homeless people with fewer disabilities who are better suited to mainstream subsidized housing.