

HOUSING and SUPPORTIVE SERVICES NETWORK Strategic Planning and Discharge Workgroup (The CoC Board)

Friday, February 8, 2019

8:30 to 10:30 am

Washington County Juvenile Services Building - Room 258
111 NE Lincoln Street, Hillsboro, OR 97123

AGENDA

Chair: Annette M. Evans, Washington County Department of Housing Services

Co-Chair: Katherine Galian, Community Action Organization

I. Introductions (8:30 a.m.)

II. Public Comment (8:35 a.m.)

III. Approve Minutes (8:40 a.m.)

- A) December 14 meeting was cancelled due to lack of quorum.
- B) Approve October 5, 2018 HSSN Workgroup Minutes [Action - Approval]

IV. Business Items (8:45 a.m.)

- A) Emergency Solution Grant (ESG) Program Consultation Process with CoC scheduled for March 6, 2019 – Jennie Proctor [Action - Approval]
- B) Martin v. Boise 9th Circuit Court Ruling – Attorney Ellen Johnson
- C) 2019 Point-In-Time Homeless Census Report on Activities – Pat Rogers
- D) 2019 Oregon Legislative Agenda priorities serving people in poverty and homelessness – Katherine Galian
- E) Review Federal FY2018 System Performance Measurement (SPM) Outcomes – Annette Evans
- F) Federal FY2018 McKinney-Vento CoC Program grant application requested \$3,858,293 is pending award due to government shutdown.

V. Agency Announcements and Open Discussion (10:15 a.m.)

VI. 2019 HSSN Workgroup Meeting Schedule, 8:30 to 10:30 a.m. (10:25 a.m.)

- Friday, April 12, 2019
- Friday, June 14, 2019
- Friday, August 9, 2019
- Friday, October 11, 2019
- Friday, December 13, 2019

VII. Adjournment (10:30 a.m.)

The HSSN Workgroup is open to the public. Comments and questions can be directed to Annette Evans at 503-846-4760
Annette_Evans@co.washington.or.us

HSSN STRATEGIC PLANNING AND DISCHARGE WORKGROUP
Administrative Board of the Continuum of Care in Washington County
Washington County Facilities Building, Conference Room 258
October 5, 2018

Role: The HSSN Workgroup (the CoC Board) is comprised of public and private representatives of the homeless subpopulations that exist within the CoC geographic region, a formerly homeless consumer representative, and the Emergency Solutions Grant recipient agency. The Workgroup is the jurisdictional CoC Administrative Board, as established by the HSSN Mission and Governance Policy.

Responsibilities: Perform CoC strategic planning, coordinate with and/or assist in State and local discharge planning, review performance outcomes of HMIS and HUD-funded programs, develop housing and service systems alignment, seek out and prioritize funding, and approve the McKinney-Vento Homeless Assistance grant application to HUD.

COC BOARD MEMBER PRESENT

- Brouse, Renee – Good Neighbor Center
- Castaldo, Kendra – Cascade AIDS Project
- Evans, Annette – HSSN Chair
- Galian, Katherine – HSSN Co-Chair
- Hille, Marcia – Sequoia Mental Health Services
- Johnson, Ellen – Oregon Law Center
- Kalevor, Komi – Housing Authority of WashCo
- Logan-Sanders, Andrea – Boys & Girls Aid
- Mattia, Matt – Office of Community Dev
- Pero, David – Homeless Education Network/
McKinney-Vento Homeless Student Liaison
- Schimmel, Brian – Old Town Church FG
- Turner, Denise – Denise’s Spa Petite

COC BOARD MEMBER NOT PRESENT

- Calvin, Mellani – ASSIST Program
- Hand, Judy – Luke-Dorf, Inc.
- Lesmeister, Kelly – CODA Inc.
- Loch, Toni – Family Justice Center
- Nelson, Marci – Community Corrections
- Rogers, Patrick – Community Action Org
- Schnitzer, Cole – U.S. Dept of Veteran Affairs
- Teifel, Gordon – Families for Independent Living

OTHER ATTENDEES

- Trunnell, Alan – City of Beaverton (via phone)
- Fellger, Vara – WashCo Housing Services

*Indicates representative attending on behalf of elected Board Member not able to attend in person.

Chair: Annette Evans, Public Agency Representative Annette_Evans@co.washington.or.us

Co-Chair: Katherine Galian, Nonprofit Agency Representative kgalian@caowash.org

Meeting called to order at 8:34 a.m.

I. INTRODUCTIONS

II. PUBLIC COMMENT

No public comment.

III. APPROVAL OF MEETING MINUTES

Motion: Approve HSSN Workgroup August 10, 2018 meeting minutes.

Action: Katherine Galian

Second: Ellen Johnson

Vote: Approved, unanimous.

IV. BUSINESS ITEMS

A. FY2018 McKinney-Vento CoC Program Grant Application – Annette Evans

Annette Evans reported the CoC Program grant application requesting \$3,858,293 was submitted to HUD on September 14 and included the two new bonus projects, Sojourner’s House and Shelter Plus Care Chronic Expansion. Results are expected in early January.

B. CoC Racial Disparity Analysis Results – Annette Evans

In response to the race and ethnicity discussion from the last HSSN Workgroup meeting and associated questions on the CoC Program grant application, Annette reviewed a matrix chart on race and ethnicity that is included in the *2018: A Summary of Outcomes and Challenges* report, a comprehensive look at the results in ending homelessness during Year 10 of A Road Home implementation. She reported HUD specifically wanted to know whether the homeless system provided equal access to homeless shelter and housing programs, and most specifically access to permanent housing. The data reports a declining trend for Hispanic/Latino poverty but a disproportionate representation of Black/African Americans (24% of 53,000 in poverty, while only 2% of overall population in Washington County). She also noted the 14% of Veterans in the Point-In-Time count was attributable to 60 transitional housing beds at Salvation Army that were included as part of the homeless count, with 28 unsheltered veterans on the streets. The data affirmed Washington County's homeless program served a diverse population and correlated with who was residing in permanent housing. Annette also noted that it was increasingly important to engage sooner with working poor experiencing episodic homelessness to prevent them from moving into the chronic homeless category and referenced the many discussions with service providers at Community Connect meetings about the importance of implementing culturally specific, trauma informed services and programs that provided equal access to homeless programs.

Ellen Johnson asked why only 9% of Black/African American accessed the homeless system when they were 24% of the people in poverty. Kendra Castaldo shared, in Multnomah County it was common for non-white populations to not access homeless systems and services, preferring instead to double and triple up for a variety of reasons; e.g. alternative support systems, fear of discrimination and/or fear of going into the system in general. Ellen also suggested tracking race, ethnicity and special population trends from the beginning of the homeless system to get a better perspective and understanding of the changes within the system over time.

Attorney, Ellen Johnson, Oregon Law Center

“Federal Appeals Court affirms right of homeless persons to not be punished for sleeping in public in absence of alternatives.”

Ellen Johnson provided an overview of the 9th Circuit Court of Appeals decision on September 4 which makes it illegal and unconstitutional for communities to punish homeless for sitting, lying down, or sleeping outside when there is no option available to do so inside. When asked to leave, homeless have the right to ask where they can go. When there are no other alternatives, they have the right to refuse to move. No longer can communities shift responsibility for the social disorder and factors that drive homelessness to the criminal justice system. This case will force a larger conversation within communities to develop a regional solution to homelessness which will require robust shelter, mental health and addiction systems because HUD was not going to provide the additional dollars needed.

Questions and Answers:

Will this case require law enforcement to coordinate with shelters in order to know where there is shelter availability?

Law enforcement will have to do a better job of coordinating; however, the bigger issue in Washington County appears to be the lack of shelter beds available for the different populations because of the barriers they face in getting into housing.

What does this case mean in the situation where the homeless person refuses to go to shelter when there is shelter available?

Due to the limited shelter availability in Washington County, it is premature to discuss the issue of homeless refusing to go to shelter, but it is an opportune time to engage the community and elected officials in the conversation.

Is there PIT data that identifies where homeless come from, whether they are from Oregon or elsewhere?

It appears that many people in the middle of America are migrating to either coast. The social cost of that migration includes transportation, infrastructure, land use, health, etc., increasing the burden on all taxpayers. Cases dealing with residency affirm that states cannot define who their residents can be. Anyone living in the State of Oregon is considered a resident and entitled to receive benefits. Brian Schimmel added that survey results from the two severe weather shelters in Forest Grove last year indicated 5% were from out of state or Portland/Metro region, two-thirds were from Washington County (mostly Hillsboro and the east side) and one-third were local to Cornelius and Forest Grove.

How would this case effect shelters who exclude homeless individuals when they exhibit behavior that creates an unsafe environment?

This case addresses the availability of shelter beds for homeless. Shelter managers have an obligation to preserve the safety of everyone there and have the right to exclude individuals who threaten the safety of others. This case also forces communities to face issues surrounding homelessness such as mental health treatment availability. Annette Evans reported A Road Home acknowledges the lack of shelter for the “adult only” population, and the plan calls for creating shelter beds for single adult/couple households. Ellen asked agencies to refer any clients who were homeless, were at risk of being homeless or had been effected by the Beaverton ordinance, to contact her directly at elijohnson@oregonlawcenter.org.

Did the Court expound on what they considered acceptable “shelter alternatives?”

The Court was not specific but the issue was primarily whether the current homeless system had the capacity to house a person. The term “shelter beds” could mean a variety of options such as motel, temporary shelter, rapid rehousing or permanent supportive housing and was dependent on the level of need.

What did the Court mean by “Alternatives must be practically accessible to a given individual....religious beliefs...?”

The shelter alternatives must take into consideration the religious beliefs of the homeless person being housed as well as a time and space consideration. Ellen gave the example of a homeless person located in Cornelius and a shelter bed being available in Gresham which would not be practicable. Discussion on the need for law enforcement representation on the HSSN Workgroup. Annette reported the governance structure includes a representative from Community Corrections or Jail, and she will reach out to solicit a nominee for the HSSN to appoint.

Renee Brouse reported on a wrap-around homeless system developed in Eugene, Oregon which included the Justice System, City of Eugene and non-profit sectors to provide housing, mental wellness and addiction services to homeless misdemeanor offenders. It was a good example of different groups coming together to effect change in their homeless community. The program was very successful with a recidivism rate of 10%. She felt such a program, if brought to this region, would best be managed by Washington County because of the strong network that has already been developed. Annette reported there are conversations occurring regarding a “Homelessness Court” and would try to obtain additional information.

Katherine Gallian added, the “wrap-around” concept was the idea behind the “By-Name List” which essentially wraps programs and services around a known individual. It started with the Veterans population and has been successful as Veteran homelessness is now at “Functional Zero.”

Brian Schimmel referred to a program where the Court could issue an offender to work of court fees and fines through community service activities. Annette reported Dennis Erickson and Ellen Johnson drafted a proposal to Judge Bailey to request an increase from \$10 per hour to the BOLI rate for land scape (\$16 per hour); however, were denied opportunity to move this forward for review or approval.

C. Review of 2018 Homeless Assessment Report: Outcomes and Challenges in Year 10 of the 10-Year Plan – Annette Evans

Annette reviewed the *Year 10: A Summary of Outcomes and Challenges* report to be presented to the Homeless Plan Advisory Committee on October 18. Annette Evans stated the purpose of the document was to demonstrate accountability for the \$9.5 million of public resources that had been spent in doing the work, as well as look at ways to improve the system, identify and address gaps, create the shelters needed to offset ordinances and policies that affect people's lives in an adverse way, as well as provide a tool to aid in grant writing to continue the work.

She noted she was missing homeless student data as the Oregon Department of Education did not expect to have it in the detailed format until November 15. They did; however, provide total number homeless students by school district. She noted, in addition to the effort by agencies to increase homeless outreach, the cities of Beaverton and Hillsboro have hired police officers to support homeless in accessing homeless services – there is a gap in resources that results in turn away. Washington County has deployed a Sheriff Deputy in the Homeless Outreach Program and Enforcement (HOPE) which provides outreach and resource referral services to homeless individuals – with 10% of the engaged homeless completing a Community Connect assessment after meeting with the HOPE deputy. Annette reviewed homeless demographics and trends noting 49% of the permanent supportive housing inventory was dedicated only to serve veterans and were currently not totally leased up on veteran housing subsidies. She urged agencies working with homeless veterans to connect them to the veteran system. She reviewed the Community Connect system data noting calls for homelessness prevention (severely rent burdened or living in unstable housing situations) were prioritized over calls for homelessness. Economic and housing factors were positive indicating a decline in foreclosures, unemployment rate, poverty rate, stabilization of rental rates and an increase in housing availability. She reviewed the proposed strategic investments to leverage resources going forward in 2018/19 and the 2018 Point-In-Time (PIT) Homeless Count noting shelter bed utilization was at 67% due partly to Mary Mac House having a sewer breakage but in general bed utilization overall continues to be a challenge with many programs reporting vacant beds. PIT population trends indicated chronically homeless populations continued to rise.

Ellen Johnson inquired about the reason for the large increase in Community Connect calls for assistance in the current year. Katherine responded more funds and resources were available for prevention. She felt the increased number of calls was attributable to more people being aware that assistance was available and changes to how calls regarding 72-hour eviction notices were being processed (funneled through Community Connect rather than a separate system and the program had less imitations than it had in the past). It was noted that 70% of the Community Connect assessments are prevention, as compared to 30% assessments for literally homeless. Community Connect Oversight Committee is looking at separating out the prevention into a separate data collection in HMIS, as well needs to reduce the 14-day waiting period experienced by literally homeless for Community Connect assessments, while prevention with 72-hour notice are seen within 3 days.

Brian Schimmel suggested churches could better coordinate with Community Connect on their rent and utility assistance by directing callers to contact Community Connect first and then be referred to churches.

Annette reported the homeless system has nearly tripled the number of adults being served since 2008 and was focusing on the most vulnerable population with 42% coming from places not meant for human habitation compared to 31% in 2008. Renee Brouse reported an issue with families served in Housing Stabilization Program needing to stay in shelters beyond the 6-weeks awaiting landlords to ready units for move in. Renee Brouse will connect with Komi

Kalevor to resolve issues. She also commended the work of the Housing Authority and their involvement in most of the affordable housing projects developed over the past year.

Renee Brouse reported permanent supportive housing primarily served individuals with mental health and physical disability. The system lacked a permanent supportive housing or rapid re-housing provider who could provide addiction treatment services and that HUD did not see addiction as a long-term disability. Ellen Johnson commented mental health and addiction are often intertwined if a person is homeless, and creates a barrier when only the mental health portion was being treated.

Andrea Logan-Sanders commented with the minimum wage increase, youth were finding themselves no longer eligible for HUD housing programs as they were over 30% AMI. Incomes have increased, but youth are still not able to affording housing on their own.

Annette Evans reviewed the employment and social security trends noting she was awaiting Social Security's cost of living adjustment (COLA) which they expected to have available the 2nd week of October. She also mentioned the decrease in income at exit from 44% last year to 32% attributable were attributable primarily to two programs and would work to understand the causes. [Note: October 11, 2018 the Social Security announced 2.8% increase in 2019.]

Annette Evans reported the 2018/2019 Severe Weather Shelters will be entering data into HMIS as well. She also highlighted her concern about the jurisdiction's data outcomes for Successful Exit or Retention into Permanent Housing from Outreach – this continues to decrease every year.

Ellen Johnson suggested a meeting with coordinators of Washington, Multnomah and Clackamas homeless systems to compare data and trends. She envisioned programs and resources coordinating regionally.

Brian Schimmel commented, from past presentations, it was clear going forward that municipalities, local non-profits and churches will be required to do more in alignment with the County. How do we overcome the information obstacle and get them involved in the process? He suggested possibly using the same presentation material as used for County Commissioner's to present to local Chamber of Commerce or City Council with the addition of a local slide. He also stated other representations could make the presentation. Ellen Johnson agreed that a discussion of the work being done by the County at the local level was extremely important, but should also include the implications to localities of the Martin v. Boise law.

Komi Kalevor will present this report to the Homeless Plan Advisory Committee on October 18 who will then make the recommendation to present to the County Commissioners.

D. Proposed December Meeting Topics.

Annette would like to present the Longitudinal Systems Analysis (LSA) which requires approval before submission to HUD as well as review the Point-In-Time Homeless Count and Housing Inventory to discuss how to increase bed utilization. She would also like to include a follow-up of Martin vs. Boise to discuss who else needs to be at the table to move forward with housing alternatives for people to move in to.

V. ANNOUNCEMENTS AND OPEN DISCUSSION

- Matt Mattia announced a public hearing on Thursday, October 11 at 7:00pm at the Public Services Building for Washington County Community Development and the City of Beaverton's Consolidated Annual Performance Report (CAPR) to HUD. He noted a recent notice provided information on how to submit comments. A kick-off event was also planned in December to begin development of the Consolidated Plan with a panel discussion of emerging issues in the

County. They will be hiring a consultant to do the majority of the work as well as an analysis of impediments to fair housing choice.

- Ellen Johnson announced National Low Income Housing Coalition has developed an outline of resources available to immigrants and refugees that she would forward to Annette for sharing.
- Andrew Logan-Sanders announced Boys & Girls Aid had a new program for youth ages 10-17 called "The Neighborhood," addressing the potential long term homelessness of youth aging out of foster care. They were searching for new foster homes in the Washington County area. Anyone interested should contact her directly.
- Komi Kalevor announced the Housing Authority would be the implementing agency if the Metro Bond measure passes in November and have been meeting to begin the planning process.
- Renee Brouse announced Good Neighbor Center is expanding their children and housing stabilization programs. Also, Just Compassion recently hired Vernon Baker as their part-time Executive Director. They also recently hired a part-time shelter supervisor for the Beaverton Severe Weather Shelter. Just Compassion will be hosting forums to have ongoing dialog on homelessness and how to address the issue together. The first forum which they had recently included candidates running for office in Tigard. The next forum is scheduled for November 1 and will include police chiefs in the East County area.
- Brian Schimmel announced west county had two shelters in Forest Grove, one of which has been moved to Cornelius for the 2018/2019 season pending Conditional Use Permit approval.

VI. WORKGROUP MEETING SCHEDULE – SAVE THE DATE

- Friday, December 14, 2018
- Friday, February 8, 2019
- Friday, April 12, 2019
- Friday, June 14, 2019
- Friday, August 9, 2019
- Friday, October 11, 2019 (Note: Columbus Day holiday is October 14)
- Friday, December 13, 2019

VII. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting adjourned at 10:27 a.m.

Minutes prepared by Vara Fellger, Washington County Housing Services

HANDOUTS

- Martin v. Boise: What does it mean for communities?

To be added to HSSN Workgroup email list, or the HSSN Coordinated and Centralized Assessment System, contact Annette Evans at Annette_Evans@co.washington.or.us.

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