

# COORDINATING COMMITTEE TO END HOMELESSNESS (CCEH)

## MEETING MINUTES



Date: October 21, 2009	Location: First United Methodist Church	Recorded by: Dove Hotz
Time: 3 pm to 5 pm	Facilitated by: Jean DeMaster	Reviewed By: Steering Committee
<p>Present: EV Armitage, Caren Baumgart, Joyce Boles, Kari Brenk, Caitlin Campbell, Jennifer Chang, Randy Curl, Cindy Davis, Mike Davis, Jean DeMaster, Rachel Devlin, Patty Doyle, Fern Elledge, Sally Erickson, Erika L. Green, Amanda Hurley, Liv Jenssen, Beth Kaye, Tiffany Kingery, Wendy Kohn, Mike McGee, Molli Mitchell, Susan Montgomery, Anabeth Moseley, Heather Mosher, Ibrahim Mubarak, Patrick Nolen, Rachel Payton, Rachel Post, David Regan, Leo Rhodes, Natasha Roe, Shannon Singleton, Ian Slingerland, Barry Joe Stull, Renie Sutherland, Larry Turner, Lynne Walker, Bobby Weinstock</p>		
TOPIC	DISCUSSION	
<p>Introductions / Approval of September minutes</p>	<p>Attendees announced their name, affiliation, and what they were doing to prepare for the winter. The September minutes were reviewed and approved without dissent.</p>	
<p>Updates</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Continuum of Care: Renewal and New Projects</li> </ul>	<p>Ms. Erickson said the Continuum of Care referred to \$2 million in federal funds used for a variety of strategies to help homeless people, such as street outreach and transitional housing. In our region, agencies such as HAP, Human Solutions, TPI, Central City Concern, and several other agencies, receive CoC funds. Projects are due to Mr. Deibert by October 28 and will be submitted to HUD by November 3. Ms. DeMaster added that Section 8 and McKinney funds are the largest sources of funds helping the homeless.</p>	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>H1N1 update</li> </ul>	<p>Ms. Chang said there was a lot happening to get the message out. Agencies were encouraged to plan for continuity of operations, preventing flu transmission in shelters, and screening for symptoms. In regards to immunizations, there was discussion about vaccination access points, respite sheltering options for ill people, and communications protocol. In general, the health department supports vaccinating shelter workers and residents, but other, higher-risk groups will receive the vaccine first. If you have questions, please first contact your contract manager. More information is available on the County website, <a href="http://www.mchealth.org">http://www.mchealth.org</a>. Current shelter capacity is around 600 year-round beds; 422 winter and/or severe weather shelter beds. CCEH members reported quite a few cases of flu, almost all H1N1.</p>	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Family and Adult Winter Warming Centers</li> </ul>	<p>Ms. Kingery provided an update on the winter family shelter system. For referrals, call 503-721-1500. Multnomah County has expanded its Winter Services for homeless families this year. Human Solutions will operate the Family Warming Center again at JOIN's new office space at 1435 NE 81<sup>st</sup> Street. Families can enter the Warming Center at 7 p.m. and can stay until 7:00am the next morning. As defined by the County, a "family" must include a child. Access to the center will be very low barrier and there will not be a lot of on-site services available. However, bus passes will be available to transport families to and from nearby day centers and programs. If space allows, the Warming Center will accommodate single women again as well as couples without children.</p>	

	<p>Ms. DeMaster said that CCEH had indicated a need for beds for couples without children, and the Warming Center would be addressing that need. In addition to the Warming Center, Goose Hollow Family Shelter will also be open to provide emergency shelter to homeless families from 7:00pm to 7:00am each night. This year, a new Day Shelter will open for the families who spend the night at Goose Hollow. The 13 Salmon Shelter will operate during the day, located in the First Unitarian Church at SW 13th and Salmon. Human Solutions will also expand its Day Shelter to serve homeless families who are at the Warming Center at night. A Housing Specialist will be available at each site to help families obtain housing and services. The goal is to always have a place for people to go, day or night.</p> <p>Ms. Chang said that TPI will operate the adult warming center this winter. A site has been identified off of the Burnside Bridge on the eastside, at Third and MLK. The center will accommodate 90 adults (44 men, 30 women, 8 couples). Guests need to check in at TPI's 475 NW Glisan office. At the warming center, they will receive a warm snack, drink and mat on the floor to sleep on. Guests will need to leave by 7 a.m. Once they are checked in, they can stay again without going through the intake process. Ms. Elledge said that staff will be able to provide some information and referrals for overnight guests.</p> <p>Mr. Ibrahim asked about pets. Ms. DeMaster said there will be shelter outdoors for pets, but they will not be allowed inside the shelter. Ms. Elledge said that pets will not be allowed at the adult warming center. Ms. Erickson added that the network from last year's emergency weather will be in place this year also. Ms. Chang said that an updated winter housing/shelter roster will be updated and distributed within the next week.</p> <p>Dignity Village residents added that their site is a resource and they will have 8 beds available for adults this winter. Last year, during the severe weather, they felt somewhat cut off from the rest of the services.</p>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Endorsement of Workforce Investment Act (WIA) Reauthorization</li> </ul>	<p>Ms. Post recapped last month's meeting, where she had encouraged everyone to sign on to the WIA Reauthorization, to include job development for homeless and formerly homeless individuals. This was part of a national call for provider agencies to send in endorsements. Commissioner Fish has endorsed it, and it is being considered in the Mayor and Chair's offices. The County seems interested. Ms. Walker said she was tutoring at MHCC to help people get their GED; WSI was providing testing money and registration fee. They need secondary level bilingual Spanish teachers. Refer potential teachers or mentors to her at <a href="mailto:l.walker97030@yahoo.com">l.walker97030@yahoo.com</a>.</p>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• "Rent Well" Tenant Education Curriculum</li> </ul>	<p>Ms. Devlin said they were rolling out "Rent Well", a new tenant education program to improve people's chances of being a successful renter. It is targeted to people with housing barriers. Students who complete the course have access to a guarantee fund, which acts like an insurance pool. You can be certified to give the training by taking a two-day workshop. Agencies need to be licensed in order to access the insurance fund. The program is similar to Ready-to-Rent; the R2R guarantee will be transferred to the Rent Well program. Participation in Rent Well will <u>not</u> expunge information from one's record, but it will provide advice on how to maximize opportunities for successful renting. Students will prepare a housing portfolio to demonstrate their preparedness as renters.</p>

<p>Alternatives Workgroup: Ranking &amp; Next Steps</p>	<p>Ms. Erickson said the Alternatives Workgroup was focused on finding creative ways to address the unmet shelter need and providing people with “a safe, good night’s sleep.” The workgroup’s results were shown to Commissioners Kafoury, Fritz, and Fish and were well-received. She reviewed the recommendations and the ranked alternatives. The camping guidelines are being developed. A trial program may be needed to start with. Additionally, Commissioner Fish is moving forward with an ordinance that will allow faith groups, businesses, and other private places to allow campers on their property. Please contact your elected officials, as an individual or representative of your community group, to voice support. The lack of funding has limited the feasibility of some of the workgroup’s proposals, and some ideas will need a champion if they were going to move forward. The addition of \$1.2 million in short-term rent assistance funds will be a big help. Mr. Slingerland added that the new HPRP funds are more flexible. Tenants do not have to be in the eviction process in order to be helped.</p>
<p>Consolidated Plan 2010-2015</p>	<p>Ms. Kaye said that the Consolidated Plan is submitted every five years in order to receive federal funding for Multnomah County, such as CDBG, HOME, HOPWA, and ESG. A study of community needs and a market analysis are part of the process. A five-year plan will be developed to show how our locality intends to spend the money. A series of community meetings are being held to gather feedback from the public. Street and shelter count data, as well as requests for rent assistance, will be included in the analysis. Everyone is encouraged to participate; there will be a community meeting on the issue of homelessness following the next CCEH meeting on November 18 at 4:00pm. Public comments will be included as part of the record. The Plan will be finalized in April, City Council will vote on it, and the Plan will be submitted to HUD in May. The funds will be drawn down in August. This year, we are hopeful that in the new federal administrative climate, municipalities will have more opportunity to express their needs to Washington and receive more flexible funding.</p>
<p>10-Year Plan and Setting Goals for 2010</p>	<p>Ms. Chang summarized the three main principles and nine action areas of the 10-Year Plan. The community has taken a year-by-year approach to setting goals. The plan and goals continue to adapt and evolve to more accurately represent and respond to the needs of our community. Please provide feedback on items to include in the 2010 goals by November 6.</p>
<p>Next CCEH meeting</p>	<p><b>The next CCEH meeting will be Wednesday, November 18, 2009, from 3:00-3:50 p.m., FUMC, Fireside Room. The Homelessness Community Meeting will follow immediately after, from 4:00-5:30 p.m.</b></p>