

Coordinating Committee to End Homelessness (CCEH) Meeting Minutes



October 20, 2010
First United Methodist Church

Facilitated by: Marc Jolin
Prepared by: Zane Potter
Reviewed by: Steering Committee

Present: E.V.Armitage, Sonja Arigbon, Caren Baumgart, Liora Berry, Stacy Borke, Kari Brenk, Heather Brown, Caitlin Campbell, Jennifer Chang, Melissa Crocker, Ryan Deibert, Christina Drics, Bob Durston, Sherry Grau, Theresa Guerrero, Tina Hadley, Sandy Haffey, Donald Hice, Amanda Hurley, Marc Jolin, Marylee King, Tiffany Kingery, Puanani Lalakea, Tricia Lund, Dennis Lundberg, Michael Mellick, Molli Mitchel, Laura Rodriguez, Natasha Roe, Ericka Silver, Berry Stull, Brandi Tuck, Bobby Weinstock, Renata Wilson, Zoë Zachariades

Updates

- Outreach and Engagement Committee – Marc Jolin, JOIN
Mr. Jolin reiterated the goal of the committee – to see what we’re seeing on the streets, coordinate and collaborate and brainstorm policy solutions. We’re currently involved in the January 2011 Street Count planning. In addition, Mr. Jolin stated the Committee is thinking of how shelter fits into this system by engaging shelter providers and other stakeholders into the process.
- Portland Housing Bureau (PHB), Strategic Plan – Jennifer Chang, PHB
Ms. Chang reviewed the PHB Strategic Plan. Some CCEH members stated the 10-year plan was missing in the language it needs to be included. For more information about the PHB’s Strategic Plan visit <http://www.portlandonline.com/phb/index.cfm?c=49574>
- Portland Women’s Crisis Line (PWCL), Domestic Violence Month
A vigil will be held for the 38 individuals who lost their lives due to domestic violence this year. It will be held Thursday, October 28, 2010 from 6:30 pm to 8:00 pm at Holladay Park.
- Adult Mental Health Initiative (AMHI) – Sandy Haffey, Multnomah County
Ms. Haffey provided an update on the complex change in the AMHI. For more information contact Ms. Haffney at 988-5464 x 26659.
- \$1M, Winter Services, Street Count RFPs – Sally Erickson, Portland Housing Bureau
Ms. Erickson stated that 70 winter shelter beds will be available at the Salvation Army Harbor Light facility and 15 beds at the SAFES facility from mid November through March. An additional 70 beds will be made available in the downtown area for women and will be operated by Transitions Project Inc. Severe weather shelter will be available through the Red Cross. Ms. Erickson explained that initially the Mayor identified these funds for support shelter; however, it was determined the funds would be more effective if used for outreach, permanent housing, and alleviating bottlenecks in the system. These are one-time only funds. Lastly, Ms. Erickson stated the Street Count will take place in January 2011. PHB will work with 211info to coordinate the efforts. The Street Count will use a similar methodology as previous years and a survey is being developed to be included in the count.

- Homeless Youth Continuum – Dennis Lundberg, Janus Youth Programs
Mr. Lundberg reported that Janus Youth lost federal funding for the 10-11 grant cycle. Since 1984, the Yellow Brick Road (YBR) program was the first and continues to be the only youth focused outreach in the downtown Portland area. It is a volunteer based street outreach program. Funding for this program was eliminated on October 1, 2010. The Janus Youth operated Outreach and Engagement Program is an intense, mobile, and relationship-building unit. The daytime capacity of this program has decreased. The YBR program has continued, despite being unfunded. From 6 pm to 9pm the downtown outreach presence remains intact. It's very important to reach out to youth on the street because it only takes 48 hours of being on the street to be solicited for sex.
- Family Shelter – Erika Silver, Human Solutions
Ms. Silver stated the 60-bed Family Warming Center will open Monday, November 1, 2010 and close March 1, 2011. It may stay open through April. The Center is located at Eastminster Presbyterian Church (125th and Halsey). The family must have 1 minor child. Ms. Silver did not anticipate having to turn people away but will they will coordinate with 211.info. The Center is low barrier so those wishing to access the site can gain admittance.
- Workforce Systems Inc. (WSI) – Bobby Durston, Workforce Systems Inc
Mr. Durston introduced Workforce Systems Inc. (WSI). WSI receives \$26 million in federal funds. It operates at five sites and serves the City of Portland, Multnomah County and Washington County. Mr. Durston stated the agency is currently undergoing change. Specifically, there were inconsistencies in how different service centers were treating customers. Therefore, the goal for the agency is to treat anyone who walks into the door with the same level of attention. WSI primarily funds skills and training. WSI recognized they weren't doing an explicitly good job of working with service providers and helping people who are homeless. Now, WSI is sorting out how to work more collaboratively to help mitigate barriers for most people.

A discussion ensued after Mr. Durston's update. Some of the ideas for improvement are included below.

- There is a need for individualized employment case management who works effectively with service partnership and with the training resources of WSI. The partnership has been successful for those recently housed and not as successful for people who are currently homeless. Community college and academically based prerequisites are barriers to the programs. Instead, alternative training providers and certifications could be used.
- A barrier to WSI is accessing services. The WSI Center is a dangerous environment and it's difficult to have WSI understand how dangerous this is for WSI and WSI should develop a safety plan. The Department of Human Services (DHS) needs to be brought to the table when talking about homelessness and employment.
- Specialists are asking questions that domestic violence victims do not want to get into so there needs to be more sensitivity with these trigger issues. In addition, WSI should do more education and outreach to train employment specialists on domestic violence
- A case manager/liaison is an essential piece.
- WSI should have a range of supports that work for people. These supports should span the spectrum of those who needs lots of services and those people ready to go. Currently the system is geared towards one end and not so much focused on the

homeless population. A broad continuum is needed that address needs of different levels of support services.

- Establish a baseline of current outcomes to see if efforts we institute actually make a difference. What percentage enrolled in WSI get a job? The time it takes to get a job. The number who get referred but don't get signed up.

HUD – Continuum of Care (Ryan Deibert, Portland Housing Bureau)

HUD pushed communities to coordinate \$10 Million annually in our continuum and the vast majority are renewals. 35% of total funding goes to supporting homeless services. Currently 13 different agencies exist. In our community we had existing collaboration, such as CCEH and 10 Year Plan. Existing renewal project could reallocate funds into permanent housing projects. "Bonus Funds" – permanent housing bonus project \$539K. There are five applicants with lead agencies. The evaluation committee will read and score applications on October 21, 2010. A public meeting will be held at PHB on October 21, 2010 at 5:30 pm. The applications are due mid-November. The renewal projects will be notified by December or January. The bonus project will be notified by July of 2011.

Other Updates and Announcements

- Heather Brown, Outside In, announced the Homeless Memorial Day will be held December 21, 2010. If you're interested in volunteering, contact Ms. Brown at 503-535-3805. Also, Sisters of the Road is coordinating a similar event in the spring of 2011.
- Jennifer Chang, PHB, announced that the Veterans Stand Down & Job Fair will be held November 16 and 17, 2010 at the Memorial Coliseum. The event is free and open to all current and former veterans.
- Faith communities throughout Portland and Multnomah County will observe a "Day of Homeless Awareness" on November 16, 2010. For more information contact Paul Schroeder, JOIN, at 913-7853.
- The Oregon Dental Association is hosting its first Mission of Mercy event on November 22 and 23, 2010 at the Oregon Convention Center. Free dental screenings and services will be provided on a first-come, first-served basis with a maximum of 1,000 patients seen each day. The event starts at 6 am.
- Ryan Deibert, PHB, announced that Street Roots is working with Commissioner Kafoury and the medical examiner's office to collect data on the cause of death of homeless citizens.

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| <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Next Meeting: Wednesday, December 15, 2010, 3-5 p.m., FUMC Room 202.
For more information, contact Jennifer Chang at (503) 823-2391 or Jennifer.Chang@portlandoregon.gov |
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