

# Coordinating Committee to End Homelessness (CCEH) Meeting Minutes



**September 21, 2011  
Portland Housing Bureau**

Facilitated by: Marc Jolin & Shannon Singleton

Prepared by: Zane Potter

Reviewed by: Steering Committee & CCEH

Present: Liora Berry, Kimberly Black, Erica Borman, Heather Brown, Mellani Calvin, Caitlin Campbell, Ryan Deibert, Dustin DeWitt, Christina Dirks, Ben Duncan, Steven Entwisle, Sally Erickson, Theresa Guerrero, Troy Hammond, Jim Hlava, Marc Jolin, Billy Kemmer, Marylee King, Tiffany Kingery, Peggy Kuhn, Jes Larson, John McDaid, Molli Mitchell, Michael Moore, Ibrahim Mubarak, Olga Palchey, Rachel Payton, Rachel Post, J. Workman- Purvine, Natasha Roe, Jennifer Scott, Rob Shultz, Shannon Singleton, Barry Joe Stull, Rene Sutherland, Rusha Tapadar, Nicki Turk, Donna Turquoise, Travis VanStaavera, Lynne Walker, Monika Weitzel, Linda Wenning

## **I. Introductions – Marc Jolin**

## **II. Updates**

### **CHALENG Participant Survey – Peggy Kuhn, Portland VA Medical Center**

The survey was distributed by Ms. Kuhn. The purpose of the survey is to gather feedback on the met and unmet services of both the VA and its partners. The VA hopes to have a full national report in about a year.

### **Housing Opportunities for Persons with AIDS (HOPWA) grant update - Ryan Deibert, Portland Housing Bureau**

Mr. Deibert explained that HUD awarded \$1.365 million to the Portland Housing Bureau to fund a variety of housing services, including short-term rent assistance, employment services, and permanent housing for people living with HIV and experiencing homelessness. The grant will be used to house 60 people with AIDS through Cascade AIDS project. Portland was one of seven communities throughout the country to be awarded. A total of 46 communities were considered for the funding.

### **Annual HUD McKinney grant update – Ryan Deibert, Portland Housing Bureau**

Mr. Deibert began by explaining that about \$10.5 million comes into the community through the Continuum of Care grant. 37 projects are operated with these funds by 13 different agencies. These funds provide a variety of supportive services. Applications for renewal projects are due Thursday, October 13<sup>th</sup>. Additionally, HUD will make available \$552,773 in bonus funds that are used for new permanent housing project (s). About 20% of these funds can be used for case management. The remaining 80% can be put towards a wide range of housing services. The pre-application for these bonus funds is due at noon on Monday, October 3<sup>rd</sup>. Information sessions for the bonus projects will be held from 10:00am – 12:00pm for bonus projects and 1:00pm – 2:00pm for renewal projects at the Portland Housing Bureau.

### **Bed Bug Surveillance System – Rusha Tapadar, Multnomah County Health Department**

Ms. Tapadar explained that Multnomah County has created a Bed Bug Task Force. She is currently working on a subcommittee that is creating a bed bug surveillance system. The subcommittee's goal is to create a retrospective trend analysis over the past several years of bed bugs. They will do this by building a database. She explained that it has been difficult to get information prior to 2008. The

subcommittee is seeking data on the rate of infestation, region, and building type to explore which buildings or regions are more at risk of experiencing bed bugs. Additionally, they are seeking information on the cost burden of bed bugs.

The mission of the Task Force to discover the cost burden associated with bed bugs and the disparate impact of bed bugs. It seeks to remove some of the stigma associated with bed bugs around lower income and the homeless populations. Ultimately, the Task Force strives to get additional resources for bed bugs. For more information contact Ben Duncan at: Ph (503) 988-3400 or [benjamin.e.duncan@multco.us](mailto:benjamin.e.duncan@multco.us)

**Family Unification Voucher Program – Rachel Devlin, Home Forward & Jennifer Bren, DHS**

Ms. Devlin stated that there are 100 Family Unification Vouchers available and serve two populations – youth who left foster care who are 18-22 years old and families at risk of losing their children because of inadequate housing. DHS controls access to the vouchers. The youth vouchers last for 18 months and applicants must go through a screening committee review. Youth runaways are not eligible unless they were formerly in foster care and must have an open case. The family vouchers are indefinite in length as long families adhere to the rules. Additionally, the children must have an open child welfare case. Ms. Bren explained that if you think a family member can qualify for a voucher have them contact their case worker. For more information contact Jennifer Bren at: Ph (503) 872-5561.

**Bud Clark Commons update – Billy Kemmer, Transition Projects Inc.**

Mr. Kemmer presented a quick update on the Bud Clark Common's. It opened over three months ago. The day center served 2,100 people in July and August. This included 4,000 showers. They are expecting to serve more people once the weather turns bad. Mr. Kemmer explained that TPI is conducting monthly evaluations and will be presenting a quarterly update soon. Due to the monthly evaluations TPI has adjusted staffing and case management to better serve people. Also, he pointed out the TPI has an online calendar that shows what is happening in all facets of the Bud Clark Commons.

Questions/Comments:

- When permanent housing becomes vacated how do folks access it? *Home Forward takes over the assessment and we'll fill the openings with those who are currently weight listed.*
- What happened to the old TPI center? Is it still used? *No services are provided at the old site.*

**Oregon Health Plan Update – John McDaid, Healthy Kids/OHP**

Mr. McDaid explained that the Office of Healthy Kids is currently trying to partner with service providers to get children enrolled in health care. Currently, the entire process must go through DHS, but this new approach will make it easier for children to access health care. The services providers will contract with DHS to help fill out the application. For more information contact the Office of Healthy Kids at: Ph (877) 314-5678.

**New Interfaith Coordinator – Barbara Willer, Multnomah County**

Ms. Willer explained that she is the new Coordinator and her efforts are centered on providing better coordination between the County and members of the faith-based communities. To achieve this, Ms. Willer's office will align policy, advocacy and community engagement on behalf of the Chair and Board to better include the voice of faith-based communities in the County's public and civic processes. For more information contact Ms. Willer at: Ph (503) 988-3399 or [barbara.willer@multco.us](mailto:barbara.willer@multco.us)

**III. Group Discussion: TANF, Healthcare, budget and other important topics to end homelessness (CCEH Steering Committee members facilitated the discussion)**

- What impacts have changes to TANF had on people experiencing homelessness? In what ways can people advocate for TANF?
- Given that clinics are not admitting new patients how are people accessing medical care?
- Are there other issues that CCEH participants should be aware of and/or be educated on to help end homelessness?

Mr. Jolin gave a brief overview on TANF. Due to budget reductions, levels of service will be reduced. To better understand the impact of these service reductions, DHS is writing a report that will be due in February. A critical component of this report is the community feedback portion of it. An online survey is due in mid-October. CCEH members gave their feedback.

- Members at PWCL expect to see reductions in the future.
- Folks lost funding towards child care and can no longer pursue education.
- A big issue is that people need to follow through with treatment and need to be supervised to stay enrolled.
- Ensure folks asked if they are veterans or not.

Other topics to explore:

- Traumatic brain injuries
- It would be beneficial to have someone from the Hooper Center to come in and talk about the referral process. We need a point of contact with the center. Hopefully this would facilitate better coordination for people who are across town who make the trip to the Center, but are turned away.
- Domestic violence discussion and homeless overlap. PWCL.
- Interpersonal violence topic
- Bed Bug follow-up.
- Issues with landlord. Better communication with them.
- Portland Police: We need to have a dialogue about the no tolerance, high impact drug areas. Michael Boyer would be a good contact for this dialogue.
- Mental Health Courts: where is this at? Is this still staffed at the County? We need an update.
- Serving sex offenders in our community. What approaches can we take?
- Legislative update: What passed? What didn't?