

**Coordinating Committee to End Homelessness (CCEH)
Meeting Minutes – February 20, 2013**

Facilitated by: Stacy Borke & Shannon Singleton

Prepared by: Mary Welch

Reviewed by: Steering Committee & CCEH

Present: EV Armitage, Ruth Benjamin Stacy Borke, Bill Boyd, Michael Boyd, Leah Breen, Ann Brown, Heather Brown, Pat Daley, Mike Dee, Paul Davis, Troy Hammond, DeWanna Harris, Pam Hester, Laura Jaeker, Marc Jolin, Bruce Jones, Peggy Kuhn, Lisa Larson, Scott Layman, Michael Mellick, Pam Mitchell, Katie Morrisett, Katherine Moore, Ibrahim Mubarak, Kevin Nolan, Hope O’Connor, Zoey Owens, Rachel Payton, Liza Pierce, Courtney Robertstad, Mike Savara, Shannon Singleton, Erika Silver, Lynne Walker, Tom Wehrley, Bobby Weinstock, Monica Weitzel, Becky Wilkinson, Carissa Williams,

Agenda Topic	Discussion Points	Outcomes / Decisions / Next Steps
Welcome & Review of Minutes	The minutes from the last meeting were reviewed and approved. New attendees were introduced. Marc Jolin has stepped down as co-chair and Stacy Borke has taken his place.	
Updates & Community Announcements	<p>Vanessa LaTorre, Cascade AIDS Project (CAP): CAP received a grant from Multnomah County Health Department to support ChatPDX, a program that provides peer education through social media. The program aims to reduce new cases of HIV among minority youth and provide education using a cultural lens. It also develops youth leaders in the area of sex education and how media influences behaviors. CAP will continue working with partners to increase outreach of the program throughout the region.</p> <p>Jennifer Chang, Portland Housing Bureau: A racial equity training called “Cultivating Racial Equity Mindsets” is being held on February 28th from 8:30 a.m. – 12:30 p.m. at the First Christian Church located at 1314 SE Park Avenue. The training is being facilitated by the Office of Equity and Human Rights and registration is at maximum capacity with 190 attendees.</p> <p>The Homeless Street Count recently wrapped up and data is currently being input into HMIS. A preliminary report will be available sometime in May 2013.</p>	
Housing First In Action Discussion Panel	<p>Housing First aims to permanently house chronically homeless individuals with severe, persistent mental illness. Housing First is guided by the premise that housing is a human right.</p> <p>Rachael Duke, Home Forward/Bud Clark Commons: Assessment of vulnerability is used to determine individual’s entry/access to housing at the Apartments at Bud Clark Commons. Strategies are constantly being found to help people stay</p>	

safely housed as long as possible. Staff members support residents in getting to doctor's appointments and accessing other needed services. Challenges include: residents with serious issues, traffic of guests in and out of the facility, and the fact that people need more services than can be provided in independent living. It's also a challenge to continue calibrating expectations for desired successes and outcomes.

Mike Boyd, HUD VASH Program:

VASH is similar to the Section 8 program but is reserved for chronically homeless veterans. To qualify, a person must be homeless for one full year or have four episodes within three years and be disabled. The VA uses a small team approach including social services, peer support, substance abuse support and medical specialists. Some challenges include the tight rental market, past and current legal issues, substance abuse, poor rental history, past debt and chronic and persistent problems. The VA is addressing post traumatic stress disorder (PTSD) for the first time ever this year and those who are getting help have been able to re-engage with family, close outstanding warrants and pay off legal fees, amongst other improvements.

Lynn Smith-Stott, Central City Concern:

Central City Concern's Community Engagement Program serves people with alcohol and drug issues and mental conditions through integrated services. The program uses a continuum of options to help people recover. The length of the program is open-ended. It's challenging to figure out what constitutes program completion or success in an open ended program. For example, how do you help someone who has completed the program but comes back into crisis? Peer support makes a huge impact. The number of young adults entering the program has increased. Overall it's about being a good steward of limited resources.

Questions:

How are we providing mental health care to people?

There are services onsite at the Bud Clark Commons (BCC).

Are companion/service animals accepted?

Yes.

How do you deal with people who smoke in nonsmoking buildings?

There are smoking areas or balconies in some places.

	<p>What kind of support does a landlord need and what incentives can be provided to get a landlord on board? It is reassuring to landlords when they have the support of a sponsor or mental health care provider that will be with the resident every step of the way and who has a relationship with the landlord. The advocacy and rent subsidy help to reassure the landlord and negotiate solutions when problems arise. It helps to figure out what the landlord’s business model is and how to help mitigate financial risk.</p> <p>What procedures are in place to deal with medical marijuana? It is still not allowed at BCC and it hasn’t been an issue in other locations.</p> <p>How many VASH vouchers are currently reserved for families? Currently 65% of the vouchers are reserved for the chronically homeless but exceptions can be made for families. Vets have to have been in the service for two years and been honorably discharged. The VA Community Resource Center (308 SW 1st Ave.) can help determine eligibility.</p> <p>Do you know of models of programs that have filled in the gaps for those who need socialization? There are programs that do community building and cooking and use other ways to support people and create community such as the Giving Tree and the Friendly Visitor Program.</p> <p>IDDT, what are the benefits, what are the challenges? Wrap around services work well and we use what admin rules dictate for assessment.</p> <p>What are the mixed feelings about the Housing First model? With younger vets, the motivation for change goes down sometimes and sometimes they don’t share the same values as the VA.</p> <p>It’s a challenge to get people to recognize the urgency of their situations.</p>	
<p>City of Portland Budget Update</p>	<p>Traci Manning, Portland Housing Bureau (PHB), Director: PHB operates with \$11 million in city general funds, TIF and federal funding to support a full range of housing. This year there is a \$25 million dollar short fall in general funds and the bureau was asked by the mayor to create a draft budget showing a 10% cut. These cuts, combined with the looming federal sequestration, results in another 10% reduction.</p>	

	<p>PHB can ask to add back programs in order of preference but only for the things funded by general fund. The add backs are as follows: 1. Clark Center; 2. Winter Shelter for Singles; 3. Every other homeless program.</p> <p>The cuts will impact everyone. City Council will hear presentations on the proposals and ask questions. PHB’s investment priorities are in line with what can help the most people in an effective, low cost way. The Short Term Rent Assistance program (STRA) is one such program.</p> <p>Public testimony will be taken in March and April, with the Mayor’s budget coming out in May. The budget will be finalized for a vote at the end of May. Budget documents can be found at: www.portlandoregon.gov/budget .</p> <p>Marc Jolin, JOIN: The Safety Net Advocacy Team will get together to advocate against some of these potential cuts and ask that some of the federal funding cuts be covered in other ways. There is hope that upcoming healthcare reform will help with system as a whole.</p>	
<p>Community Announcements</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Service of Remembrance will be held at St. Andre Bessette Church on March 27th and 2 p.m. • There is advocacy going on behind the General Assistance Bill and a bill promoting increased revenue for housing specific to vets. 	