

SPOKANE HOMELESS COALITION

MEETING MINUTES

March 3, 2011

Leadership Dialogue:

Sara Clements-Sampson called the meeting to order at 9:06am at All Saints Lutheran Church, 314 S Spruce.

Minutes Approved by Bob Peeler (SNAP) and seconded by both Kim Sands (SHV) and Christy Zuniga (Spokane County)

Please make sure to sign in on the attendance sign-in sheet, you must attend five times to be eligible to vote.

Don't park near park or in spots facing church

Donations go to YWCA totaling \$47.35

Wendy Quinnan will no longer be taking minutes, leadership has taken on the responsibility Committee reports should be sent to Wendy Quinnan within a week to be included in the Coalition Meeting Minutes.

The Action plan is scheduled for later today so there are no minutes to report today.

In May we don't usually have a meeting because of the Washington State Homeless Conference. This year the conference is scheduled for May 11th-13th in Tri-Cities Do we still want to have a May meeting? Let's put it to vote. Vote passed unanimously to have a May meeting. Those that wish to attend the Conference need to register soon. The cost is \$225. Bob Peeler from SNAP will send an e-mail about the conference.

Homeless Governance Council structure includes HMIS Committee they want to know that we have a liaison. They want to know who uses HMIS, and if they use it by paper, digitally or both. Are you licensed? Are you using it? A sign-in sheet will be passed, please answer the questions.

Following leadership dialogue a question was posed to leadership: "What is HMIS?" David Lewis from Spokane City Human Services answered, "It is a State and Federal data base, and it stands for 'Homeless Management Information System'."

First time attendees:

Kathy Haughland from Goodwill Industries

Patricia Robinson from Goodwill Industries

Jenny Trussell from Hearth Homes

Jack Lilienthal from Goodwill Industries also the Interagency liaison. He commented that in the past the feeling was that mid-management and upper management wasn't listening so he will serve as a liaison between the Interagency (former CoC) and the Coalition.

Michelle Chapdelain from SNAP

Ashley Martinez from Goodwill industries, she commented that they provide mentoring for children with parents in prison.

Ann Marie Floch from Tree of Sharing. She is the current executive of Tree of Sharing and Westminster Church.

Romney Simpson a formerly homeless client

Presentations:

Highlight area agencies and allow an outside agency to present relevant information.

Lori Higgins from Martin Luther King Center was not present.

PJALS : Liz Moore and Shar Lichty

'For 35 years, PJALS (peace and Justice Action League) has engaged individuals in the local community toward a just and non-violent world. We focus on peace, economic justice and human rights.

What do you think of when you think of PJALS?

From the attendees: "Anti-war, Anti-domestic violence, peace keepers at local events, team of people trained in de-escalation, and the Peace march."

Current campaigns:

PJALS is historically only agency talking about peace regionally.

The "Bring our Billions Home" campaign was launched on MLK day this year. Just in eastern Washington has paid 2.2 billion dollars in the last nine years for wars in Iraq and Afghanistan. With that money we could have provided health care, Pell grants, head start, school teachers, Veteran's Administration medical (for a complete list of please see www.costofwar.com)* PJALS intends to draw a bold line connecting the dots. Often we don't draw a thick enough line connecting budget cuts and the costs of war.

PJALS is supporting legislation that will close tax loop holes and exemptions that 'suction' from our local community needs. For instance Bank of America and Chase pay no taxes in Washington State. Individuals that purchase cosmetic surgery and private jets pay no sales tax in Washington State. HB1847 aims to close these tax loop holes. There are over 500 tax loops, but these three seem glaringly obvious. The bill is alive and it could result in a referendum. Banks that are targeted are the same that have spent millions of dollars in this stated to support Tim Eyman and oppose the income tax bill. They are trying to make sure that they never have to pay taxes.

Other campaigns include the Coalition for Police Accountability and the No New Jail campaign. 16% of those in jail are there because they are unable to pay fines. Majority of children separated from moms are due to debts the mothers are unable to pay. The No New Jail campaign includes Eastern Washington Educational Organization and others. The New Jail ballot item has been moved into future. The media states that the jail is in critical status even though there are less people in jail than in the past.

Another campaign is for Human rights in Palestine and Israel. It aims to educate and build awareness. PJALS is the best source or one of the best sources for concrete ways to create policy change.

PJALS believes that 'Organizing' is to shifting power methodology. By creating opportunities for everyday people so that those impacted by decisions should have a voice in how that decision is made. The shifting power methodology has been used by Martin Luther King, JR and Cesar Chavez. There is a method, so we don't have to re-invent the wheel. PJALS offers a community organizing work shop series. At the upcoming conference there will be 24 work-shops on activism and organizing.

Why Organize? I don't need to tell you why.

Wall Street banks have caused this recession and then are given opportunities to create new laws. PJALS believes it is there turn to start paying their fair share. We need to see a stop to attacks on the poor and working poor. PJALS aims to end corporate welfare and start using money in a way that reflects American values.

Shar Lichty: Americore Vista with PJALS

'In a social work class at Eastern Washington University a professor told a story about babies coming down a river, headed for a waterfall. One social worker starts taking babies out of river, more and more social workers start helping babies. Then they ask, 'why are the babies coming down the river?' Micro work is helping the babies out of the river and Macro work is asking why and working to stop the babies from coming down the river.

Corporate welfare is sucking money out of our communities, which is making it harder to pull the babies out of the river. We have to change the policies.

PJALS has an Organizing Conference March 19th. It's an all day conference with a free reception on the 18th with music, food, and socializing.

The all day conference has 24 different educational work-shops you can chose three out of those 24.

We will have a panel discussion on 'listening to veterans,' a discussion panel from youth and student activists on how to get more youth involved, the 'Bring our Billions Home' work-shop, and many work-shops that cover a wide range. Many are on professional development, community development, fund raising, finding your public voice, on-line organizing and community organizing. It's a great way to add to your professional toolbox and network with people of similar values. You can register at pjals.org.

Questions and Comments:

Erica Scott (VOICES)" Is it still an option for an organization to endorse the conference?"

Yes, we currently have 25 organizations endorsing the conference.

Shannon Bedard (NW Fair Housing): To be a member of PJALS costs \$20 a year for low income individuals and the standard is \$60.00 a year. Also, there is a lending library at PJALS based on the honor system.

PJALS is located in the community building on Main street downtown.

Close with three things you can do:

- 1) Find an advocacy group you trust and follow their alerts
- 2) Make a donation and become a member
- 3) Come to the conference

Updates on SRICH:

The next SRICH meeting is March 18th 9am at Goodwill

Goals for this year:

Identify priorities for 2011, update, edit and improve the Road Home, McKinney Vento to keep funding, cut homelessness in half by 2015

North Idaho News and Updates:

July 23rd at Kootenai County Fairgrounds homeless Connect and military stand down

Bob Peeler (SNAP): It's time for Spokane to do a Homeless Connect

May Coalition Meeting agenda will include a plan for Spokane County's Homeless Connect.

Liz Moore (PJALS): "I think this sounds really powerful. Are there some concrete ways to connect the dots for the community about why this event is necessary for the community? Can it be the week before election?"

Rob Bryceson (First Covenant): “we’ always means somebody else. Instead of saying ‘we’ need to say ‘I’. We need to use the Post Falls as an example and learn from their mistakes and successes.’

Bob Peeler (SNAP): “There are Homeless Connects all over the State, we can learn from all of them.”

Question: “Will this be an Ad Hoc Committee?”

Idaho meets every Tuesday to keep on focus and plan. There has to be a commitment.

Question from Christy Zuniga (Spokane County): “What budget do you work with?”

Idaho solicits sponsors for the event. Military Stand down is funded through the Homeless Veterans foundation. Second Harvest is a major player by providing over 5000 lbs of food for people.

Bob Peeler (SNAP): “In Spokane we need to ask for something and this community always comes through; Second Harvest, DSHS, and every component will help. We need to have this added to the agenda next month.”

Evie Crossman (SonShine Sanctuary) “Can we do a military stand down?”

Sara Clements Sampson (Providence Medical) “According to the veteran’s representative on Governance Council we do not need a stand down because the services are here, they do stand downs in rural areas.”

Evie Crossman (SonShine Sanctuary): “Homeless veterans are tired of working with the VA and they won’t go there for services, what do we do?”

Bob Peeler (SNAP): “We hook them up with other outreach and we will back door them in. I am a veteran and I agree working with the VA can be crazy.”

Bob Peeler: “I am working on an action plan with the community that will address the recent cuts. GAU was just cut again to \$197 for a 6 month period have SNAP act as lead and gather info on DSHS and agencies regarding new changes. If you have a question to ask DSHS we can have a format and method. We need to get our answers from DSHS. The worst thing we can do is send people on blind referrals to get resources that are not there. We need to have an access of up to date resources that we can give out. Ways outside of the box to address these needs for people with zero income.”

Updates and Agency announcements:

Liz Montgomery: Saint Vincent DePaul in Coeur d’Alene is opening the Cathy Reed house with 37 rooms for people 62+ years and low-income rent is based on income after medical costs are subtracted. Contact Joe Hedgeson at 208-699-7886

CV school district: “‘Heart in Hand’ fund pays for extra things that kids might need. I will send it out to Reese to get out to everybody.

Christy Zuniga from Spokane County: Jack and I talked about the SRICH, the county does not funnel all the money through SRICH. County will be hearing the ideas from public about 2163 funding. Pro and Con regarding how they will spend their money.

Bob Peeler (SNAP): Terri Maher’s last day at One Stop Housing will be Tuesday. We need to acknowledge the job she has done. (Applause)

Terri Mayer of One Stop Housing:

I want to tell everyone thank you. Three and a half years ago I didn’t know anything about housing. You guys helped me. Giving my notice at SLIHC was hard because of you guys. Cindy is doing some revamping and is sending that announcement out this week. I will be available to do any needed training for however long it takes. I will start working for “Roads to Community” through DSHS that Dan Ruddell went to work for. It’s a project by DSHS to move people out of institutions into housing I was offered a position. I will be the Housing Specialist. I will help people move into community and gain resources. I will follow them for a year. My non-profit “Open Gate” is alive and kicking. IRS docs are being sent. The mission statement and logo have

all been designed by inmates. Opengate@live.com. I'm not walking out on onestophousing I am just branching out to do what I need to do.

Verla Spencer (Center for Justice): There will be a fundraiser on May 7th at community building. Gently used shoes needed that will be sold to help provide low income families with legal services.

Evie Crossman(SonShine Sanctuary): "I wanted to let everybody know we are getting non-profit status. We will be having a 'mini' Women's Hearth out there."

Change Point will have another class opening in April.

Meeting adjourned at 11:02am

*website submitted by PJALS after the meeting