

# SPOKANE HOMELESS COALITION

## MEETING MINUTES

April 7, 2011

Leadership Dialogue:

Sara Clements-Sampson called the meeting to order at 9:02am at All Saints Lutheran Church, 314 S Spruce.

Leadership Dialogue:

First time attendees:

Terri Rhoads haven't been since 1998, looking for work BSW, five years of program management, resumes and card

Lacy Jones PCAP

Julie Gardner, rep myself, falls graduate, looking for work

Joleen Gulia SFCC Student

Peter Guphry

Practicum from Saint Margaret's Shelter

Sara (SHC Chair): Elections are in June. Please think of anyone you would like to nominate for next month

Minutes Approved by Bob Peeler (SNAP) and seconded by Bob Scott – minutes passed unanimously

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 Center for Justice totaling \$44.82

Reese (SHC Secretary): Homeless Connect will become a new Ad Hoc committee our first meeting will be next Wednesday at 3pm, at the East Central Community Center

Presentations:

George Dahl, City of Spokane re: One Day Count 2011

Increase this year 1273 from 1224 last year

Last year homeless ages 40-65 was 33% this year it was 30.7%

This year we used a lot of information in HMIS and survey forms

Increase in Native American homeless last year 36 this year 108

Increase in females, last year 34% this year 42%

This data helps us determine where we need to put the most effort, funding priorities

An increase in single homeless singles

There were 274 homeless families counted

Sara: What is a “family” definition for the count?

Answer: anyone under 18 living with a family, anyone over 18 was not counted

Jennifer M (SNAP): Does pregnancy count?

Answer: no, it’s not measured

Jennifer M: What about permanent supportive housing?

Answer: we don’t count any permanent housing

1 of 5 goals is to increase permanent housing

There were 93 homeless veterans 93 last year this year there were 91

We did not screen out if they were called to active duty

Chronic homeless increase from 88 to 150 – I think a lot of efforts for outreach had something to do with it. Chronic homeless is a wild card in how well we can reach out to that population.

Reasons for homelessness changed a lot;

Last year #1) lost job #2) family break up #3) eviction for non payment

This year #1) lack of income #2) lack of affordable housing #3) lost job

The difference can probably be explained due to the recent budget cuts

There were 558 first time homeless this year, 309 last year – a lot more first time homeless

I don’t know when the annual report will be out. In the annual report we review action steps in ten year plan, we track progress, etc

Next annual report will have more info on doubled up households and individuals

Bob P (SNAP): Was there an increase in surveys? Was there an increase in duplicates?

Answer: This year over 1400 surveys came in, last year there were more. There were 2100 individuals counted this year. We worked hard on screening for duplicates. I feel confident regarding the information we got from HMIS. For transitional housing there are very few duplicates. I think we did a good job this year on filtering out duplicates.

Jennifer Martin (SNAP): If a person is paying for motel for themselves are they counted as homeless?

Answer: We used what they identified themselves as. If they said homeless, there were counted.

Question: Last meeting there was someone with statistics on homeless teens in the school districts. Can you explain the discrepancies?

Answer: The school system is not included in the annual count but will be included in the annual report.

Evie Crossman (SonShine Sanctuary): Does this effect funding for school districts?

Leslie C (District 81): Not necessarily, we get a grant from state McKinney Vento. The grant is very competitive. Every school district is required to provide support whether they get money or not?

Evie Crossman: Why aren't they included in count?

George: homeless definition is different, school and city McKinney Vento are different sets of funding

Bob: Did you count doubled up?

George: Doubled up on survey were not counted

Jennifer M: Do you think the Hearth Act will quadruple count?

George: It's hard to say.

Dan R (DSHS): Yes, Evie to clarify the education definition of homeless does not match HUD's definition. We have to follow HUD criteria, we as a community will report on the Department of Education's count. It's important for elected officials to know.

Evie: Our kids are living in cars and on streets.

Leslie: Those were counted

Dan: The number of first time homeless was a big jump, stimulus funds were used for prevention and first time homeless. The economy is having a huge effect on households.

Betty Sweeney DSHS recent cuts:

See attached

The community action division was confused about when and what was happening so we started this list.

If you saw the latest budget proposals you know there are proposals to completely cut DL. What we decided to do is not put down everything that is proposed cuts because it changes so much. We only put down the things that have dates attached. We know these are going to happen. Things change so significantly during legislative session. There are three thousand affected by Disability Lifeline cuts. Refugees and immigrants are hit very hard. There is reduced funding for food assistance for refugees and immigrants. The feds won't pay and those dollars come from the state. Reductions are affecting family's ability to pay rents. We usually find out from agencies what the changes are, we are a bureaucracy and we don't get word quick enough. I ask you to give me updates as needed.

Question: Do they count child support as earned income even if it is not received regularly?

Chantel D (SNAP): My experience is that the recipient has to prove that child support is not paid.

Betty: We are now at 2026 waiting list waiting for childcare statewide.

Question: Is the TANF grant being reduced and then raised again?

Bob P (SNAP): Exemptions are the reasons for that. After 3 months the recipient is re-evaluated if circumstances have not changed then they will maintain it again for another 3 months. The 15% reduction has no exemptions.

Question: why do some families have their TANF cut that are on SSI?

Answer: It should have been re-instated.

Question: If a family is receiving TANF are they guaranteed working child connections and those not receiving TANF are on a waiting list of at least three months?

Betty: They may allow up the cap when they re-open working child connections.

Question: Won't that increase TANF recipients?

Betty: Yes, if you can't find child care you may be forced to choose TANF over work.

Rob (SHC, Treasurer): Is there enough child care?

Jen M: Child care centers are closing down.

Betty: Washington Connection (see attachments)

WashingtonConnection.org

Shannon B (NWFH): Is anyone tracking migration? I hear immigrants are leaving. Anyone tracking where they are ending up?

Betty: Most immigrants migrate here.

Shannon: Which state is the most compassionate toward immigrants?

Bob P: Minnesota

George D (City Of Spokane): The Office of Financial Management website may have that information.

Announcements:

Program for Incarcerated Vets or Vets released in the last six months - Goodwill

Larry (Salem Arms): I have 16 days left in my position; Debbi \_\_\_\_\_ will be replacing me.

Kendra Wolfe from Arc: We are moving to 320 E Second, both building being consolidated. Closed at 5pm on 15<sup>th</sup> and closed week of 18<sup>th</sup>.

Terri Maher: Open Gate is running. Executive director, Marci Richard licensed chemical dependency counselor, Jill Williams will be doing mental health assessments, Airway heights staff is on board. They want programs now and don't want to wait for funding. Goal is to have a chemical dependency assessment, mental health assessment done and start working before they get out. We will have access to incentives. Airway Heights wants to start a pilot project and maybe go state wide. If any of you want to volunteer, you will have to pass a NCIC screening. Released offenders have nothing waiting for them. No funding for assessments. With Open Gate they will have credit reports, assessments, housing search all started before they get out. We will be an all volunteer force until we can get funding.

Shannon Bedard: Youth suicide prevention, one-hour training, short brown bag presentations in groups or agencies you are already a part of. Grass roots awareness. Prevention is goal! You don't have to be an expert. If interested in training call Shannon. Questions, etc509-714-3041

Patricia Robinson: Moving Forward program- homeless families Goodwill, staff that will work with homeless individuals, brochures on back table. Number one reason for homelessness is lost jobs.

Patty N (Transitions): What is the criterion?

Patricia: Individuals in transitional housing is preferred, but we are not turning anyone away.

Cindy Algeo (SLIHC): onestophousing just hired Shane Taylor as the program coordinator, formerly with SHARP. He is going to start April 18<sup>th</sup> full time. We are ready to continue on.

Hunger and Homeless Awareness week committee will be meeting after this meeting.

May 3<sup>rd</sup> at 7pm Saint Aloysius in Gonzaga dinner

Spokane Housing Authority: 2008 600 left on the lottery. The lottery will re-open in late summer early fall

Meeting adjourned at 10:36am

Respectfully submitted, Lareesa "Reese" McMullin Holford