

SPOKANE HOMELESS COALITION

MEETING MINUTES

May 5, 2011 (Amended June 7, 2011)

Leadership Dialogue:

Sara Clements-Sampson called the meeting to order at 9:04am at All Saints Lutheran Church, 314 S Spruce.

First time attendees:

Micheal Shappell, SafeLink, free phones for low-income individuals Community Outreach Coordinator

Shannon Gilbert, Women's Hearth

Jen, Grins and Giggles, Valley Partners 50% off dental if no insurance (June 6th East Central Community Center kids dentistry)

Shane Taylor, SLIHC

Minutes Approved by Margie Taylor (Catholic Charities) and seconded by Liz Backstrom, Saint Joseph's Family Center
– minutes passed unanimously

Leadership Dialogue:

Attendance Sign-in Sheet, must attend five meetings to be eligible to vote

Don't park near park or in spots facing church

Jennifer Martin from SNAP gave a thank you card to the Coalition for the donation toward HHAD

May is Mental Health Month

Donations go to Women's Hearth totaling \$50.02

Hearth Act Academy, How much information do you want? Whole meeting or presentation?

Cindy Algeo, wait until participants in academy come back and see what they think they need.

Rob Bryceson, give us a synopsis of the "Hearth Act"

Cindy Algeo, The Hearth Act is a new way of looking at McKinney Vento funding. Federal housing dollars that are used to reduce and prevent homelessness. ~~The City administers the funds for Spokane County.~~ [The City and County are merged for McKinney Vento Projects with funding from the Continuum of Care application, the City administers the grant funds.](#)

. Shelter, transitional, rapid re-housing, are all paid through this funding. HUD encourages partnerships. There will be new guidelines and a new definition of homelessness.

Margie Taylor (CC): We need to know if our agencies are receiving these funds. Are we going to be affected? SHP grants? If your funding is not affected you may not need to hear it.

Liz Backstrom, Saint Joseph's Family Center : Maybe just both presentation slots be filled by the Hearth Act Academy

Cindy Algeo, SLIHC: Only a dozen agencies receive funding that will be affected.

Sara: We need to have something at this meeting.

Nominees for June elections:

Christina Hernandez, VOA nominated by Reese

Liz Backstrom, ST Joseph's Family Center nominated by Sara

Presentations:

Community Presentation: Pastor Alan Eschenbacher

Rob Bryceson, Marj Johnston and I have had trainings we are applying for a grant from Washington Mental Health Counsel. This grant will put into effect a Spokane Community Mental Health Chaplaincy, purpose – congregations through Spokane have a team of people that volunteer to assist and be companions for those with mental health issues. The teams will provide awareness, access to local resources, companionship training, and reduce intake of mentally ill in jail (work with local law enforcement).

If interested in more information, please contact me or Rob. There will be a 3 hour companionship training. Our goal is to help people navigate the system (mental illness).

Margie Taylor (Catholic Charities): training for law enforcement?

Pastor Alan: Currently there is only one police officer in Spokane with extensive mental health training. This leads to unnecessary arrests.

Sara Clements Sampson (Chair) : based on referrals?

Pastor Alan: There will be a contact point that will find partners for those that need help.

Rob Bryceson (First Covenant Church): I have close to 200 homeless people a week in church, so many with mental health issues, we want techniques to respond. The sheriffs department said they are frustrated because arrests lead to lose of Medicaid, our jail spends a million dollars a year on medications.

Phase II training: Would include people who can help and check in on those who need it.

Question: Can anybody do this?

Pastor Alan: yes, no scheduled trainings yet – within a month announcement

Comment: John from Eastern State does two day training regarding mental health.

Margie Taylor (Catholic Charities): Awesome! The police have training in Alaska. Law enforcement can identify mental illness.

Pastor Alan: identifying mental illness is main thing.

Women's Hearth: What type of screening for companions?

Pastor Alan: The groups that sponsor teams would have to be diligent.

Liz Backstrom (St Joseph's Family Center): Background check?

Pastor Alan: yes, we need funding for screenings

Presentation:

Liz Backstrom, St Joseph's Family Center

I am a Grant writer at St Joseph's. I started as AmeriCore Volunteer. In 1890 St Joseph's was an orphanage for 80 years, run by The Sisters of St Francis in Philadelphia. They started counseling families going through foster care system, so the family counseling center formed. We have a retreat center, wellness classes, breast cancer retreats, support groups, anger management classes, parenting children of divorce, etc. We offer fee reductions for low-income clients. We serve a lot of low-income people and we need paying clients to keep the doors open. 89% of our clients were low-income, last year.

Question: Take Provider 1?

Liz: We take Molina but not Medicare, take uninsured, sliding scale starts at \$15.00 if income is below 1200 a month. We do take Senior Medicare, but we ask that people stay for at least five sessions.

Last year, we gave \$140,000 in fee assistance, and had almost 4,000 visits. We just started senior counseling pilot project

¾ mental health cases diagnosed by age 24, most do not seek assistance.

Sara: statistic that elderly suicide is increasing, is that why the pilot project started?

Liz: We started the program because The Sisters of St Francis are aging and recognizing the isolation, depression and suicide risk of low-income seniors.

Announcements:

Tues, May 24th at NC gym Tap Grandmas – fundraiser

HOC June 12th closed until June 24th

Ellie (SHA): SHA have posters, waiting list open again, June 1st, flyers have list of locations you can pick up (See attached)

Homeless Daycare out of funds until June 1st

Susan McClore, Goodwill – employment specialist, downtown library computer lab, open Tues, Wed 5-8, Sat 1-6pm

Shar Lichty, outreach at PJALS fliers, auction a week from Saturday, Family friendly – OUT IN SILENCE, video premiere

Sandy, Spokane Valley partners, senior center is closed

Nan, CORD – troubled that Deaf are being assaulted by police. 326-6355 X107

Maurice, My Brother's Keepers – 1st of June next meeting thinking about first Wednesday of month 1:30 – Salvation Army

Shannon B, YSP training, amazing turn out 34 people got trained in Youth Suicide Prevention

Shannon, NWFHA – confusion regarding ADA, service animals/companion animals 325-2665 NWFH

Nan Kelly, CORD – comment re: service animals- confusion is companion animal is not the same as a service dog, but there are psychiatric service animals

Cindy, COPS- Event crime prevention forum northside 732 W Indiana on may 10th 6-8pm, southside 1801 E 29th (see attached)

Terri, Open Gate – had first meeting on Tuesday. Going to Airway Heights today, partnering with Hearth Homes at Spokane Valley Partners, meeting with Goodwill tomorrow to partner with mentoring program. Looking for landlords that will rent to people with barriers.

SafeLink, need assistance with application I have informational sheets

Liz is the new liaison between Couerd'Alene and Spokane

Meeting adjourned