

Spokane Homeless Coalition

Meeting Minutes

August 4, 2011

Leadership Dialogue

Reese called the meeting to order at 9: 11

First-time attendees:

Ken, Spokane landlord

Nora, Spokane Tribe

Andrea, Social Security

Bobbi, First Presbyterian

Minutes approved by Bob Peeler and seconded

Attendance Sign in sheet, must attend five meetings to be eligible to vote.

Introductions: do they take too much time or do we want them back?

Consensus: introduce yourself before you speak, nametags provided for reference.

Survey results:

Transportation was primary need.

Healthcare/dental

Access to services, mental health

Facebook page: make announcements, check for updates.

Retreat suggestions needed. Please get in touch with leadership.

August theme is Housing

Donations go to SHLIC totaling

Member Presentations

Shane Taylor: new OneStopHousing.org housing locator site is set to be up and running sometime in August or September as soon as bugs are fixed. Changes made include locations (condensed) into neighborhoods and areas. Search options are easier to use for providers. New options/sections available: advanced options, area median income, property listing for landlords, links to Google Maps pages.

Shane is creating tutorials for landlords and case workers to make it easier to use the site.

Bob Peeler: Issues with the way search results are displayed, liked the old site's table format for clients who are not comfortable with computer use.

SHLIC: Horizontal format is the easiest possible format he could get.

Reese: Is site printer friendly?

SHLIC: That is being worked on. For now, I would recommend printing the full detailed listing.

Dia (Transitions): Is there a cost for landlords to list? How faithful are agencies at listing units?

SHLIC: Site is free for users and landlords. Shane wants to meet with agencies and encourage them to list transitional and permanent housing and update often.

Bob: Is "Other Resources" tab still available?

SHLIC: Yes, those are available on the site and will be developed further. News, community resources etc will be available.

Goodwill: Will specialized categories be available?

SHLIC: Yes, they will be developed.

Rob: Round Table discussion on resources. We all have different resources, but as providers we don't know what other providers do. I work with hundreds of homeless and serve meals, and I run into difficult referral situations. I'm not sure where to send people. We wanted to use this time to pool our ideas and insights into our housing resources. We're going to have a round table discussion and see what's out there.

Round Table Results

Women:

- UGM Women's Crisis Shelter (women and children, boys up to 17)
- Hope House
- YWCA Crisis Line (326-CALL) for phone screening, a cab can pick them up, Transitions Women's Hearth(no children)
- Miryam's House(babies only, no children), TLC (single mothers and children)
- Sisters of Charity in Hillyard (except Thursdays, check in at 4 p.m. and leave @ 8 a.m., no children)
- Field of Diamonds, transitional house on 17th, faith-based.
- Salvation Army (3-month waiting list)
- SNAP
- Interfaith

Men

- House of Charity
- UGM
- Truth Ministries
- YWCA

Families (including minors and foreclosures)

- Rapid Re-housing (SNAP) 30 days
- Interfaith
- Salvation Army

Couples/Partners

- Salvation Army (even if not married)
- SNAP

Registered sex offenders and manufacturing meth: difficult to place without recovery classes.

Recovery classes: Spokane Mental Health (M-F), Women's Hearth for referrals only, 211

Bob Peeler: Call first to make sure you're giving a solid lead.

Reese: Use the Facebook page to ask for help with individual cases, don't use names please because it's a public venue.

Committee Reports

Interagency: Working on HMIS data accuracy, getting minutes sent among SHC members, governance council, next meeting August 19 at Goodwill. 9:30-11:30

HMIS, Advocacy: not present

Housing Providers: Changing to a resource forum rather than just housing. Attend if possible. If not, email updates to Sultana. Interfaith changed name to "Family Promise." Next meeting August 16 10 a.m. at Emmanuel Center. Call Sultana at 624-9788 at St. Margaret's.

Interagency Outreach: Plan to Work program, Meal Schedule by YFA Connections available by next week on web site. Meeting Monday August 8 at 1:30 Rocket Bakery on Main.

Ad Hoc:

Bob Peeler: Washington State Homeless Coalition merged with WA Low Income Housing Alliance. Homeless preference certificates/vouchers not available in August, may not be available in September.

Homeless Connect: Mission statement and venue verified. Venue is Emmanuel Life Center.

Announcements

County: City will be administering former GAU/GAX funds. Reentry RFPs available.

Northwest Justice Project: Meet w/Barry afterwards to discuss former DL/GAU/GAX clients. DL ends in October. Clients still eligible for health and housing/essential needs (HEN) funds.

Reach Barry at 324-9128 ext. 213 or by email at barryp@nwjustice.org

Bob Peeler: Funds administered per county. Not enough funds per person.

First Presbyterian: Needs restrooms for homeless clients who sleep on property.

Opengate: opening pilot 5-bedroom transitional house for DOC clients. House staffed by volunteers. Meeting at the house at 909 E. Augusta, 3 p.m., SHC invited. Only people not accepted are felonies for arson or level 2 and 3 sex offenders. Opengate is now a non-profit awaiting 501 © 3.

Ken: COPS Logan volunteer, landlord. Opengate is a better use of DOC vouchers –must stay in house 90 days and take classes to reenter community.

Rich: Mini Homeless Connect for East Central Neighborhood September 15, 8 a.m. to noon at UGM Crisis Shelter on Sprague. SNAP, Spokane Mental Health, DSHS present. Flyers needed from SHC organizations.

Goodwill: 50 percent off clothes/textiles Saturday August 6.

Spokane Housing Authority: Vouchers unfrozen September 2. Drawing on the 9th of August.

Meeting adjourned at 10:57