

Spokane Homeless Coalition: November 3, 2011

Meeting called to order, 9:05 a.m.

Minutes from October meeting seconded and approved.

Shalom ministries searching for program director and kitchen manager.

Hunger and Homelessness Awareness Week: BE THERE! This is our chance to show the public what we already know. Homelessness is a serious problem, and if we don't tell people, who will?

Tuesday, November 8: County Proclamation of Hunger and Homelessness Awareness week: Public Works Building, 5:30 pm

Monday, November 14: City Proclamation of Hunger and Homelessness Awareness week: City Hall, 6:00 pm

Tuesday, November 15: Winter Wear Drive: Shopko locations

Thursday, November 17: Food For Thought, annual community dinner at Shalom Ministries: 5-7 pm. Central United Methodist Church, 518 W. Third Ave.

Friday, November 18: Winter Wear Pickup, First Covenant Church, 2nd and Division, Mobile CSO, Memorial Service at noon.

Community Presentations

Cindy Algeo: Spokane Low Income Housing Consortium (SLIHC)

Advocacy techniques from the legislators –

- Early fall and summer is the best time to contact legislators: they are busy after that.
- Put yourself in the legislator's shoes –where are they coming from? What is their background?
- Send your original message if possible. Personal messages are more effective than prepared ones. Have personal client stories ready if possible.
- House bill 2048: extends sunset on document recording fees to fund 2163 funds to 2017 and add an additional \$10 until 2015.
- Translation: this money comes from real estate transactions, which are down. This revenue goes to housing and homelessness programs that need the funds, including the THOR program.
- Cindy and a group are meeting with Senator Lisa Brown to discuss House Bill 2048.
- Goal set in 2005: reduce homelessness by 50 percent in 10 years. We should be at 25 percent reduction as of 2010, but are not. Current figure to be emailed.

Lucy Lepinski: Spokane Housing Authority

Opening of Agnes Kehoe Place apartments in Hillyard –some units set aside for homeless households.

- Opening second week in January.
- Old Hillyard high school building: funded by multiple funding sources
- **Call (509) 487-5244. Pre applications open now!**
- www.spokanehousing.org for more information and details.

- Eligibility: All residents pay for are electricity and lighting. Homeless units are subsidized so people with no income are eligible.
- No one can earn more than 50 percent of Spokane's area median income.
- Most units are accessible and adaptable to ADA standards.

Announcements

Donations to SJFC Veteran's Program total: \$73.46

UGM Thanksgiving Dinner at Convention Center: Call 535-8510 and ask for Lori Wilson. Tickets are FREE, but UGM needs an accurate headcount, so let them know. Wednesday, November 23. 4-6 pm. Volunteers needed to put together care packages.

Web site up in January.

Nominations: Rob Bryceson, Shane Taylor, and James Fulwider nominated for leadership, Reese nominated for advisory board.

Committee Reports

School Districts:

Mead: 152 homeless kids in program, up from last year's 115. Seventeen are unaccompanied youth, majority are doubled up.

Central Valley District: 259 students in Central Valley are homeless (2.1 percent of enrollment), up from last year. 90 percent of students are doubled up. Total Valley districts (EV, CV, W Valley) this year so far: 393. Last year total: 682.

District 81: 475 homeless kids: 55 percent increase from last year. HEART program serves 1.6 percent of students in the district.

These are only the homeless kids **in school**. Many homeless kids aren't in school.

Interagency:

Encampments moving closer to town –committee met with police department regarding sweeps. Next meeting: Monday, November 7 at 1:30 pm -the Rocket Bakery on Main Street.

Advocacy: Homeless Advocacy Day Friday, January 20.

One Day Count: January 26, 2012. Volunteers needed.

Homeless Connect: January 26, 2012, 10 am-3pm at Emmanuel Life Center. Contact Patty Norton or Reese if interested in being a vendor or volunteer. Sponsors needed.

Homeless Preferences vouchers still frozen for November and most likely December.

Spokane Housing Authority: Occupancy standards changing –two people per room. Check out www.spokanehousingauthority.org/Business/rfp-PVB.html Deadline November 9 for vouchers.

HEN Grant: replaces GAU/GAX, administered by Salvation Army. Serves at risk and homeless clients (approximately 1500 people per month are eligible for program)

- Small rental assistance subsidy for former Disability Lifeline (DL) and homeless clients. (approximately \$197-\$280 per month)
- Eligibility determined by DSHS, not Salvation Army. **New clients must be assessed by DSHS.**
- Spokane benchmarks: 610 “at risk” clients and 335 homeless clients.
- Rental assistance, utilities, deposits and “essential needs.”
- Essential needs include bus passes, laundry soap, etc. Things that can’t be bought with food stamps. These products are given out at Salvation Army.
- Issues with HEN or denied: Call CLEAR Hotline at 1-888-201-1014.

Open Gate:

Three men currently living there, program successful so far. People getting out of prison due to budget cuts have no place to live –this number will increase. Program is currently run by volunteers. Free class Monday nights from 5:15-7:15 on getting a job with a felony –taught by WorkSource.

Friends of Compassion

Meets at All Saints Lutheran monthly –next meeting Wednesday, November 16 from 7:15-9:15 pm. This month’s theme: “Compassion in your Neighborhood.”

SONShine Sanctuary/Evie Crossman: Wants to open program for homeless youth in the valley. Has free firewood available.

Northwest Justice Project: Housing available: 30 units. Email Hoseat@nwjustice.org

Martin Luther King Center: Three new student volunteers. November 9, annual fundraiser at Lincoln Center at noon. Call office at 455-8722.

Warming centers are now open –activated when temperatures hit 15 degrees.

Family Promise of Spokane: Bethel AME agreed to provide rent on a can pay basis.

Youth Suicide Prevention Program: slated for budget cuts. Let legislators know you want to keep this program.

Crime Victim intervention line: 24/7.