

SHC Meeting September 1, 2011

Reese called the meeting to order at 9:05.

August minutes reviewed and approved.

Panel Discussion: Continuum of Care, Dan Jordan, Joe, Jane Auld,

Goal: provide stable, permanent housing for region.

Every year, they have a panel discussion with the community to discuss best practices.

Best practices for permanent supportive housing:

- 1) Have a resource staff member on site at housing sites. This allows tenants to form personal connections.
- 2) Creating expectations through a contract or formal agreement between service providers and program managers –set up regular meetings between case managers, service providers. (Example agreement provided)
- 3) Communication between housing providers and service providers. This is essential. Service providers (non-profit agencies) need to know what's happening with clients at their housing sites. For example, service providers need to know what clients are dealing with while they're in permanent supportive housing. (e.g. do they have friends over, are they making rent payments on time, are they staying on track with medications, etc.)
- 4) Education on both sides –spend time aligning goals, discussing individual and community outcomes, assessment and evaluation procedures for clients. Time spent communicating and aligning goals allows Spokane Housing Ventures and other service providers to make the best use of funding dollars, saves time and money in the future.

Why this works: Spokane Housing Ventures reports these statistics from The Wilton, a homeless housing residence.

Longer stays: 25 percent of clients staying longer than 24 months.

Grown: 40 percent of residents actively participate in services at The Wilton

- 5) Takes many people and agencies involved to effectively work with clients and prevent burnout.

Q&A:

Patty Norton/Transitions: Seattle's DESE has best practices that we don't use here regarding felonies, sobriety and addiction issues. Why doesn't Spokane use these best practices?

Jane: The Wilton does not kick people out for first or second alcohol offenses to my understanding.

Kim: 10 day notice given at the Wilton for drug/alcohol offenses, make effort to meet with people and allow them to keep housing. We also take felony clients that are not considered a risk for other tenants.

Patty: I see the issue as one for the larger community, rather than just one the Wilton has to deal with.

Joe: "Housing First" is happening in Spokane to some extent, and it's a focus of the Homeless Outreach Team.

Dan Jordan: When I visit Neighborhood Steering Committee meetings, neighbors are worried about low-income housing in their communities. Visit these meetings and start dialogue with them.

John: I agree with Patty. We need to clearly identify barriers in the existing system as a Coalition, if we don't do it, no one else will.

Rob: Who here is in recovery? I've heard from my clients we need more of these services.

Open Gate: Eddie Todd

Eddie: "I was convicted of a felony at age 20 and sat on death row for 4 years. I was alone –abandoned by my family and friends. My sentence was reversed because of a technicality. I remained in prison for 43 years. I believe I was given a second chance at life. I began to work with rehabilitation programs in the community. I searched out ways to change and better myself. Along the way I wanted to help all those who wanted to help themselves. I got out of prison this February on a housing voucher. I didn't know where to start looking for a place to live. I found a place out on Trent, but the house was bare. There was nothing but a rug on the floor. Within a week, my entire apartment was furnished. My friends came to my aid. They drove all over Spokane to find me resources that would help me. I had help and support from friends. I say that to say this: We who are in the system know best what we need when we get out."

Eddie connected with Terri Mayer. He was invited to be the housing manager at Open Gate.

Open Gate is for men coming out of prison with vouchers. The goal is to provide them with resources to help them break the cycle of imprisonment and poverty.

Life Skills class: "Getting It Right" to help prisoners know how to survive in the real world.

Open Gate will screen clients to make sure they are serious about recovery and want to change.

Open Gate contact information: [opengate@live.com](mailto:opengate@live.com) (509) 638-8645

OPEN HOUSE: September 9, 2011 from 10:00 am to 6:00 pm.

Leadership Dialogue

DSSH offered to make nametags for regular voting members. Please cross off members from your agencies who no longer attend.

October Retreat: State representatives and advocacy groups, Washington Low Income Housing Alliance, Cindy Algeo.

Donations total \$61.43 for Open Gate. Thanks, everyone!

Transportation Routes

Three plans in process through Union Gospel Mission –give input at tables.

At your tables, give ideas for the top stops your clients need.

SHC leadership will update you on the results at the next meeting

Committee Reports

HMIS: not present

School Districts: start next month

Housing Providers: nothing new this month

Advocacy: "House Party" Tuesday, September 27, 2011

Ad Hoc:

Homeless Connect: Next Meeting Wednesday, September 21 at the Emmanuel Family Life Center, located at 631 South Richard Allen Court, Spokane, WA 99202 from 3 PM to 4:30

Hunger and Homelessness Awareness Week: Next meeting September 1, 2011 immediately after SHC meeting.

Announcements:

Bob Peeler: no homeless preference vouchers in September and October. Household should get letters soon letting them know their status in the housing lottery. 20 families got spots in the lottery who didn't have an address. Please have clients sign a consent to talk to a member of housing authority. Otherwise if the family can't be contacted, they may end up losing their housing spot.

VOA: Shoe giveaway September 26 from 10 AM to 2 PM. Contact: Mary Tracey 624-2378. Visit <http://www.voaspokane.org/> for more details.

Summit View Apartments: Actively trying to fill 3 apartments with 3 bedrooms. Head of household has to be homeless, verifiable disability and have dependents and be in services. Contact: Mark 327-9524.

David Scott: SHA "Making Properties Smoke Free" September 29, 2011. Contact David Scott @ 252-7126 or email [dscott@spokanehousing.org](mailto:dscott@spokanehousing.org).

Bob Peeler: Homeless child care still available.

SNAP: Hotline number for families interested in housing/transitional programs. Eligible: Have dependents, homeless by HUD definition. Contact: 209-9786. Hotline updated every week on Fridays.

Meeting adjourned 10:30.