

Spokane Homeless Coalition

January 5, 2012

Minutes approved from December's meeting.

Six-month goals:

- Develop digital homeless resources
- Host first class events
- Develop a second level of the coalition
- Develop committee to ensure a balanced structure (education, advocacy, support, resource sharing.)

Community Presentations

Coordinated Entry: Sheila Morley, City of Spokane

Public meeting to discuss coordinated entry: Thursday, January 12, 10:30-Noon. City Hall, Conference Room 5a. Please RSVP to smorely@spokanecity.org.

- What: One front door method for people to access shelter.
- Why: Best practice research model, required by many funders, prevents service duplication, ensures better fit for clients to programs.
- How/When: Began planning for the project in spring/summer 2011 with work group.
- Next steps: testing the screening/assessment tool, program implementation planned for fall 2012. Began use on households with children and the family shelter system.
- Primary focus: diversion. Is there any way a family can avoid entering the system?
- Goal: Households stay in shelter for 30 days or less. (From HEARTH Act)

Homeless Connect: Chantel Decker

Thursday, January 26, 2012

10:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m., Emmanuel Family Life Center, 631 Richard Allen Ct.

For info, contact 509.228.3200 or spokanehomelessconnect@hotmail.com

- What to expect the day of: 14 vendors
- Who's welcome: everyone. People are considered guests, not clients.
- Get involved: Approximately 75 volunteers were recruited from SFCC and SCC service learning classes.
- For T-shirts, email interfaithrenee@comcast.net

Round Table Discussions – What do you want to see on the SHC Web site?

- News, agency openings, relevant articles
- Links to legislators
- Way to keep the web site updated
- Myths vs. Facts about homeless people
- Site for clients and providers (message boards)
- Customer reviews with landlords, services, etc.
- Link to foster care aging out site, other services

- Membership list
- “Read it to me” button
- Event calendar

Committee Reports

Interagency –no meeting in December, next meeting Friday January 20 9:30-11:30 a.m. at Goodwill

School Districts –Central Valley: 325 students homeless (68 are 9-12 grades and 69 percent of those grades are not living with a family member.) Spokane Public Schools: 691 students homeless (64 percent are doubled up, 30 percent are sheltered.) Thirty-four percent of those 691 are unaccompanied youth.

SPS recently opened a family resource center for students from Monday through Wednesday from 1-3:30 p.m. Clothes, coats, shoes, hygiene and school supplies available.

Email: Sarahmi@spokaneschools.org

Interagency Outreach: January’s meeting is the January 9 from 1:30-3:00 at the Rocket Bakery on Main

Advocacy: Housing and Homeless Advocacy Day is January 20. Plans for a distance Skype session. Information to come.

One Day Count: Meeting at All Saints Lutheran immediately following SHC meeting.

Announcements

- Community voicemail contact/homeless services: mcmullin-holford@snapwa.org
- Heating appointments: 242-2376
- 500 S. Stone M-F 10 am-2 pm, set up free energy appointments. You can make three appointments on that call for family/friends if you know their rough income.
- Human trafficking vigil January 11 from 6-6:30 at Women’s Hearth.
- Homeless preference vouchers still frozen.
- Hearth Homes: Opening second six-bedroom house for women with children 12 and under in approximately two weeks.