

Housing Coalition Minutes

Tuesday, January 23, 2018

9:00 – 11:00 a.m.

Harbor Room, Pearsall Building, Aberdeen

- **9:00 – 9:10** Welcome, introductions, set up for agenda (*see PowerPoint slides*)
- **9:10 – 9:35** 2017 Year in Review – what is the need? Who did we serve? Who was not served? (*see PowerPoint slides*)
 - Scope of Homelessness
 - CE: System is in place and tools have been created to measure and share data
 - AH: Focused on answering question: how much affordable housing do we need? Who needs that affordable housing?
 - VP: Grass roots efforts around shelter options/Medicaid waiver impact
 - Capacity: USDA Pilot project ready to launch/Performance: exits to PH and returns
- **9:35 – 9:50** Current funding breakdown (*see PowerPoint slides*)
- **9:50 – 10:00** 2018: A look forward (*see PowerPoint slides*)
 - **SMART:** Specific, Measurable, Achievable, Realistic, Timely
- **10:00 – 10:45** Sharing and collecting stories
 - **10:00 – 10:10** Recap 3 legged stool: Data, stories, funding (we have already covered basics of data and funding, now we are folding in context of stories)
 - **10:10 – 10:20** NeighborWorks and FACT brief stories
 - **FACT:** Flexible Assertive Community Treatment program providing care coordination and support to very vulnerable clients. Shared one particular story of a client who was living in a cow field in rural Brady with many complex challenges. Took several months to engage and build trust in order to connect to services. This individual had untreated mental health issues and no transportation. Was also receiving Social Security income and had a payee but was working with a “phantom” landlord who was accepting payment for extremely substandard unit but not paying owner, so client was in process of eviction. “NIMBY” Not In My Back Yard concerns with neighbors due to behavioral challenges. Finally able to access HARPS subsidy to get this client into an apartment with functioning landlord, still needs lots of supports to stay

stable and manage behavior even though much progress has been made. A need for Home and Community Services supports to teach skills and provide basic living skills that were not taught. Coordinating in home caregivers can be challenging and need a lot of advocacy to make happen.

- **NeighborWorks:** Worked with client who was continually cycling through evictions due to inability to live near large groups of people and mental health issues. With support from parents who were co-signers this individual was able to become a homeowner with NeighborWorks which helped to manage behavioral challenges. Unfortunately the client eventually succumbed to suicide due to long history with mental health challenges, but successfully coexisted with neighbors and had improved quality of life after NeighborWorks provided support.
- **10:20 – 10:35** Small group storytelling exercises
- **10:35 – 10:45** Debrief, collect stories to be captured
 - **Domestic Violence Center:** Recently client approached DVC for services after hitchhiking from Bellingham. Client was not imminently fleeing Domestic Violence but said she had heard there were many more services available in Grays Harbor.
 - **Grays Harbor Youth Center:** Grandpa had had custody of the youth but biological mom was in Grays Harbor and had received treatment so youth was coming back to stay with her. Asked Youth Center to serve as mediator in transition. Step dad mentioned the youth was lucky to have so many resources available in Grays Harbor that might not be available elsewhere.
 - **Sea Mar:** Working with long-time client who was staying at a hotel that was shut down. Sea Mar had helped him get into multiple hotels but client always was evicted/tore up the unit. Cycled through law enforcement, jail, hospital. HARPS subsidy was used to finally get him into an apartment and he recently celebrated his one year anniversary in his own place. Sea Mar still provides support as needed, has reconnected to family who is now additional support for him. He is on Social Security to pay rent and limited bills and now has payee.
 - **CCAP:** Individual was hanging out in CCAP's lobby and was actively using which led to lots of behavioral issues and tension with other clients and staff. Individual got connected to treatment but was still homeless, sleeping outside the entrance to CCAP. CCAP staff engaged and encouraged him to be assessed at DSHS where he was enrolled in HEN. CCAP is now looking to serve him under the Medicaid Waiver which can pay for employment supports to help him achieve his vision of becoming a CDL driver. Vision seemed to be the driving

force that motivated him to navigate all of the various systems to achieve his goal.

- **Parents as Teachers home visiting:** Got a referral for a family where 12 year old daughter was pregnant. After reaching out and talking to the family there were many complicating factors: a recent move from Tacoma, not accessing support services, violence/tension in living situation, medical issues, etc. PAT staff was able to connect to Coordinated Entry directly through Nora (Housing Manager) and Cassie (Social Services Housing Coordinator) to map out the best path to services for the family and provide a “hot handoff” vs. just a phone number or address. Family was able to connect with CCAP and receive some services before ultimately moving back with family in Tacoma.
- **Family Promise:** Shelter option hosted by churches for families. Identified families as an underserved population in shelter options locally. Not up and running yet but already people are reaching out saying they have a need to their Facebook page. Have 9 out of 13 churches committed, a day center location, and partnerships with NeighborWorks and Habitat to renovate.
- **Revival/River City:** A need is a space where individuals experiencing homelessness can go to easily access resources in a safe environment. Could hang out and have coffee, and connect to services. Illiteracy/keeping track of papers makes some existing programs not as effective for people who are truly homeless. Many cannot handle large crowds or people and offices can be intimidating. Also space to charge cell phones.
- **10:45 – 11:00** Other updates and next steps (*see PowerPoint slides*)
 - Point in Time Count and Project Homeless Connect happening Friday, January 26th from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. at Aberdeen Eagles
 - Memorial service for individual who passed away who was living at the River encampment is also Friday and could affect attendance
 - CCAP Homestead Project update
 - \$750,000 grant from Home Loan Bank
 - Submitted Low Income Tax Credit application last week (same process as last year)
 - Would provide 80 units of affordable housing for HEN and SSI payee clients
 - Notification of award likely in March or April
 - Many applications were negatively affected by the Capital Budget delay, CCAP not affected because their application was not dependent on Housing Trust Fund funding

- City of Aberdeen Minimum Maintenance Standards
 - Council passed final reading of minimum maintenance standards
 - Landlords will be required to bring rental units to standards before they can rent the unit
 - Will likely take effect in 2019 – still need to hire inspector and design program