



Grays Harbor County Housing Coalition
October 25th 2016 / 9:00 – 11:30 am

Summary

GRAYS HARBOR COUNTY SOCIAL SERVICES PRESENTATION – 10 Year Plan to End Homelessness Update

- ❖ Grays Harbor County Social Services presented the attached power point “10 Year Plan Presentation.” This included a review of the history and purpose of the plan; the planning initiatives started in 2015; a list of factors contributing to homelessness; strategies adopted by the Social Services Department in consultation with the Housing Coalition and the Housing Executive Committee and a partial review of the many initiatives currently underway to assist homeless individuals.

PRESENTATIONS: WASHINGTON STATE RESOURCES:

- ❖ Kate Baber, Washington Low Income Housing Alliance

Ms. Baber presented information about the 2017 legislative priorities identified by the Washington Low Income Housing Alliance (see attached presentation WA Low Income Housing Alliance 10-25). This included information about the statutes covering document recording fee collection. Under current regulations document recording fees used to fund programs to address homelessness would no longer be collected after June, 2019. WLIHA recommends eliminating the sun-set clause for collection of Document Recording Fees used for homeless and affordable housing programs. The organization also recommends Document Recording Fee collections be increased to address the increasing demand for services.

- ❖ Koni Reynolds, USDA Rural Development

Ms. Reynolds presented information about USDA funded grants and loans that assist people with obtaining and repairing housing. More information about these programs is contained in the attached handouts “Section 502 Guaranteed Loans” and “Section 504 Repair Program.”

- ❖ Corina Grigoras, Department of Commerce/Housing Trust Program

Ms. Grigoras presented information about the grants and loans available to governments, housing authorities, nonprofit organizations, tribes and other organizations to expand the supply of affordable

housing, preserve existing housing stock and promote homeownership. More information is in the attached handout “Washington State Housing Trust Fund.

GRAYS HARBOR HOUSING WORKGROUP REPORTS

❖ Coordinated Entry (CCAP))

The Coalition heard a report from Nora LeBlanc on the progress made by the Coordinated Entry Workgroup so far in 2016. Nora’s report can be reviewed in the handout “Goal 1 – Fully Developed Coordinated Entry System.”

❖ Affordable Housing (NeighborWorks)

The Coalition heard a report from Dave Murnen on the information gathered by the Affordable Housing Workgroup so far in 2016. Dave’s report can be reviewed in the handout “Goal 2 – Maintain and Expand Affordable Housing Resources.”

❖ Vulnerable Populations (Catholic Community Service)

The Coalition heard a report from Bary Hanson on progress made by the Vulnerable Populations Workgroup in 2016. This group refined a working definition of vulnerable homeless populations highlighting children and youth; families with children; persons with disabilities and unsheltered adults. The group reviewed models other communities have created to address homelessness. The group heard presentations from organizations offering supportive housing, shelter and day-use approaches. Common elements from the programs other communities have created include:

- 1.) In each example a housing service provider agency acted as the “champion” for the project and supplied workforce, leadership, coalition building, a business plan and funding to make the project real.
- 2.) In each example funding to develop and sustain the programs came from multiple sources that were required to collaborate to get the resources needed.
- 3.) In each example a location is needed for the project. Selecting the location in each example was a collaborative effort requiring the support of local governments, business owners, service providers and the community.
- 4.) None of the examples were possible without the united efforts of a broad coalition of supporters.

In addition several of the most successful programs were driven by data gathered from homeless individuals. The data assessed the number of homeless individuals, their needs, the type of program or service they desired for themselves and barriers to using existing resources. The data was gathered by a collaboration of homeless service provider agencies reaching out into the homeless population directly.

These insights will focus the efforts of County Social Services during 2017. The Social Services Office will support the expansion of the Vulnerable Populations Workgroup to:

- 1.) Form a coalition of housing service provider agencies and helping sustain a forum for their ongoing collaboration and planning. This coalition will convene to:
 - a) Gather data from homeless individuals assessing their number, their needs, the type of program or service they desire for themselves and barriers to using existing resources.
 - b) Review information about barriers to accessing services and recommending adjustments to policies and procedures to remove those barriers.
 - c) Create action plans for specific individuals
- 2.) Support the emergence of a Champion Agency or group of agencies who will develop a business plan for a targeted project. The plan will address the issues identified by the data gathered from homeless individuals. The plan must include specific steps needed to develop it, a funding model to create and sustain the project and must include initial efforts to bring together the cross-sector partners needed.

In this way the County Social Services department and our Housing Coalition partners will be following the example set by other communities who have worked together to address homelessness.

PRESENTATIONS: USDA TECHNIAL ASSISTANCE GRANT – PERMANENT SUPPORTVIE HOUSING AND SUPPORTIVE EMPLOYMENT BEST PRACTICES

❖ Ann Denton from Advocates for Human Potential presented information about evidence based permanent supportive housing and supportive employment services for homeless individuals. For details see the attached power point “AHP Presentation for Coalition 10-25-16.”

2017 WORKPLAN & NEXT STEPS

Contact Bary Hansen to join the expanded Vulnerable Populations Workgroup described above. Bary can be reached at BaryH@ccsww.org

Participating in the workgroup is your opportunity to join in the process County Social Services will use to design the targeted project local resources will be used on!

The first meeting of the **Expanded Vulnerable Population Workgroup** will be December 8, 2016, 10:00 a.m.; 2109 Sumner Ave. Aberdeen WA 98520 – First Floor – Large Meeting Room.

The Next **Grays Harbor County Housing Coalition** meeting will be **Tuesday January 24th, 2016, 9:00 a.m.**; 2109 Sumner Ave. Aberdeen WA 98520 – First Floor – Large Meeting Room.