

**COORDINATING COMMITTEE TO END HOMELESSNESS (CCEH)
MEETING MINUTES (REV. 10/7/09)**



Date: June 17, 2009	Location: First United Methodist Church	Recorded by: Dove Hotz
Time: 3 pm to 5 pm	Facilitated by: Marc Jolin and Jean DeMaster	Reviewed By: Steering Committee
Present: E.V. Armitage, Heather Brown, Jennifer Chang, Christina Dirks, Sonja Ervin, Monica Goracke, Amanda Hurley, Neili Kiaii, Tiffany Kingery, Rachel Larson, Beckie Lee, Rosanne Marmor, Andrew Noethe, Rachel Payton, Rachel Post, Ari Rapkin, David Regan, Neisha Saxena, Fay Schuler, Shannon Singleton, Bill Sinnott, Ian Slingerland, Dan Smith, Kim Tierney, Brandi Tuck, Nicki Turk, Lynne Walker, Bobby Weinstock, Renata Wilson		

TOPIC	DISCUSSION	ACTION/ DECISION
Introductions	Members introduced themselves and described one way that their organizations helped to end homelessness in the region.	
Approval- May minutes	Approved without dissent.	Approved
Funding Update	Tiffany Kingery reported that a plan is currently underway to work on bundling CSBG funds into different categories. EFSP funding results will be announced soon (recipients have been selected however it is not official yet). Sally Erickson reported that the Homelessness Prevention and Rapid Re-Housing Program application had been submitted but not yet received.	
Service Coordination Team (SCT) Program Update	<p>Marc Jolin said the goal of this program is to reduce tension and provide options for the homeless, especially in the downtown area.</p> <p>Bill Sinnott introduced himself as retired from the Portland Police Bureau. He is now working on the Service Coordination Team (SCT). The team focuses on identifying high crime repeat offenders and looks at the reasons why people commit these crimes. The program primarily serves individuals who have drug addictions and commit property crimes to feed their habit. Individuals are connected to Central City Concern where they receive treatment and housing. They started the program by doing blind data runs to find the highest repeat offenders. The first person at the top of the list had been arrested 44 times in three months, but the crimes were not severe enough to send him to jail. Now there are 400 people on the "List", which has raised some controversy. SCT prefers to keep the list confidential for the sake of the privacy of the individuals. Today, the offender at the top of the list has committed only <u>five</u> crimes in three months. Of the 400, the recidivism rate has dropped 80%, and there has been a 34% drop in crime in downtown Portland. The SCT has Monday morning meetings including the police, probation officers, CCC and VOA. They review the list and triage names.</p> <p>Sonja Ervin, Central City Concern, talked about Housing Rapid Response. They provide both low-barrier transitional housing at The Grove, trying to overcome resistance to treatment, get folks into housing, and work with case manager to get them ready for treatment. Some of the case managers were in similar situations themselves at one point and have a lot of empathy and can talk their language. There are lots of activities to get them engaged, and even small steps forward are acknowledged. They</p>	

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	<p>also have drug and alcohol-free units at The Estate. These residents have come from VOA treatment. Some start working for Clean and Safe, or get their disability benefits. They then work on long-term housing placement. Some choose to stay at The Estate.</p> <p>Leili Kiaii, Volunteers of America, said they have a support program with a 90-day clean and sober treatment component, as well as a six month intensive outpatient treatment. They offer drug education, mental health groups and medication management. They really want their clients to be successful after treatment. They provide a comfortable atmosphere with exercise equipment, big-screen TV, and meals, and participants are welcome to come back at anytime. They go out and learn to have fun without drugs and alcohol. VOA also does outreach in the jail / prison system. They are fairly new to working with the population Mr. Sinnott described.</p> <p>Mr. Sinnott said the police view SCT as successful because the crime rate has gone down. They would like to replicate the program in other areas, such as S.E. 82nd Ave. But it's intensive and expensive. Maybe on 82nd, there wouldn't be as great a need for housing. Could possibly be started on a shoestring.</p> <p>Ms. Erickson asked for numbers on housing retention. Ms. Ervin said that last quarter there were 47 placements, with 94% retention at six months and 60% at 12 months. If they don't make it in their housing, they are brought back in. They served 147 unduplicated participants.</p> <p>Someone asked about mental health issues. Ms. Ervin and Ms. Kiaii said they had mental health practitioners on staff and also linked clients to other programs.</p> <p>Ms. Walker thanked the panel for this program; she thought it was a credit to Portland. She asked about the gender and age of the participants. Ms. Kiaii said that all her clients were male, with an average age of about 40. Mr. Sinnott said, of the 400 people, only 7 were women, and they were disproportionately African-American. These were the people being arrested, a lot of crack and meth users.</p>	
Panel Discussion – Legal Services	<p>Mr. Jolin invited the legal services panel to explain what resources were available to the disabled.</p> <p>Neisha Saxena, Disability Rights Oregon (formerly Oregon Advocacy Center), said they were a nonprofit law office serving people with disabilities. They had no income restrictions. They are the protection and advocacy agency for Oregon. They work on: issues of abuse and neglect, discrimination, reasonable accommodation in housing and employment, and monitoring other agencies. Lots of their clients have mental health issues. If your client has been denied county or vocational rehabilitation services, please refer them. They also handle autism referrals and advise on legal issues relating to vocational rehabilitation services, as well as advise on returning to work for Social Security beneficiaries. They do lots of advocacy work; the best way to contact them is to call the front desk at (503) 243-2081. Mr. Jolin noted that DRO has a great weekly legislative update, so get on their list! (This paragraph revised 10/7/09.)</p> <p>Monica Goracke, Oregon Law Center, said in the mid-1990s, the federal government greatly restricted the activities that agencies receiving funds could perform. For example, they could not assist illegal immigrants. Oregon then created two separate agencies; OLC is the group that is non-federally funded, with fewer restrictions. They help people who would not otherwise get served. The Portland location includes the statewide office as well as the 20 northwest Oregon counties. There are far more people</p>	<p>Much more information available on the agencies' web sites:</p> <p>www.disabilityrightsoregon.org</p> <p>www.oregonlawcenter.org</p> <p>www.lawhelp.org</p> <p>www.oregoncat.org</p>

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	<p>who qualify than there are resources to support them; they can help only one in five. Their priority issues are predatory lending, housing discrimination, employment discrimination, administrative law cases, due process rights, health law, expanding health benefits to low-income Oregonians, and individual rights. They also have a pro bono program, partnering with private attorneys to help people not on the priority list. They do a little bit of consumer finance and small claims assistance, but no family, immigration, benefits, or criminal law. They do not operate any hotlines and do not take walk-in cases; their services are by referral only.</p> <p>Mr. Jolin asked if the pro bono program did expungements or employment benefits claims? Ms. Goracke said they did.</p> <p>Christina Dirks, Legal Aid Services of Oregon, said they could not represent undocumented people. They do handle attorney fee cases. Primarily focus on housing, discrimination, family issues, and unemployment (although this last is becoming more pro bono). They operate hotlines on housing and family law, public benefits and child support, provide advice on damages claims and review family law forms. E-mail her directly if you have a client, or they are welcome to walk in. They also operate pro bono, bankruptcy, elder abuse, and domestic violence programs. Services include a night clinic.</p> <p>Ari Ripkin, Community Alliance of Tenants, said they operate the tenants / renters rights hotline with a staff of volunteer. They are not lawyers but give tips and strategies.</p> <p>Ms. Tierney asked about the geographical distribution of the various agencies. The local LASO office serves Multnomah County. DRO, CAT, and OLC were pretty much statewide.</p> <p>Ms. Tierney asked how to find a good lawyer referral to help people who were applying for SSDI. Was there any way to rate the lawyers? Ms. Goracke said the statewide hotline had a referral service, but they did not make quality judgments.</p>	
Group break-outs and discussion	<p>Ms. DeMaster said it was time to review CCEH's status. What do we want it to do, and where will CCEH go from here? The members broke out into small discussion groups and worked on suggestions. The steering committee will synthesize the results and those will be made available separately. Some highlights:</p> <p><u>CCEH's primary role:</u> getting ideas from line staff and moving them up, networking, central body for planning and advocacy, implementing the 10-year plan, framing issues, disseminating information, identifying emerging trends.</p> <p><u>Top two priorities:</u> there are still 1,600 people outside, green jobs, better networking, needs of single women, affordable housing, prevention, funding, increase efficiency, identifying gaps.</p> <p><u>Benefits members have received:</u> good partnerships, resource relationships, access to information, awareness of funding, meeting new people, learning about local programs, personal testimony of the homeless, increased awareness, identification of issues, personally finding housing and benefits.</p> <p><u>How to be more effective?:</u> more networking, work programs, synthesize state legislation, invite policy leaders, more formal membership structure, more diverse membership, more integrated approach, focus on one issue at a time, have a housing summit, educate the public.</p>	Steering Committee will synthesize the complete discussion group results.

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Announcements / other items	<p>Joe Acciaioli, OHSU social worker, said he was becoming aware of the urgent need for more beds for single women. Single men seemed to have better access to emergency shelter beds. He would like to help brainstorm and to learn about existing efforts. Ms. Erickson said there were two positive recent trends – one was the rapid rehousing for families, the other was the new HUD VASH vouchers which would help female veterans. There was \$1 million in rent assistance in the stimulus bill; that will provide some relief. She met yesterday with City Commissioner Nick Fish; he thinks we have a crisis every day, akin to Katrina. It's shocking that such a wealthy country should have homeless people. She wants to form a small sub-committee to brainstorm 4-5 scenarios to present to Commissioner Fish and County Commissioner Deborah Kafoury. Contact Sally if you are interested.</p> <p>Shannon Singleton said that SAFE completely agreed. The City was trying, but the need was increasing, and there were long waiting lists. Ms. Erickson said there had been increases in resources for women, but the Oregon Health Plan cuts have hit hard. OHP may start adding people.</p> <p>Amanda Hurley said that Cascade AIDS Project's offices are moving; they will be closed Friday and Monday. New address: 208 SW 5th Ave., 8th floor of the Lincoln Building.</p> <p>Bobby Weinstock announced that the new date of the Housing Partnership Workgroup meeting will be Thursday, July 30, 3-5 p.m.</p>	
Next CCEH meeting	<p>Wednesday, July 15, 2009, 3-5 p.m., FUMC, Fireside Room. CCEH Achievement Awards!!! August recess.</p>	