

## COMMUNITY ACTION ADVISORY BOARD

DEPARTMENT OF COMMUNITY SERVICES

Center for Community Health

1601 E Fourth Plain, C210C

March 11, 2014

MEETING MINUTES

<u>PRESENT</u>	<u>EXCUSED</u>	<u>ABSENT</u>	<u>STAFF</u>	<u>GUESTS</u>
Jessica Ghiglieri	Sandra Schmidt		Kate Budd	Robin Alley
Melodie Pazolt	Anne McEnery-Ogle		Pete Munroe	Roy Johnson, VHA
Lydia Sanders	Joyce Lindsay		Rebecca Royce	Mike Fischer
Kelly Adams			Cathy Higley	Mavis Nichols
Armando Herrera				Dan Herman, 211 info
				Troy Hammond, 211 info
				Kurt Perkins, 211 info

I. Call to Order/Introductions

The meeting was called to order at 8:03 AM by Armando Herrera.

II. Approval of January 14, 2014 Minutes

Armando Herrera motioned to approve the January 14, 2014, minutes; seconded by Lydia Sanders. Motion approved.

Adopt Clark County CAAB Advocacy Plan

Lydia Sanders motioned to formally adopt the Clark County Strategic Advocacy Plan, seconded by Jessica Ghiglieri. Motion approved.

III. Lincoln Place

Kate shared an information sheet about Lincoln Place, an effort spearheaded by the Vancouver Housing Authority to build a 30 unit single-room occupancy (SRO) building. The building will house those who are chronically homeless by HUD definition, have high needs and high vulnerability of death should they remain on the streets of Clark County. The building will use a housing first model. This best practice model encourages residents to engage in services, such as mental health and/or substance abuse counseling, but does not require them to engage as a mandate of their housing program. Instead, the program and/or partner agency staff visit the residents each day to build relationships and encourage engagement.

Roy Johnson, Executive Director of the Vancouver Housing Authority, shared that those living in the building will still need to follow applicable laws. In addition, policies will be created around limiting guests and being a good neighbor. The project will primarily be funded through tax credits and if those are not awarded, the project will not move forward.

Board members asked a few questions about the project:

- **Is the objective to get them on their feet?**

Yes, but those targeted for the project are living on the street, are unable to work, and rarely have a support system because they have been alienated from friends and family. This project may help residents build a bridge toward their potential.

- **How will high utilizers be determined?**

Using HMIS data and other best practice tools, like the Vulnerability Assessment Tool (VAT). Eventually the homeless system hopes to share utilization information with other systems of care.

Melodie encouraged the system to have a plan for reinvestment of savings and approach the health care authority about partnerships. Hennepin County is rolling out health care homes and the health care system has agreed to reinvest savings in housing.

#### IV. Funding Lincoln Place with Returned 2060 Funds

In 2013, Clark County received notice that a local agency would not be spending a previously awarded 2060 allocation of \$270,000. The agency intended to build or purchase housing for people who were homeless, with co-occurring disorders. Through a memo to the CAAB, Clark County proposed the funds be reallocated to support Lincoln Place. The intended use is well in-line with the original intent of the award.

Lydia Sanders motioned to approved funding Lincoln Place with returned 2060 funds; seconded by Melodie Pazolt. Motion Approved.

#### V. Legislative Update

Mike Fischer shared that he attended the WLIHA Advocacy Day and traveled to Olympia a second time to testify in support of the document recording fee bill. Mike encourages all members to participate and advocate.

Kate discussed House Bill 2368, which made the document recording fees permanent. When the bill died in Senate, numerous legislators raised concern, which prompted a new bill on the Senate side. The new bill, SB 5875 extended the sunset for one year and added additional requirements about how the funds should be allocated. The WLIHA and other advocates feel like SB 5875 is not a quality bill. Other priority advocacy items did not move forward in the legislature, including the Fair Tenant Screening Act Part III and additional funding for the Housing Trust Fund.

Pete offered information about the President's budget; CSBG and LIHEAP were reduced. The President is proposing a 14% increase in homeless assistance grants, but the majority of the funds will go to housing to pay for increased housing costs, not to increase capacity.

#### VI. 50 Years of Community Action in May 2014

Rebecca informed the board that 2014 is the 50th anniversary of Lyndon B. Johnson's War on Poverty. The Economic Opportunity Act, signed on August 20, 1964, created community action

programs to facilitate local efforts to end poverty. SNAP, Legal Aid, Job Corps, and Head Start were all created through the Act. Rebecca asked the board for suggestions on how to celebrate the anniversary. Board members encouraged staff to coordinate a press release and proclamation to celebrate the event. A proclamation will be done by the Commissioners in May, during Community Action Month.

#### VII. 2013 Program Outcomes Report

Kate presented the 2013 program outcomes report. Contract amounts were only for 2013, but a few were rolled into 2014. Melodie asked that the proposed outcomes be provided in the next report for comparison.

#### VIII. 211info Clark County Needs Report

During the November 2013 meeting, Kate shared statistics from the 211info Needs Report. During this meeting, Board members asked for a 211info representative to attend the next meeting. Board members asked how a callers needs were determined. Dan Herman explained that the hotline representatives have a conversation with the caller to assess their situation, asking several questions to determine all of the possible referrals the person may need. Afterwards, callers are chosen at random within two weeks for a follow-up survey.

Dan also introduced Kurt Perkins. He is the new Clark County outreach staff. He has held numerous positions at 211info and will spend  $\frac{3}{4}$  of his time focusing on Clark County. Whether he will have an office in Clark County has not been decided.

#### IX. Other Business:

- Kate mentioned the 2014 Project Homeless Connect was held on January 28, 2014, at St. Joseph's Church. There were 342 attendees, which was the second highest number in five years. Robin shared that she cut hair for guests and enjoyed her time seeing people access meals, dental, etc. This year guests had chairs and watched movies until services were offered instead of waiting outside.
- The CAAB Orientation training is scheduled for March 26, 2014, at the Clark County Food Bank. Please RSVP by March 21<sup>st</sup> to Kate.
- The Washington Low-Income Housing Alliance Conference on Ending Homelessness will be May 21-22 in Yakima. More information can be found on the WLIHA website. If board members are interested in attending, let Kate know by April 4<sup>th</sup>.

**Next meeting: May 13, 2014, Center for Community Health, Conference Room C210C at 8:00am.**

Meeting adjourned at 9:08 am.

Lydia Sanders, Secretary

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