

Coordinating Committee to End Homelessness (CCEH) Meeting Minutes – October 17, 2012

Facilitated by: Marc Jolin & Shannon Singleton

Prepared by: Skylaar Amann

Reviewed by: Steering Committee & CCEH

Present: Terrina Aguilar, EV Armitage, Caren Baumgart, Liora Berry, Stacy Borke, Michael Boyd, Kari Brenk, Heather Brown, Paul Davis, Joseph Devers III, Patty Doyle, Dena Ford-Avery, Sarah Fundahn, Troy Hammond, Melissa Hampton, Amanda Hurley, Liv Jenssen, Bruce Jones, Kristen Juul, Marylee King, Megan Kidd, Peggy Kuhn, Jes Larson, Molli Mitchell, Michael Mellick, Julia Mines, Katherine Moore, Katie Morrisett, Andrew Noethe, Hope O'Connor, Zoey Owens, Rachel Payton, Erika Sliver, Shannon Singleton, Barry Joe Stull, Rene Sutherland, Lynne Walker, Becky Wilkinson, Lisa Wills

Agenda Topic	Discussion Points	Outcomes / Decisions / Next Steps
Updates	HomeForward/Operation 305 Home Forward and partner agencies are trying to issue all VASH vouchers by 12/31/2012. This is an aggressive goal but they are optimistic. Referrals come in and vouchers are issued Friday of the same week. Vouchers go mostly to singles, but occasionally to families or couples. Mike Boyd works on the VASH program and would like people to send him resources or referrals. His contact information is 503.220.8262 x 33718 and Michael.boyd7@va.gov. Deena said 219 vouchers are currently in use and 39 are with people currently looking for housing. Home Forward – Section 8 The Section 8 waitlist opens November 1 for the first time in six years. Please spread the word. For the first time, the application process will be available online and Home Forward has a list of resources their website for how to use the site and places to get internet access. Winter Shelter Update – Erika Silver and Jennifer Chang Every winter, starting November 1, Portland and community partners increase resources for winter shelter. The Portland Housing Bureau (PHB) has had budget cuts that resulted in 20 percent decreased funding. PHB used to support men and women, but this year they will only be able to fund 70 beds for women. PHB is finalizing adding 15 beds at SAFES. PHB will have updated winter shelter and services information on its website by the end of the month. Work is being done to standardize the severe weather process with 211 and the Red Cross. The city monitors weather and contacts the Red Cross when it becomes severe. The Red Cross opens 150 beds. We are working to	

	simplify the process and revise the weather triggers. Troy from 211 will notify the committee when severe weather occurs. Erika said Parkrose (formerly Eastminster) will open 80 beds on November 1 for families. It is at 125th and Halsey at a church, but the shelter is secular. To stay there, a family must have a child under 18. Erika has a handout that lists additional shelter resources. Consolidated Plan Action Plan Needs Hearing – Kim McCarty The next CCEH meeting will be moved to November 14 and will double as a consortium-wide needs hearing for the Consolidated Plan. Kim would like a large turnout: please share the meeting with your networks. This meeting will help inform how The City of Portland, The City of Gresham and Multnomah County spend federal housing dollars in the coming year. The Federal Funding Oversight Committee will preside over the hearing. PHB is trying to structure this hearing to feed into the budget planning process. The public comment period of the meeting will be 4:00-5:30. Third Annual Day of Homelessness Awareness – Andy Civic- and faith-based organizations coordinate this event. This year will focus on Southwest Portland. There will be a walk on November 16 starting at the First Baptist Church on 11th and Taylor; it will end at the First Methodist Church. There will be a conference following the walk from 9:00-1:00.	
Cultivating Equity Mindsets	Office of Equity and Human Rights – Dante James and Kofi Dessou Agreements: Be open to learn; listen actively; examine our assumptions, values and beliefs; practice new skills; maintain confidentiality. Equity: Equity is realized when identity—such as race, ethnicity, gender, age, disability or sexual orientation—has no detrimental effect on the distribution of resources, opportunities and outcomes for group members in society. Goal: Cultivate racial equity mindsets. Objectives: Define equity, understand values, racial bias, questions for equity analysis	

	What are values? Opinions, personally important concepts, something you have an emotional response to, beliefs, emotional connections, priorities. Provide three examples of your values. Examples: honesty, integrity, family, respect, equality, god, inclusion, education, equity. Scenario: Your agency funds projects to eligible non-profits to provide housing or shelter to people experiencing homelessness. Exercise: What values would you use to decide who gets funded? How can you make a value-based presentation? Does equality achieve equity? Values shape behaviors, inform principles. Values create your network. CCEH shares similar values but does not have a lot of racial diversity. Why? How can CCEH achieve racial equity? Inclusion and equity were not included much in the value exercise. Why? They are important to you but not at the forefront of your mind as they may be with people of color. Can we change this? Scenario: I don't think of people in terms of their race or ethnicity. I try to be color blind when it comes to my life and work. Exercise: Do you strongly agree or disagree with this statement? What does this mean to you? How would you respond to this statement? We want to treat everyone fairly. We could be color blind if everyone was treated fairly, but they are not. We need to look at issues of disparity. The above statement is offensive. We have no luxury to be color blind — we need to be color conscious to fix problems. We need to take into account how race affects an individual. Laws are written to be neutral but can be applied unfairly. It is okay to change your mind and check your biases. You can ask how your practices affect outcomes. You can review your policies and staff make-up. Scenario: You are part of a planning committee to help design procedures for a youth transitional housing program. As the meeting begins, you notice that 90 percent of attendees are white, able-bodied females. Exercise: How would you respond in this situation?	
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	Ask the right questions — who is here and not here. It can be hard for people of color to say something. It can be tiring to always be the person asking that question. Ask questions, do the research. It's important to collect data to change outcomes.	
Healing our Damaged Hearts	Commonway Institute, Sharif Abdullah Hearts can be damaged emotionally by interactions and society. People looking for services have damaged hearts as do providers. An example is a joke made at Bud Clark Commons that stayed with a few clients who overheard. It may have just been gallows humor by the service provider, but it is an indication of a damaged heart. We see problems getting worse but we try the same solutions over again. Commonway is about finding ways to create a world that works for everyone. Inclusivity is the notion that we are all connected. We need to change the structures of society and let problems become opportunities. We need to change structures, methodologies, paradigms, and more. We need to change all of these, not just one. At Dignity Village, Mr. Abdullah learned that homelessness can be an opportunity. It is a societal transformation. We need to create a world that works for all. Mr. Abdullah would like to talk in more depth with CCEH or some of the organizations represented here today regarding his ideas of healing our damaged hearts and inclusivity.	
Community Announcements	• Next CCEH/Consolidated Plan Needs Hearing, November 14 • Day of Homelessness Awareness, November 16	