

Homeless Coalition Chat for April 1, 2021

09:29:27 Hello

09:29:58 Those of you who want closed captioning, we have it. IT'll be saved and posted on our website when we get this time.

09:30:13 Robert - good morning everyone

09:30:23 welcome to the spokane homeless coalition monthly meeting

09:30:35 I serve as one of the leadership memebers.

09:30:46 We are starting to have discussions about meeting in persion.

09:31:09 It' been a whole year since we've seen anyone in person. IF you're still under a high risk category, we'll be providing this virtualy

09:31:18 we're still having discussion on what month we're kicking that off on.

09:31:33 I love seeing everyone and sharing information and thank you for all of the participation and feedback.

09:31:47 My name is Robert Lipman and I work with providence charity clinic on 2nd and brown

09:31:55 I provide medical support on a walk in basis, no scheduling needed.

09:32:10 The coalition is to provide planning oppotunities, education to the community and moments of advocachy

09:32:31 at the end of this meeting, we'll be meeting and has been doing a great job of addressing concerns in the community

09:32:50 we want to leave that time open for that action group to collaborate - it's the heart beat of the coalition to have that advocacy

09:33:00 Virtual edicit, make sure your mic is muted.

09:33:19 each month we have guest presenters to give us updated in the communiyt

09:33:28 today we'll have David Lewis from the city to discuss metrics that they follow

09:33:46 if you have any questions, please direct them to the chat box, and I'll address them.

09:33:56 If I miss a question, I'll direct the speaker to the chat box.

09:34:18 The google groups - if you're not part of the e-mail chain, please e-mail barry

09:34:33 there are about 1200 individuals on there - it's a great way to get guidance on where to go and access services

09:34:48 it's a good group and chain to be a part of as we work to resolve issues when they come up.

09:34:56 if you want to be a part of the chain, please e-email Barry

09:35:12 We use it as a platform for advocating for who we're working with and to share organizational changes.

09:35:18 With that, I'll start us with a reflection

09:35:31 Then we'll jump into today's resentors

09:35:56 reflection of life. If you are always looking for fault - that is what you will find and you'll never have peace of mind. IF you are always looking for the bad, you'll never see the good.

09:36:07 DOn't look for the shadow and the sun you will see

09:36:12 and a better human being you surely will be

09:36:25 we're jumping into open mic time.

09:36:35 sometimes it can be frustrating trying to make changes and focusing on how things aren't working

09:37:04 in this meeting we want to take time to identify when we have been able to work together to help homeone

09:37:31 I'm leaving the mic open to allow you to share what's been happingin

09:37:46 Jennifer Willcox - I'm a commuity advocate. I'm a veteran with lived experience.

09:38:15 what i've notice in regards to collaboration - the significant increase of sharing tangible resources. It's more of a venue of helping people ot instead of sharing personal opinion

09:38:41 Katie - I'm Revie

09:39:00 I've been working with people who have been approved for HEN.

09:39:26 But Ive struggled to find place that are not within hen's guidelines.

09:40:27 I got some good feedback but I also found that it helps to find out that other people are struggling with things like finding places that have the right prices for HEN, but say they accept it.

09:40:44 thank you Katie- we all become system hoppers and you're not alone in some of your frustrations.

09:40:59 I'm michael - I'm a senior at Gonzega

09:41:19 We're producing a documentary that will be done on 4/24

09:41:26 yesterday we had our first showing at Gonzega

09:41:35 150 on zoom and aroun 70 people in person who saw it.

09:41:47 we have a showing tonight at Eastern at 7th.

09:42:06 we're going fully public 4/6 at 7pm

09:42:14 we're going to need a lot of help to distribut the file.

09:42:27 afte ryou watch it, there are action items to do - email and showing up at the march

09:42:38 THe film turned out really well and there are many community member.

09:43:01 Collaboration - we're trying to secure a permit with the city to do a march downtown

09:43:16 we need a corporate sponsor for the insurance for the walk

09:43:27 we're thinking of partnering the non-profit to help

09:43:37 I'll list my e-mail in the chat if you know ways to help.

09:43:57 The movement has started and you'll hear more about it in the future.

09:44:25 Julie Garcia - for the gentleman looking for hte insurance policy - look out to Jewels helping hands, they have the policy already in place'

09:44:35 Collaboration at it's finest

09:44:45 We'll move on to our update time.

09:45:06 Ben - I want to involve everyone in the work

09:45:31 My name is Ben stucker -

09:45:55 you'll see the great work that David does for hte city and the region. We funded a coordinated re-entry system

09:46:15 continuing of care is in charge of the 5 year plan to end homelessness

09:46:22 my goal is to tell you what the work groups are and invite you to participate

09:46:37 that is where the practitioners are digging in and using data to address issues in our community

09:46:47 singls, family,, youth. diversion and veterans work groups

09:47:02 they are meeting every month and they use data that David produces

09:47:19 and the subcommittees meet and use that information and collaborate to try to get clients' services

09:47:34 this is very involved. IF you want to be involved at the COC level is one of those work group

09:47:51 if you e-mail me, I will get you in touch of the leads of those work groups so you can see if you can attend those meetings

09:47:55 that's where the real wok is getting don

09:48:11 it's 26 different sectors of the community and the work is bveing done at the work goup levels

09:48:24 the big board dealt with the rapid rehousing dollars.

09:48:48 it takes working with private land lords that may take first and last months rent and take vouchers - but when low income and rentals are so tight - yo ucan't use the funds.

09:49:11 they weren't able to use a huge chunk of the funding so tit was moved to VOA

09:49:18 one of the goals to humanizing spokane is to end single family zoning.

09:49:34 we can't think of homelessness that is just impacted by not enough shelters, but it's the housing market piece.

09:49:48 a lack of market rate housing - give us challenges to get people into housing.

09:50:04 we need to advocate for ways that our society is really messing up our housing market on all levels.

09:50:18 we are working on solutions. Another solution is that there is no central - low income availability list

09:50:36 We are working on getting a central list.

09:51:01 if you want to get involved at the sub-committee level at the COC, e-mail me. It's important that these sub-committee groups are interacting with places like the homeless coalition

09:51:17 We'll move on to the spokane regional health district

09:52:16 Kylie - the health districts vaccinated teams have vaccinated 471 people 188 people with Johnson and Johnson vaccine only 75 are running late on their second dose.

09:52:39 recently, we added sites to give more people access to the vaccine

09:52:49 we are looking for peer advocates who have had the vaccine

09:53:04 shelters will identify people who will be peer advocates for the covid vaccine

09:53:22 we will be giving them the tools they need to talk with people about getting vaccinated.

09:53:29 4 shelters who have had no new cases

09:53:51 sometimes when people come in and out of the shelters, it's hard to prevent the spread - so Jewels ended their outbreak, UGM, and two others

09:54:05 we have 4 outbreaks going on right now. HOC, Hope House, Truth Ministries and Open doors

09:54:21 there are a handful of cases in there. Thank you for all of the help with the staff in the shelters

09:54:35 as of 3/21 - the people who qualify for the vaccine

09:54:48 anyone 60 and older - staff that work in high risk congregational settings

09:55:05 age 16 and pregnant, 15 in multi-generational households

09:55:47 Johnson and Johnson has been focused on shelters and jail.

09:56:01 there were a lot of people who are encouraged that it's a single dose

09:56:14 what time of day, what shelters, is this available to

09:56:28 we call for hosts with shelter providers

09:56:49 we have all times and days of the week, so we are trying to make it for the times when most of the people are at the shelters.

09:57:09 We're in there quite a bit.

09:57:27 can the dates and times please be put in the google groups?

09:57:29 Yes.

09:57:42 Now we have SNAP

09:57:51 last month we spoke about how they handled the cold front

09:57:59 but we've dabbled in the coordinated entry process

09:58:44 Can you give us a brief overview and access points.

09:59:01 Amanda - the singles homeless coordinated entry for singles - it goes

09:59:16 rates their vulnerability and where they fall in the list of their risk factor

09:59:33 the majority of the services that serve singles pull from that pool

09:59:59 we promoted Amy Johnson at our company and she'll be the HCA lead. She's pretty well known in our community and we're excited and I'm going to have her fill you in.

10:00:38 Amy - I'm Amy Johnson. I've been with SNAP since 2015. came in as a temp doing reentry program and went right into working with SACA so I've been able to watch this program grow since inception.

10:01:20 Currently - the following entry points that we have, SNAP is the primary lead for singles coordinated reentry. Other access points, YWCA, hope house, Cross walk, VOA, Frontier, Goodwill, HOC

10:01:35 These are the entry points to get into singles reentry.

10:01:47 I don't have much more but I look forward to working with you in the future.

10:02:04 Robert- please tell us about programs offered after the assessment

10:02:43 Amy - basically, the first approach that we are doing - we're starting with the diversion approach - to evaluate what the individual could potentially do on their own with their current resources

10:02:55 then it leads into doing that needs assessment and going into further housing interventions.

10:03:21 There are a few things, depending on what they qualify for, then we lead them in the appropriate housing intervention.

10:03:33 Robert - does the SPDAT include?

10:04:04 Amy - at the entry point, we use the SPDAT to get a start point and do case management - what intervention is going to suit them best.

10:04:33 It's just our starting point and we talk about needs and strengths and lead into the conversation about the direction of the intervention

10:04:41 Robert - how does the scoring work

10:04:50 Amy - 0-60 is the scoring range for singles.

10:05:09 0 is the lowest intervention and 60 is the highest intervention

10:05:38 when folks are between 50-60, the chronic homelessness, and that shows we're going to address getting to functional 0

10:05:58 Robert - is there walk-in availability?

10:06:45 Amy - the nice thing about the outreach team - they have teams that go out and hit the encampments and they can meet those folks where they are and plant those seeds and get them to the point where they can start the process of getting housing

10:07:01 they also filter out through the shelter system and collaborate with other systems and work to meet these people where they are

10:07:13 Robert - thank you for the update and congrats on your new position.

10:07:26 I will send out our list of phone numbers for people to access too.

10:07:36 I'll put Amy's contact information for coordinated entry

10:07:38 thank you for having us.

10:08:11 clarify - what kind of documents do people need to bring before they could get assessed?

10:08:26 Amy - I first want to point out we have worked on eliminating the barrier for ID and SS card

10:08:39 that's why we have those initial conversations to find out what they need

10:09:07 as they get into the process, landlords won't work with folks that don't have those documents - so if they're not document ready, we work with them to get there, then move forward.

10:09:22 Thank you again SNAP team for that info

10:09:48 David Lewis - I want to apologize up front, I'm having emergency repairs done to my roof and it's louder than I anticipated.

10:09:54 I really appreciate the opportunity to be here today.

10:10:20 I really want to focus on giving a quick overview of what our CMIS is, what we do. Then I'll go into some of the DAD

10:10:23 data

10:10:33 CMIS - computer management information system

10:10:48 we refer to our database as CMIS because we are far beyond the scope that HUD defines

10:11:11 we work with people that need health care, we work with the Zone to help their database to support their effort

10:11:35 our vulnerable and homeless population are part of the community
10:11:50 Jene - the zone is a resident led initiative out of the northwest community center.
10:12:22 All of the family members at once - we are going to overcome generational poverty and make sure that all families are thriving
10:12:35 we need to meet vulnerable populations where they are at.
10:12:53 homelessness isn't necessarily something that is managed - there are ways to support people in better ways
10:13:06 there are 430 case workers that participate on a daily basis.
10:13:45 some of the recent work we've done
10:13:59 is the work with SRHD to support public health
10:14:13 we're working with WSU street medicine.
10:14:32 the CMIS supports street outreach teams to get them to the point to really help them in housing
10:14:44 we're always looking for new and better ways that we can make life easier for the case workers
10:15:10 there are three of us here and we receive 3 and 5,000 requests for support
10:15:26 we stay pretty busy, but we love the work and to see the data supporting our community
10:15:31 we do a lot of customized reporting
10:15:40 reporting and forms for programs like the zone
10:15:59 today, I'm going to focus on what we have for HUD that is available for the COC board
10:16:14 SPM is a report that shows our report as a community for all of the state and federal funding sources
10:16:54 with several metrics - length of homelessness, what % of people who are housed come back.
10:17:05 we present this to the COC board and we will be sharing out that presentation
10:17:12 that's our SPM
10:17:26 On those 7 metrics - is there any alignment with the 5 year plan to end homelessness
10:17:36 there is a direct alignment with our SPN and the 5 year plan.
10:17:51 one of the goals is to reduce the length of time that people spend homeless - that's a direct correlation with the SPN.
10:18:11 we are using data from the CMIS to see what has been successful
10:18:38 there's a lot of questions around what our homeless numbers look like.
10:19:07 LSA report - goes to congress and uses it to evaluate and send resources.
10:19:22 it shows the flow over a course of a year, what it looks like through different lenses
10:19:37 racial, ethnic, are we seeing disparities on who is being served and who is not.
10:19:50 it speaks more to the story of the data instead of just numbers
10:20:22 it's used throughout the entire state and country - it's a federal mandate. We always try to "Spokaneize" the data - identifying trends that are specific to Spokane.
10:20:34 what is going to best serve the client and move us forward as a community.
10:20:57 Every year, there's an APR that shows performance as to how a project meets HUD's standards.
10:21:15 Very focused, very intensive look at an individual project./
10:21:29 we do have reporting that is federal and really, the APR is great but we do a lot of custom reporting
10:21:55 Of course, there is the point and time count. We are going to start reporting the week of the 5th - it's going to the COC board.
10:21:59 everyone is welcome to attend.
10:22:21 typically data request that we get, we like to share it with the COC board knowing we have representation there.
10:22:29 we get the most info out as soon as possible.

10:22:42 one of the projects that is worked on now is the establishment of a website
10:22:56 hopefully that will help with transparency and questions that come up.
10:23:13 we support day to day operations as they go through coordinated assessment -that comes out of CMIS
10:23:21 it's used daily by case managers
10:24:16 Formal structure of COC
10:24:25 CMIS - stakeholders oversee the program
10:24:53 good example of recent request - it'll help speed up services to clients. HUD standards - you ask about VEt status - all info in CMIS is contained.
10:25:44 the VA has eligibility criteria to make sure someone is a vet. That data is not in the CMIS - so something specific to Spokane, would be adding a section in the metric to help them find resources for the VA.
10:26:27 Another benefit - is that we allow clients to store documents so that we can alleviate the problems that people have regarding having identifying documents
10:27:09 The committee, work group structure, is where we can have good communication and they inform the sub committees and the COC board and then a decision is made
10:27:19 those work groups are crucial - one work group that has been formed is racial equity.
10:27:45 we're using a lot of data to define what equity is and what it looks like.
10:27:59 we are working on getting information funneled to the right groups for funding.
10:28:15 there was a question in chat - can ORG's do internal referrals through CMIS?
10:28:32 The nice thing about our software - we have a real time referral system.
10:28:55 they put information into the system and the agency receiving the referral can update it based on the outcome and it updates the system
10:29:19 that can also go if you are at the Zone, how can a family advocate at the Zone, identify nutrition as well.
10:29:38 for those organizations who wanted to participate in CMIS, how do you become eligible?
10:30:02 there's a series of requirements - one of the biggest needs is that we need to establish that the requesting party is able to meet the privacy standards that we have in place.
10:30:54 We have to vet all of the confidentiality - requests can be e-mail and I bring them to the CMIS committee and the people in that group are stakeholders and they decided as a group how that works.
10:31:07 is the doc storage available to all?
10:31:35 Yes - where it is being used more is for vet - the clients can't be expected to have all of their documents on hand.
10:31:45 thank you so much for taking time out of your schedule.
10:31:58 moving on - we have come to the conclusion of our meeting, but I
10:32:28 want to leave the virtual stage open for individuals that want to give organizational updates. After that, we'll have an update on the action group that developed over the past months of the coalition.
10:32:36 Barry - can I throw something else along that way?
10:33:08 I am going to put up, in a poll, right now, that you guys are welcome to answer - the goal is to find out what information, topics you want us to provide.
10:35:41 4/17 - looking for someone who is willing to help with the homeless population in the valley
10:36:19 Virginia - work with the healthy kids together - I'm one of 2 parent mentors for the program - we help sign people up for health insurance.
10:36:36 there's a special enrollment period that opened up on 2/15 until 6/30.
10:37:54 Colin - asking for people to walk around the neighborhood and find housing that can afford affordable housing - we are being covid safe - if you're interested, please reach out to me.
10:38:37 Robert - Providence Charity Clinic - Rosemary Ware - SS attorney - will be at our clinic starting on May from Thursdays from 930-1200. She's going to be doing that at our location here.

10:38:49 I think it's 9-12:30 on Thursdays.

10:39:01 Access to that support has been scarce and she's excited about this!

10:39:07 we have walk in at our site on Tuesdays

10:39:23 Our foot care clinic has kicked off for Friday at the clinic

10:40:27 Don Gillespie - want to reach out and remind everyone - as your assessing people 828-2449

10:40:35 I'm in Deer Park - hello from deer park'

10:41:05 Jenn = hi, my name is Jenn Snow and I'm the case manager needs for HEN at Goodwill.

10:41:50 We were mentioned earlier by Katie. The housing essential needs program - if you have anyone who gets ABD, please send them our way - we can do the coordinated assessment and the SPDAT. We have an info line that people can call.

10:42:02 the second thing is that we have two case manager positions open with HEN

10:42:22 they're listed as temporary, but we're hoping they will be permanent once we find out what our funding will be for the year.

10:42:31 discovergoodwill.org - job openings.

10:42:43 if you have questions, please give me a call or e-mail.

10:43:24 Joan - I'm here to present on what the action group has been doing.

10:44:13 we met between the big action group and subcommittees. Our first meeting was on 3/12. We have folks who are members of the coalitions and are involved in other organizations in the community - we have a wide variety of people who have come together and have been working on the stop the sweeps statement

10:44:22 we have even had participation from folks on the street.

10:44:42 wide umbrella of ideas and representation. It's like we have a dream team of people who have a similar focus

10:44:53 I sent out the final draft of the statement that we came up with earlier this morning.

10:44:57 I sent it out Sunday night.

10:45:37 This is the final statement. The ideas behind the different sections and then open up for questions.

10:45:54 Dale is going to talk about some of the justice and equity when I'm done.

10:46:22 we would like to find out, from those of you who are interested in working with the action group - when would be a good time for the meeting?

10:46:37 the first 3 "where as" deals with low barrier shelter beds.

10:46:52 how the city doesn't have a definition for that.

10:47:36 Number 4 - talks about how the city doesn't provide public information, real time availability on the shelter beds. There are so many issues behind that, but it ranges from no availability info until late at night

10:48:02 places like HOC only have a narrow window of intake so when their intake closes at 8pm, no one can come in if they have beds.

10:48:34 what do those numbers really mean? It's ethereal and doesn't work to provide helpful info to people on the streets, but this info has been used to do the street sweeps

10:48:52 #5 - there's no designated areas for people to legally exist on public property.

10:49:35 There are no day center's for people - the library just opened up and you can get 30 minutes by appointment, but those places don't exist for people who need them.

10:50:30 #6 - continuing to criminalize behavior, given housing and lack of information, makes it a crime to do things, so we continue to play "whack a mole" with people who need support and help to move forward.

10:50:37 that's what it seems our legal structure is angled toward.

10:50:54 #6 has to do with seizing and confiscating people's property when they are momentarily away.

10:51:12 #7 - as long as there are no shelter beds, the governemnt can't criminalize people existing in public.

10:52:22 #8 - the

10:53:20 #8 - they are trying to cite people being homeless - like getting sited three times for being in the same place.

10:53:55 We had a gentleman who was supposed to go to community court and he couldn't get anyone to watch his stuff while he went to court, so he missed court and now he has a warrant.

10:54:03 these are the issues that people are dealing with.

10:54:13 he didn't have a working phone so he couldn't call.

10:54:25 I called the P.D. office later on his behalf, but they were closed and no one was available./

10:54:42 There are unclear policies that aren't consistently adheared to

10:55:30 in the policy that Mayor Woodward signed in Nov, it sais if people are not at their camp, they are supposed to give a 48 hour notice before conducting the sweep - they are not doing that.

10:55:55 I was asking questions like, where are these notices posted for peopel to get their stuff back, but no one knows.

10:56:20 No body has seen any of these notices and they're not being given out, and it's not consistent because they dont' have to give written notice if you're there.

10:56:45 There's no due process - there's no printed documentation to tell people how to get their stuff back.