

Homeless Coalition June 3, 2021, Chat

09:26:07 Katie is our closed captioning person

09:26:11 Can you guys see this?

09:26:43 Closed caption - hopefully I pushed the right button

09:30:54 Our usual chair is Robert Lipman, but he told me that he was going to be in some beautiful place w/o internet, so I am going to keep going and chair this thing

09:31:10 please be patient with me. Usually I step back so hopefully it goes well.

09:31:30 The agenda is brief reports in the beginning, and then get the to the longer presentations towards the end. That's my plan

09:31:40 I am ok if I'm messing up - interrupt me or put it in the chat

09:31:53 I like to learn. This is also on Youtube, so if you want to go there, that's ok too

09:32:24 we have a poll about the future. In July, we will probably move into in-person and zoom or virtual - most people have said they want that

09:32:36 So, Ben continuum of care

09:32:50 I'm Bed, I'm the chair of the COC and exec dir of low income housing consort. I

09:33:02 ON the top of the list is the eviction moratorium being lifted at the end of the month and it's concerning

09:33:20 The county has gotten their ARP money out, SNAP is getting that out, the city is just starting now

09:33:35 and with this process, had 6 million going out and another 9 million

09:33:42 not going out until June

09:33:51 The county and cities' plan, they opened the way out shelter

09:34:17 As of late last week - the WAY out shelter, which has 100 beds, will be shut down for 5 months for construction and it might take longer

09:34:25 and the system loses 100 low barrier beds

09:34:37 update - they are working hard, but no solution is in place.

09:34:55 There is a letter that will be sent tomorrow morning. IF they come up with a plan,

09:35:01 they could do low barrier beds

09:35:30 and if a plan is not in place when the beds are lost in the system, sometimes you would have vacant areas, that they delay the closing of those 100 beds until they could be replaced in the system

09:35:44 the eviction moratorium plus the loss of beds could have serious ramifications.

09:36:17 they consider the city and county in conversations that FIMA is reimbursing 100 percent of principalities that buy up distressed hotels and turn them into shelters

09:36:23 they could be used as shelters, or transitional housing

09:36:36 That letter is going to be sent tomorrow. I will send a letter to the coalition email list and

09:36:47 we will ask the city to close renovations until those beds are replaced in the system

09:37:10 With the heat waves going on, they passed a law that states that you can't close beds if you don't have a replacement

09:37:21 The city has lost a lot of people and they are crunched right now

09:37:29 the staff time needs to be focused on replacing those beds before we lose them.

09:37:44 this is a pretty severe crunch and if the moratorium ends, it will put more of a crunch

09:37:48 any questions?

09:37:59 Bob - Snap

09:38:19 if they do eliminate salvation army - the way out, are we able to have the sweeps, legal campsights more lenient than it is currently

09:38:32 we currently don't have enough beds to be doing sweeps according to the 9th circuit ruling

09:38:48 you can only count low barrier beds and the supreme court declined to have them.

09:38:53 You can only count beds if they are available.

09:39:16 If you have 1500 sheltered and unsheltered beds, and only 800 beds, according to our courts, they shouldn't be able to enforce this

09:39:24 stop the sweeps that is going to be presenting has a very good pla for that

09:39:51 I just wanted to point out that the low barrier beds at way out is some of the only beds for opposite sex couples and adults to stay together because the other shelters are separated by sex or other things

09:39:57 What we're seeing in outreach

09:40:20 is because of the police, people leave downtown, go to neighborhoods, North side is getting hammered - there are repercussions

09:40:37 I was told that when they find this replacement that it's going to be temporary until the Way Out opens again as a Bridge shelter

09:40:46 how do you feel about that as it's not truly a low barrier.

09:40:55 do you think that replacement should be permanent or just during construction

09:41:15 there will be 50 night by night beds in the basement of the way out shelter

09:41:24 you also need those night by night beds as well.

09:41:45 Last time the city tried to use the gym of the Salvation Arm and it didn't work as we didn't have the transportation resources to get people there

09:42:00 I recommended not using the gym as a solution as the resources were used before and it had a lot of negative impacts

09:42:13 there needs to be more capacity - both on night by night and transitional housing, in order to meet the need

09:42:36 we're going to see that more with the drought going on and the smoke coming up, the eviction moratorium coming up and then there is no housing at the end.

09:42:51 I will send a copy of the COC letter to the whole group

09:42:59 and I ask that you weigh in to elected officials today

09:43:02 to delay

09:43:11 The action group that did stop the sweeps

09:43:19 they formed a sub group and went into depth on these things

09:43:32 just contact Ben, or put it out on the list and create our own group and Zoom and go for it.

09:43:42 Update from Spokane Regional Health District

09:43:45 I have great news to share

09:43:54 Last shelter Covid positive test was May 1st

09:44:05 we've had low cases with people experiencing homelessness but not accessing shelter

09:44:07 things are slowing down

09:44:12 no current outbreaks in shelters.

09:44:24 thank you for working hard to protect your clients and staff

09:44:36 isolation is being offered at a motel - reduced capacity

09:44:42 we have such low numbers in the community

09:45:11 we are currently at 1000 people who have been vaccinated - associated with shelters - and the health district is planning a big event next Friday at CAT parking lot where we are trying to provide

09:45:28 a space where people can get vaccinated - we have gift cards and meals and our people have done a fabulous job.

09:45:49 The City

09:46:06 Joe Ader - new service

09:46:16 We run the emergency family shelter - on the corner of Mission and Nappa

09:46:24 Let me introduce you to this little guy

09:46:32 Oliver was born into the shelter in November

09:46:48 In the shelter and both of his parents were Covid positive when he was born but he was born healthy

09:47:01 the largest age demographic we serve is babies - under age 1

09:47:17 we've been actively pursuing opening a new shelter just for families with new borns

09:47:36 mass shelters isn't the right environment for new borns. There are a lot of other kids, germs, could cause the baby to get sick.

09:47:44 We're opening up a new shelter on June 15, just a couple of weeks.

09:47:54 that is going to be on the corner of Mission and Lidgerwood.

09:48:05 Just a block from Division - the Jimmy JOhns on Mission - it's right in there

09:48:16 Its in a home that is owned by the Dominican Sisters and the nuns no

09:48:19 longer need it.

09:48:39 families will still check in with the family promise center and then they will be referred to the smaller site location moving forward

09:48:46 We have opened up the housing assistance portal.

09:48:55 [familypromises.org](http://familypromises.org)

09:49:05 you can have your client search for rental assistance if they have children or not.

09:49:16 if they don't qualify for our program, it will direct them to the right program.

09:49:21 we received a 175 applications in the last week.

09:49:35 we haven't started pushing it heavy - we'll probably start that next week.

09:49:48 We've had already almost 200 apps for rental assistance

09:49:56 Homeless Connect

09:50:08 We are finally able to bring it back after this last year when we weren't able to do it.

09:50:23 January 27, 2022 - Anniversary Event

09:50:42 gathering as many providers as possible in one place at one time to reduce barriers and access to resources

09:50:57 hot meal, clothing, food bank, clothing, vet care, recovery services, mental health,

09:51:01 and more and

09:51:06 it's in one place on one day

09:51:11 in 2020, we served almost 1200 peopl

09:51:22 with the state of everything, we're expecting to see almost double with this upcoming event.

09:51:39 if there's any partners who haven't participated in the past, contact Cary Stevens

09:51:47 super stoked to bring the homeless connect back.

09:52:10 we had 120 providers there last time

09:52:25 Jewels came out- showeres were going, Hep-C vacines were given, it's always an amazing day to watch unfold

09:52:37 Rental Assistance

09:53:09 It is a group of 24 partners, the Zone put out the call, if someone is interested in creating

09:53:30 equity issues, families that don't speak English - technology burriers, were not able to access rental dollars

09:53:59 we have been advocating for more equity and the statistics in spokane, 80% black renters, it's not just the population in the ocuntie, but the population of renters

09:54:07 we need to make sure we're reaching all parts of the community

09:54:30 we brought partners to craft messaging and simplify access, messaging for tennants, landlords, care providers, in multiple languages and social media.

09:54:50 I'm going to do a show and tell of some of the resourcing and I'll send this to you, including templates so you have the responses that are helpful

09:55:04 You hae seen the messaging we are going to go over, I haven't sent out social messaging, but I'm willing to share anything.

09:55:12 I'm going to start with our Unified Messaging.

09:55:19 This is for Tennants - happy to share these for you

09:55:25 tjhis is meant for a wholistic housing picture.

09:55:42 not jsut how to to access dollars, but all of the concerns regarding concerns for eviction, mediaation

09:55:59 this one talks about working with your landlord to get those pieces of info to apply for your rental assistance

09:56:07 there is some confusion regarding mediation and eviction defense

09:56:13 why would a household want mediation?

09:56:19 why as a landlord would I want mediation

09:56:31 Mediation is required as you're going forward to prevent yourself from being evicted

09:56:37 you have to have that mutual plan with your landlord and yourself.

09:56:49 the tenant perspective - the volunteer lawyer program and free legal assistance or advice

09:57:01 they would LOVE to be contact with anyone who is being evicted or beind on utilities or rent

09:57:22 tghy can define and describe what mediation does and they can inform them of their rights and when they go to the mediatoin, they are prepared

09:57:45 NW mediation and folcрум are not attorneys but they are skilled in mediation and they are that neutrual party that everyone can sit with

09:57:54 the portal is open right now, access it through the web site or family promis.

09:58:02 Live stories are handling funds as well.

09:58:14 They have chosen, because of equity, to not open their portal just yet, but they are taking paper applications.

09:58:27 they are posted on the city ctiy. Severyal contracted community partners.

09:59:01 LS has decided to slow the opening of the portal to assist families who have the most burriers tofilling in an on-line app, so they are wokring with people who turn in paper appliations.

09:59:15 We expect mid June, their portal will also be open. They wil lcontinue to have that paper application support.

09:59:29 you can see on the site, those organization that can help people making copies, scanning it or submitting it.

09:59:40 live stories portal is not opening and the reasoning is that they want to ensure equity.

09:59:50 it's been a bit of a confusion, but that that's the rational behind that

10:00:10 there are in person events now, legal help, mediation, people wiht different language skills to message the safety and eligibilyth for apply for the events

10:00:25 Zone project - north east. Vacines, farmers market, ets

10:00:30 everyone is welcome to spread the word

10:00:47 on the City website is eligibility. If you're outside of the city limits, this tool will tell you what yuou are eligible for

10:00:53 it's for anyone in the county.

10:01:13 At the bottom of the posters, you can scan these codes depending on what you need.

10:01:32 I'm going to go through the landlord - it's very similar

10:01:48 we want to help them find ways to capture their rent so they don't sell their property

10:02:11 landlords are also able to use portals and use this process. They can give their numbers and do what they need to in order to help epeople stay housed.

10:02:33 and for communiyt partners, these are tips of things you can tell your clients or families, and they mirror the others, but the message is a little different

10:02:58 if you have a client who speaks different langueages, there are resources for different support for your clients

10:03:30 All of the things that you are showing right now is in the e-mail I sent earlier

10:03:35 I'm excited to shre this with you

10:03:42 since tues, our phones and e-mails have been blowing up

10:04:02 if someone reaches out to your org, I will send this to you and it links the city web page, if you have questions, the number for live stories, right here

10:04:05 family promise, right here,

10:04:29 these are general numbers. there is free legal assistance to help naviagate what should and shouldn't happen.

10:04:46 we have landlords that don't ahve very many properties and don't know what the laws are and accidentlay do something aht shouldt' be done

10:05:11 The intent of this is it saves your organization and knowing where to reach out.

10:05:33 the information in the fliers, we have those and I also have this facebook post that I will show you because it has some of our tiles, the zone Spokane, you can go on facebook and share this.

10:05:50 everything is already there. It would take 2 seconds toshare it to your page and then your demographic has this same information

10:06:04 here is an example of one of the tiles that would be on the social media

10:06:13 we have made tiles specific to specific things.

10:06:34 this one is about the volunteer lawyers program and you can pick where you need to go.

10:06:42 I can send them individually to you as well.

10:06:54 The other things that we would love to have is support

10:07:03 if you have organizational suport in different languages,

10:07:08 this is really this equity piece

10:07:20 the zone will be at all of our hilliard farmers markets starting in June at the NE comm center

10:07:40 at Vaccine clinics. There will be the fvolunteer lawyers and others about housing

10:07:45 follow up the month later and other things.

10:07:54 we can get free tables for people if you are there to help with housing

10:08:22 the last thing that I really want to talk about is, when we are talking to our families, the most powerful way to help someone engage is through a powerful story of someone like them and how it has really helped their family

10:08:38 it would be scary to talk to a lawyer especially if you are undocumented.

10:08:50 I can be scared - if my landlord sees me, could he have retribution against me

10:08:56 its not tru, but a valid concerns.

10:09:22 what we want from this coalition is any stories form the tennant, landlord and comm partner who has had positive istuaiton happen to keep housing

10:09:45 it's good if people share their stories themselves, the more that we can connect to those that need services in a way that resonates with them, the more impact we are going to have as a community

10:10:02 we want powerfull stories from that persepctive so we can engage and upport more households in the community/

10:10:25 Questions

10:10:35 This is our facebook post, just as an example

10:10:45 Jenna, I think you have done an incredible job.

10:11:05 I will share, just that template messaging - if your phones have been anything like ours, it would be nice to have something that is just plug and go.

10:11:21 if you need some other language other than spanish, let me know

10:11:33 if you know people who are willing ot hsare and connect iwth the community, please contact me.

10:11:41 thank all of you for your work.

10:12:00 Action Group - Stop the Sweeps

10:12:22 I just keep this meeting on and a couple of weeks ago, a lot of people started talking about the sweeps and they formed their own group and they are going to present now.

10:12:34 I and Joan and Ken are going to tag team this.

10:12:48 we are going to give you a background, the petition and the benifits of the petition

10:12:57 we can all agree is that homolessness is al arge issue

10:13:19 a lot of reasons such as lack of income, loss of employment, lack of afgfordible housing. small majority chose to be homeless, but most do not.

10:13:33 we had low burrier beds during the winter months but we are about to have a lot less.

10:13:41 it's going to impact opposite sex families

10:13:55 if you became homelss, wiuld you rather be in a shelter, or camp out



10:14:11 where would you go, where would you store your things, how would you go to the bathroom, how would you keep a job

10:14:18 if you had medical or mobility issues, how would that impact you

10:14:31 if you camp, you risk being in a sweep

10:14:39 constant moving impacts a person to get and keep a job

10:14:59 the sweeps are creating more trauma for people who may have already had trauma and many people are turning to substances

10:15:18 we are facing less than 1 percent housing vacancy rate and if you have a voucher, you may have to wait until 3 years

10:15:34 if you are homeless in Spokane and come to a complete stop outdoors, you are risking getting arrested or assaulted.

10:15:44 if you're in a shelter, where do you go during the day

10:15:58 Others are newly homeless facing these challenges for the first time

10:16:36 the WA dept of commerce - they combine HIS data with economic service data and their count was 5483 homeless which is only counting emergency sheltered people in Spokane

10:16:48 this was formed out of the coalition meetings in March.

10:17:12 In order to make those happen swiftly, we ask for changes

10:17:27 we ask that they suspend enforcement of laws that confiscate personalized gear

10:17:34 provide services toilet and hand washing services

10:17:38 trash collection is provided

10:17:47 adequate storage is provided so people can secure their belongings

10:17:58 provide spaces where camping or parking is not criminalized

10:18:07 provide plenty of low barrier day centers

10:18:19 a lot of moving parts, changes in zoning laws are important to that solution

10:18:25 this just takes time - sometimes several years.

10:18:41 stop the sweeps can be achieved in a matter of weeks. This addresses where someone can go if there aren't shelter beds

10:18:57 local economy aligns us with equity goals, court rulings and the law

10:19:09 toilet, hand washing stations and garbage pick up can help

10:19:20 sharps containers

10:19:29 day centers mean fewer people on the street every day year round

10:19:41 safe place to shelter outdoors can reduce problems

10:19:51 this will improve optics and perceptions of safety

10:20:06 we're offering business owners what they've been asking all along

10:20:21 allowing people to stay outdoors with restrooms and water taps brings us into CDC guidelines

10:20:43 economic benefits of decriminalization of homelessness are endless

10:20:58 economic benefits will come from reduced needs from emergency care

10:21:11 donations of lifesaving gear will get more bang to their buck

10:21:26 following the low is important

10:21:44 our federal courts have ruled that unsheltered people are entitled to the same constitutional rights of all,

10:21:57 if there is no option for indoor shelter, the gov cannot get people for sleeping outdoors

10:22:09 it's time we comply with these rulings and decriminalizing homelessness.

10:22:26 our asks directly impact access to services.

10:22:36 Decisions by those at the top don't always address those most affected

10:22:46 people with lived experiences - inclusion is critical.

10:22:56 when the Governor visits Spokane and similar events in the future

10:23:03 tent cities and how they work

10:23:16 those include self governing structures, respect and financial support from government

10:23:24 Coyote village started in Olympia and it's still going.

10:24:11 Nicholville in Seattle, started tents and structures in 2008 - this provided case managers and funding from Seattle. They maintained their autonomy - the city council recog. the value by granting 8 thousand dollars

10:24:23 last week we got an endorsement from the Spokane alliance

10:24:31 you can sign the petition online, or in chat

10:24:45 you can gather signatures in person or with people at work

10:24:50 attend an action group meeting - jump in and help.

10:24:58 if you see Sweeps happening, stop and document them

10:25:05 we're facing the eviction moratorium

10:25:17 our system can't handle the anticipated flood

10:25:32 next steps - honing and sharing our message and finding common ground with skeptics

10:25:45 we're talking to elected officials. We are vuilding support

10:25:57 a lit of our signaturesare from people with lived experience

10:26:08 It's time to show our officials that the world is changing and we need to do better.

10:26:18 it will take more dedication and advocacy to change it but it's worth it

10:26:26 it will benefit our community and save lives

10:26:32 comments, questions?

10:26:39 I just want to say, awesome job,

10:26:51 I've sat in on some of the discussions.

10:26:56 I appreciate all fothe work that people do.

10:27:16 I drive to my office in the University District there and when I see police cars on the road, my concern is,

10:27:27 are they dealing with an appropriate fassion with the situation

10:27:46 is it a citizen concern or a welvfare check and I don 't know how to educate everyone else that these are things that go on all the time.

10:27:49 Great job you guys

10:28:11 their info is in the chat, facebook page, petition, you can sign on-lin.

10:28:36 One more thing, David Lewis, from the City - he wasn't able but was supposed to present.

10:28:39 he sent me a summary

10:29:11 I will echo what Ben said - I deal with the city and the city staff is doing an incredible job and they are short staff

10:29:18 I applaud the city staff and all that they are doing.

10:29:27 if nothing else, then I'm going to offically end the meeting.

10:29:36 I'll keep it open for anyone who wants to stay around and chat

10:30:01 coming up with hazardous air and I'm not willing to take that on, but I'm hoping someone in here will do what the stop the sweeps people did and form your own group

10:30:05 Announcement

10:30:38 Joan - I wanted to remind everyone of 6/11 event that's coming up - big vaccine clinie - music, free hair cuts, catered food - CAT parking lot

10:30:44 from 3-5 in the afternoon

10:31:21 the MAC movement gathers at city hall on Monday nights at 5pm with a free dinner with a side of free speech

10:31:59 Before we went to zoom meetings, they were done to encourage people to attend city council meeting.s

10:32:09 there are folks there with laptops which encourage peopel to participate in open forum

10:32:12 Sherri -

10:32:54 wanted to reiiterate a snap approved rental assistance event 11-3 on the 19th - we are having to post pone it due to personal issues. We served 9 people and over 35000 dollars, it was tiney - this time we're planning on having more

10:33:04 it's good to do it with the morotorium coming up but I can't do both

10:33:07 it'll be coming in the future

10:33:15 Duaa

10:33:22 Low income housing alliance

10:33:33 petition to extend the eviction morotorium

10:33:36 it'll be put in chat.

10:33:44 we are asking people to tell their stories who have been impacted by this

10:33:52 if someone is intreted in sharing for our news letter

10:34:03 you can contact Sarah and I'll put that in the chat as well.

10:34:14 Everyone have a wonderful day and stay safe in this heat.