Coalition to End Homelessness Steering Committee August 4, 2021

Rosemary Powers Scribe notes

Meeting from 3pm to 4pm

Rosemary agreed to scribe today and next week. Will need to remember to request scribe as first agenda item for future. Maureen provided agenda, and Rob served as facilitator. We had introductions.

**Emerging issues: Possible engagement with FUSE**

Kari Bull joined group today to explore possible engagement with Coalition’s work now through December 2021. She is a political organizer with FUSE Washington (fusewashington.org) an organization the promotes progressive political policies and supports candidates working for on issues of racial justice, tax reform, climate change, workers rights.

Discussion: We identified priority areas for consideration to be the Nov 1 deadline re street homelessness and the housing committee efforts

**Action Assigned:** Both the Safe Sites for All (SS4A) committee and the Housing committee should follow up with Kari to explore further at kari@fusewashington.org.

 **Reports/Requested Actions from Coalition Committees/Workgroups/ Representatives**

Governance Committee: Grant-funded Vaccine Project:

 **Propose** that Maureen Howard manage the Vaccine grants through August with Jan Runbeck’s assistance. Both would volunteer their time. Exact cope of work TBD. (see proposal attached to end of agenda for 8.4.21)

**Discussion:** Concern raised about relying on volunteer labor for Maureen and Jan for a position that was funded work for Kevin previously. Maureen argued that determining the process to interview, hire and supervise, coordinate with AM to manage paid staff for this project, while important to develop, is not available right now, and promoting vaccination among people living homeless needs to continue now.

**Action:** Sense of the meeting was to accept this arrangement of Maureen and Jan managing the grant for August, with commitment to having a process available by Sept. 1, either proposes continuing to use volunteers for this or not to rely on volunteers for these grants.

 **Assign** to Governance workgroup for development.

Discussion: Maureen reported on a proposed change in the Vaccine incentive program, from previous gas cards to cash cards of $50 per individual ($100 household).

Action: Sense of the meeting was that this was a minor re-direction in implementing the grant the Friday meeting group had approved previously. We agreed :

--To announce at Friday meeting the vaccine management temporary volunteer assignment and shift to the cash card incentive.

--to coordinate with vaccine providers (health dept and/or others) to ensure that distribution of a cash incentive follows upon a vaccination. (so there is a clear and obvious relationship between getting the vaccine and receiving the incentive)

**Safe Sites for All and Further discussion of Covid-related and shelter issues:**

Jan spoke strongly about the recent outbreak at Beacon Center, a congregate setting with up to 40 accepted, and with Mike Boisture expressing deep concern about lack of information and adequate PPE for those at the site, as well as youth resistance to mask-wearing. It was mentioned that even if there were N95s for everyone, they wouldn’t use them when sleeping, so the need for quarantine/separation is great. Mobile testing/vaccine promised by health dept (might be good place to focus on the cash incentive) Jan is advocating for at least reducing the capacity there to 50%, but notes that doing that at Beacon will also increase street homelessness. She noted that the quarantine hotel is now closed, so unable to isolate those who are positive, and even with pipe and drape system we are decreasing shelter space.

Theresa noted the outbreak at Nativity house as well, and the infection of volunteers. Ed noted that this was a serious situation, and that his usual religious service there had been cancelled. Question was raised about what policies may need to be developed at shelters given Delta variant contagion

Rob mentioned that he does not know if County is continuing the regular meetings with shelter providers since Valerie moved to new position.

Regarding information for the County’s Shelter workgroup (Coalition feedback for Mike Boisture), Rob collected the Breakout group notes from last Friday (Aug 23) and sent those to Mike.

**Committee meetings reports and schedule:**

***Race and Equity Committee***: Next meeting is August 5, Thursday 3-4 pm by zoom. Once we are able to add meetings to the webpage we will add these meetings there as they are open to all (Rob is having a meeting with Gerrit to explore that, and said Gerrit may be able to continue assisting with web page. Still, we should have several people competent to manage the online functions we have had).

***Housing Committee:*** Next meeting Aug. 5 at 4pm.

***Governance workgroup:*** See report of last meeting embedded in today’s agenda.

Since almost all those who have met for this workgroup were here at Steering committee, we agreed to meet on Monday, August 9 from 3-4. **Rosemary will create a Zoom link and send to all.**

**Water Heat Emergency update:** Maureen is advocating for a county wide policy on heat emergencies and water distribution. The “after event” meeting convened by County will be August 11 from 1-2:30pm. Maureen will update once she knows if it is by zoom or in-person, and what the agenda will be. She noted that we are expecting more heat over next week. There is a lot of work to do here.

**Additional Discussion: Promoting energy efficiency/ incentives for Landlords of rental homes**

Sara Bowles (Sbowles@cityoftacoma.org) working with Conservation Resources Management for TPU joined us today, and spoke about a project she is working on to incentivize energy efficiency projects for rental properties. She is looking for ideas from Coalition about ways to promote this, and noted the important equity issues involved with about 70% rental homes being rented by BIPOC community members. This incentive program is challenging since it is a “split incentive” program where the landlord pays to get it set up, and the tenant reaps the benefit in lowered energy costs. Maureen provided Sara with a number of good contacts for others working on these kinds of questions.

**Final comments:**

Rob asked if any feedback or changes re agenda approach or meeting in general. Rosemary suggested that proposed action items follow the update by the committee /workgroup proposing the item.

We did not have time to address the draft survey from county shelter group with request for feedback.

Theresa thanked Jeffrey for the 4 cases of water he delivered for the G street campers. And Jan asked Rob to put a case of masks on his porch to be picked up by her around 4:30. Just sayin that even the small tasks make a dent)

Adjourned a bit after 4:00 pm.