

MINUTES

WALNUT CREEK HOMELESS TASK FORCE

Zoom Meeting: May 5, 2021 2:00 - 3:30 PM

Facilitator: Donna Colombo

Call to Order: 2:00 pm

New attendees were welcomed. Donna acknowledged and thanked City Council member Cindy Darling for her attendance.

Guest Speaker: Cindy Wu and Elizabeth Wampler. LISC Bay Area

The Housing and Shelter Committee invited the leadership of LISC to attend to present their faith-based program expansion project to learn about the program and what it would take to start a LIS Cohort in Contra Costa County:

- Cindy and Elizabeth discussed the LISC organization, which provides church groups and other private associations resources to develop housing on their properties. LISC provides technical support, coaching and funding assistance for organizations that wish to develop housing on their properties.
- Here is the link to their homepage:

[Bay Area | LISC Bay Area](#)

Future upcoming speakers:

- Lucille Paquette, Walnut Creek Public Works, Clean Water Requirements - July
- Mardy Beggs-Cassin, Contra Costa County Mental Health Crisis Design Team - July
- Robbie Montoya, Dorothy Day House – August

Task Force Leadership Invitation: Donna

- Donna and Mark Newsom will serve as co-facilitators. We are in need of a secretary.
- We are also in need of leaders for several sub teams. We will ask for volunteers during the June meeting.

Assisting Homeless during weekends and evenings: In the April meeting, Reverend Krista and LaWanda raised the issue of the lack of services available during weekends and evenings. This has been identified as an ongoing issue with several team members citing examples of lack of support. If a citizen encounters a homeless person in need, who do they call? And, during these times, is there a place to send them for assistance? Much discussion about this topic in the meeting. We will ask LaWanda to lead a brainstorm session in the June meeting for possible solutions. A subteam will work on this issue. Mark will report on progress in the June meeting.

Increase to Core Team Services: Margot

- We have a recommendation to the City Council to budget for a full time CORE team. Looking for a partner to work with us to share this resource and responsibility. We are seeing an increased need. We are meeting with WCPD regarding hours of operation and coordination with the HOP team and County. Indications are that we will have support for the proposals for full time CORE team coverage.

699 Ygnacio Valley Development Update: Margot

- This is a future affordable housing project. Entitlement for this project is now complete. This was the first SP35 streamline project, where development of affordable housing is expedited through a state-mandated process. The developer is now working to finalize financing for the project. The partnership with the developer and State have been very positive. Approximately 100 units will be developed.

Update to the Housing Element: Margot

- The Update to the Housing Element is a significant effort, and part of the general plan, which describes the housing needs of the community, the resources available to meet those needs, and plans to accommodate mandated targets. We will have a higher number of housing units to accommodate this cycle. WCTF members are invited to take part in this process. It will take 12-18 months.

Ownership Project 1250 Las Juntas: Margot

- This is another housing project now underway. Being developed by Habitat for Humanity, we are hoping to begin site work in June.

Trinity Center: Leslie

- Space is still urgently needed for Safe Parking. This has been a valuable and successful program, and more space is needed.
- We concluded the evening program successfully.
- We have embarked on a strategic planning program.
- We have moved to the Orange tier for COVID, allowing meals services and Substance abuse programs to resume.
- The Young Adult program is continuing to develop.
- We are working with students from USC regarding the parking program.

CORE Report: Lisa

- 26 unique contacts, 20 unique, 18 individuals or families, 40 services provided.

WCPD Report: Mardy Beggs-Cassin

- Working with the mental health crisis team, which is intertwined with the WCHTF work. A new number is proposed, 988, to triage and address 5150 issues (individuals who are in danger of hurting themselves or others).
- The team is working on resources for individuals who are living with mental illness and unsheltered.
- Weekends and evenings are specifically problematic for individuals with mental health issues.
- HOP team still on the radar, we are on hold regarding resumption.
- Gary: by July we hope to have the HOP team restarted, and Gary will update the team in June.

County Updates: Jaime Jenett, H3

- Two hotels will close in June.
- Concord shelter will be reopened soon and will now allow couples (a big plus).
- Brookside in Richmond is undergoing construction. No update on restart date.

- Significant focus on finding housing for hotel residents – top priority.
- Shelters will now be allowed conditionally.
- Annual report with 2019 data in the chat.
- COVID vaccines: J&J has been restarted. People are given the option of using J&J or two-shot method. No statistics on coverage available now.

Trash Disposal Sub team: Jan

- The sub team met to discuss a program where members of the homeless community would collect garbage and be compensated. The team is working out details on compensation, etc.

Action items:

1. Please advise Mark if you would like to participate in the off hours services sub team. EMAIL is gobearswc@gmail.com.
2. Please volunteer at the next meeting to lead sub teams. We need a secretary, safety net services leader, partnership leader, advisory team leader, finance team leader, and shelter and housing leader.