

COMMUNITY SUPPORT NETWORK – Partners Meeting Notes

October 2, 2019

Attendance: Daniela Fernandez (Connecting Point), Laura Harter (Partners), Annie Keeling (NCSOS), Sara Fields (NCHHSA), Whitney Logue (CBV), Ned Russell (Got 40?), Travis Duckworth (SAEL), Valentina De La Fuente (FREED), Carol Viola (GVSD), Danita Sorensen (Sierra Roots), Mary Mackintosh (Granite Wellness), Dave Mullan (Project Heart), Nick Reedy (CWS), John Fairchild (Twin Cities Church), Brett Shady (Connecting Point), Bob Barker (HOME Team), Joette Collier (Foothills Healthy Babies), Dena Malakian (Friendship Club), Joe Naake (Hospitality House), Mary Biddle (Warmline), Mike Dent (NC), Elias Funez (The Union)

- Notes from September 4th meeting approved with no changes
- Introductions/Announcements
 - CSN Coordinator introduced
 - Ned did a Halloween Book Giveaway Read to Your Child call for volunteers
 - Laura introduced Agreements and Guidelines and discussed next meeting
- Presentation:
 - Brendan Phillips, Housing Resource Manager for Nevada County Social Services
 - 2019 Homeless Point in Time County: 410 people (11% increase – in line with state increases). 34% are chronically homeless (have condition preventing them from work), 59% originally from Nevada County/80% lived in NC for 1+ year, 39% living unsheltered, 21% have serious mental illness. Shift in demographics to younger people – 1/10 of UC students are homeless. Many start homelessness cycle in childhood.
 - 2017: Board prioritized homelessness for first time. County working on collaboration/coordination, implementing Housing First, no 24 hour shelter (closed during day) so need resource center
 - 2018: board priority bifurcated into housing and homelessness
 - To date: have expanded services – Homeless Outreach and Medical engagement Team, coordinated multi-disciplinary case conferencing team (wrap services), expanded embedded case management at multiple agents and institutions, expanded housing opportunities: funding for low-income/permanent supportive housing development, landlord recruitment/retention to provide incentives to them to rent to clients with barriers to rental, low-barrier housing, increased collaboration (Continuum of Care for permanent supportive housing and strategy creation), fully implemented Coordinated Entry to rank needs of 211 callers
 - Brought in \$6.7 million in funding in 2 years
 - Able to bring together services in creative ways with a great team
 - Joe Naake, Outreach Supervisor at Hospitality House and on the HOME Team (and Rob Barker – Drug and Alcohol Counselor) mynevadacounty.com/bettertogether

- Super-team of outreach workers to meet people where they are at – engage people on the street to help them engage and use services
 - Help people navigate systems – Behavioral Health, housing
 - 4 outreach workers, 2 housing navigators, 1 peer supporter, 1 registered nurse
 - 25-30 people off the street since July, and numbers going up
 - Partners: Hospitality House, Turning Point, AMI Housing
 - Funded by: Mental Health Services, Oversight & Accountability Commission
 - Low-barrier housing for getting people out of the cold (don't need to pass drug test), and when ready can move up to more permanent housing
 - Removing barriers and stigma towards services – developing relationships over time (success story: saw a guy day, asked every few weeks if he wanted to go to rehab, and finally he said yes so could drive him straight there), including following up/following through on promises
 - Folks they work with don't have social capital/safety net, so HOME Team can be surrogate family and fill in gaps in services
- Mike Dent, Director of Housing and Community Services
 - Brunswick Commons - \$16 million
 - Communicating with Truckee – they've been struggling with this issue for a long time (vacation homes vs locals housing)
 - Truckee Artists Lofts Project currently under construction – 77 unit multi-family affordable housing project
 - Lone Oak Apartments – 31 unit senior affordable housing project in Penn Valley
 - Courtyard Apartments – County collaborating with city to refinance, 31 unit affordable units in PV
 - Grants are coming in, to help Winter Warming shelters in Truckee, North San Juan and Sierra Roots
 - Housing is complicated but working to build housing and get people housed
- Valentina De La Fuente, Housing Coordinator at FREED
 - FREED is an independent living center in Nevada and Yuba County
 - Just started Housing and Advocacy Disability Program (HDAP) – for folks who are homeless but not getting disability benefits, get advocate to apply for benefits and provide housing and assistance while benefits are coming through (outreach, case management, disability advocacy, and housing assistance). Through HDAP, served 42 people since 6/2018, and have gotten 12 people approved for benefits. Collaborating with Hospitality House
 - Permanent and temporary housing available
- Discussion:
 - What is available for elderly without mental health/substance issues, but are at-risk of homelessness or are homeless? People lose their vouchers because they are on waiting lists for too long. There's a 3 year waiting list!

- Valentina: there's a housing club to help people fill out forms – but it is hard because there's waiting list, difficult to qualify. Housing Club can help people connect opportunities to build support network
 - Mike: need to build units! There will be different waiting lists that can be worked by team depending on needs, such as someone getting cancer
 - Joe: need to recruit landlords to take the risk of taking voucher
 - Do you need landlords? Isn't it more cost effective to recruit landlords instead of building these huge developments?
 - Mike: The scattered site model – newer model. Behavioral Health houses 75 people that way already. Very quiet and successful. Doing landlord recruitment.
 - Brendan: looking at ways to work with properties that could be rehabilitated to be made available for clients – both state and local levels. It's a broad-based conversation our community needs to have: stakeholders all have different solutions that need to be listened to (ie it's not just Air B'n'B causing housing crisis). We can get together and create realistic and succinct proposals for the local government to implement.
 - Apartments: will they have security?
 - Mike: yes, Brunswick Commons will have after hours security, gated, and on-site managers
 - Will there be transportation?
 - Mike: can't get funded unless close to bus stop/medical facilities
 - Brendan: how do we look at environmental impacts? How can we incorporate greenhouse gas emissions into affordable housing that will benefit everyone?
 - With good collaboration we can solve these problems.
 - October 29: having Housing First and landlord recruitment training from 9-noon. Grass Valley Vets Hall.
- Partners continued with announcements.
 - Warmline: October 29 – 6-8:30 preparing for an IEP Meeting. Free class at Madelyn Helling Library. Everyone who attends gets a free gas card.
 - Connecting Point: travel training program – how to ride the bus. Contact Daniela Fernandez
 - Project Heart – work with justice-involved individuals. Received grant for adult peer mentoring and working in a jail to connect people to continuum of services when they get out.

- Sierra Academy – have a lot of connections with career and technical education – having students build tiny homes or modular homes if that may be a possibility. Travis is sustainable architecture teacher.