

Eastside Interfaith Social Concerns Council

P.O. BOX 662, Bellevue, WA 98009-0662

September 12, 2017 Meeting Minutes

The meeting was held in Bristol Hall of St. Margaret's Episcopal Church; it began at 12:00 noon and ended at 1:35 PM.

WELCOME: People helped themselves to lunch and conversation. The meeting was called to order at 12:15 PM and conducted by EISCC President Tony Copes.

OPENING PRAYER: Karen Studders

SELF-INTRODUCTIONS were made by 18 representatives, including 7 board members and 10 congregations.

MINUTES July 11th have not been approved by the board and will be presented next month for membership approval.

TREASURER'S REPORT

Treasurer Warren Marquardson reported our account balance is available on the website; about \$120,700. Approximately \$68,000 Backpack Meals, \$34,400 Congregations for Kids and \$18,300 EISCC.

Reminder that annual EISCC dues of \$45 for congregations and \$30 for social service organizations are due to EISCC.

PROGRAM:

Men's Shelter: David Bowling and Josh Terlow, Congregations for the Homeless, a former EISCC Agency.

David thanked Eastside Interfaith Social Concerns Council for hosting this discussion. He reviewed Congregations for the Homeless, CFH's, mission and moves men from the streets to housing. CFH has great case managers and congregations who reinforce values! CFH was born out of EISCC. CFH's foundation is relationship. Relational poverty, respect people and empower/enable.

Steve Roberts provided two handouts to all: (1) Our Program and (2) 2016 Year in Review. Tom Miles does/did outreach to men experiencing homelessness and works/ed with the Bellevue Police Department. Streets to Home funded by the University of Washington. Josh shared stories of 3 individuals, using fictitious names: (1) Miguel, (2) James and (3) Tim.

CFH Program:

- **Outreach:** CFH performs outreach to men, single women and families and works with police departments.
- **Day Center:** Case managers 4 hours/fay. No plumbing at Lincoln Center. CFH has a trailer with washer/dryer and shower. Use Honey buckets for bathroom. Meeting rooms for outside providers to meet with clients. Renovations underway to provide an indoor kitchen and bathrooms.
- **Winter Shelter:** Hope renovation is done in November and provides capacity for the normal 100 men. It is a place of refuge for the men, with food and laundry facilities coming.
- **Rotating Year-Round Shelters:** Congregation based. Shelter 100-130 men per year. Every month the shelter rotates to a different congregation. Currently at St. Margaret's Episcopal Church. Case management is more intentional. Trailer provides a shower for the men to use. 35-40 men sheltered in a congregation.
- **Subsidized Housing:** 80 units of subsidized housing. People pay 30% of their income. All assigned a case manager. Work on resources and jobs.

Miguel, James and Tim did not go thru this way. Stereotypes are not true or the same for people experiencing homelessness. Miguel was vulnerable, with a heart condition and went directly into housing. James went to a year round shelter and was assigned a case manager. Got a job at McDonald's and was moved into shared housing then into an apartment at Imagine Housing subsidized for 6 months by CFH. He is now independent financially. Tim had maintained a meticulous camp area and had not worked, went through a difficult divorce to a year round shelter; he skipped the winter shelter. Works for Enterprise and living in CFH subsidized housing.

Hoping to model permanent shelter with other NGOs. Valley Cities and Therapeutic Health Services on-site for chemical dependency support. Employment support is already on-site.

Questions and Answers:

- Lincoln Center location is literally uninhabitable for providing safe shelter to men; no running water.
- Turn Away Men? Have turned no men away requesting shelter at winter shelter. Rotating shelter in congregations has/does turn men away. CFH will provide the figures.
- Trailer: An ex-Boeing engineer designed and built CFH's trailer. The labor to build was free, in-kind donation. The total costs of materials to build each trailer were \$20,000 each. Trailer has 2 showers and washer and dryer.
- Day Center: What would it take to have the Day Center open on Saturday and Sunday? Money to open and pay for more staff and resources.
- Lincoln Center: Expect two more months without water on-site at Lincoln Center. Goal to operate 24/7 during the winter months at Lincoln Center.
- Snogualmie Shelter: CFH provided support and set up and was invited to launch the shelter. The goal always has been to spin it off. One year ago they had no resources; CFH worked with funders and now they are their own 5013c status and staff.
- What do you do when no one signs up for meals? They ask again. No one has gone hungry. Learning to tap into congregations beyond once a month for shelter. New groups that are not congregations are helping. Henry is awesome! Separating meal calendar so Congregations for the Homeless, The Sophia Way and Catholic Community Services will NOT be on the same meal calendar going forward. ☹️ and ☺️
- Permanent Shelter Siting: Quiet last few months. Thank you to faith community and you showing up at Bellevue City Council! We/you will need to go back to show force in future. City Council is adopting Conditional Use Permit for Interim use Permit. Shelter was never in the Bellevue code before. Need CFH, TSW, CCS to vet proposed language. November election will likely occur before the City Council votes on shelter. Candidates running against the siting of a permanent shelter in Bellevue. Shelter YES; Eastgate NO campaign. Eastgate is the only viable site and the cheapest site; land would be donated to Bellevue by King County. CFH said yes to Eastgate site. Lincoln Center important and can soon provide a dignified place to shelter men; once the renovation and plumbing are completed. Because of zoning limitations, the site can only be used for 5-7 years and CANNOT be used for a year round shelter. Every new site that is considered delays the process and brings higher costs to the siting of a permanent shelter.
- Coordinated Entry: Recall CFH's philosophy is relationship based. In 2017, 65% of the men in shelter were moved into housing; 92% stayed housed after two years. CE has no relationships; CFH will not have relationships with the guys they put into CFH housing. This shifts who CFH serves. Now, "Vulnerable with capacity to work." New, under Coordinated Entry, "more barriers, more issues creates need for housing; challenge to create other cost effective housing with congregations, funders.
- CFH Annual Fundraiser: October 5th, 11:30-1:00 at Bellevue Presbyterian. Tickets available at CFHomeless.org. Covers CFH operating costs. CFH need industrial washers and dryers and furniture for Lincoln Center!
- Permanent Supportive Housing: Is at capacity. 10 shared houses and 18 studio apartments. Case management has been there for 8 years.

- With the renovations, why can't Lincoln Center be used for a permanent year round shelter? Real issue is the renovations are to bring the building up to code. CFH is operating under an exception in the overnight sleeping ordinance and can only be open for 6 months. CFH will be open in November, but likely only for 50 men. In the past years, CFH has operated a winter shelter for up to 100 men.

SPOTLIGHT: Eastside Human Services Forum by Tony Copes and Karen Studders

Tony is scheduled to attend the September 20th EHSF board meeting. At the meeting, the EHSF board will take up the EISCC board's suggestion to change faith community representation on EHSF from Rev. Steve Baber to EISCC's Tony Copes. Karen attended the EHSF workgroup and shared that this morning we learned that millions of dollars in Medicaid funding which Washington State uses for mental health is at risk because the Washington State legislature did not address in the State budget.

REFRESHMENT COORDINATOR: Sandy Lewis and Betty Spohn

Please thank Sandy Lewis, Tony Copes, Steve Roberts and Betty Spohn who provided the food for today's meeting.

REPORTS: The reports began at 1:10 PM.

President's Board Report: Tony Copes thanked Jean Harris for her service and presented the slate of officers. Not enough people have stepped up to serve on the board. President: Linda Hillesheim, President-Elect: Open, Treasurer: Warren Marquardson, Secretary: Open, Past-President: Tony, At-Large: Anne St. Germain, Farida Hakim, Diane Richards, Steve Roberts, Karen Studders. Tony encourages a seasoned member to step up to serve as president-elect or secretary. There are at least 2 openings on the board - the president-elect and secretary.

Backpack Meals: Kenn Ho

Kenn reported that school started last week and Backpack Meals started on Thursday. Serving K-12 students. Last year prepared 9,500 packs, 50,000 meals to students in 28 schools. ONLY serve the Bellevue School District.

Congregations for Kids: Nancy Jacobs

This is the 22nd year providing backpacks and school supplies in the Bellevue School District. This year provided 1,359 kids backpacks and school supplies before school started. Project was held for the first time at Spiritridge Elementary School. Purchased pre-packaged kits of supplies we requested for high school kids as a trial; costs are about the same; less labor intensive; extending to middle school next year. CFK's balance looks good. Financial donations are down at this date; expenses are down. With the 50 extra backpacks that were packed as reserves, up to 1,409 students will be served this school year. Over 1400 were served in 2016. Photos on Congregations4kids.org.

EISCC Legislative Coordinator: Jean Harris

- DREAM Act needs support.
- Representative Dave Reichart is retiring; pick a candidate and support him/her.
- Sunday at Newport High School at 3:30 PM, Representative Adam Smith is speaking.
- Washington Fair Trade Coalition is presenting the New NAFTA on Tuesday September 19th at 6:30 PM.

Hopelink: Brittany Holmes

- Welcoming America at noon-4 PM at Bellevue Hopelink Center tomorrow.
- New quarterly publication available on back table.
- Energy assistance grants available
- Expanded foodbank hours and available appointments and created walk-in hours.

- Streamlining Hopelink's enrollment processes and finding it challenging to staff 6 additional hours. At Hopelink in Bellevue, 1000 households are served each month. Need to do additional background checks on volunteers. Last year expanded hours. Groundbreaking was held at the Redmond site and building underway.
- St. Thomas Church has provided 600 cooked and 600 uncooked meals for Thanksgiving dinner for Hopelink clients and families for several years. The congregation is not continuing and it will be difficult for clients.

ANNOUNCEMENTS:

- October 12th, 11:30 AM at Red Lion: The Sophia Way Annual Fundraiser, DESC Deputy and Washington State Representative Nicole Macri explaining Housing First
- November 12th Fostering Interfaith Relation on Eastside, Holy Spirit in Kirkland hosting
- September 23rd, 10:30 am – noon at Unity of Bellevue hosting Women Connect with Farida Hakim speaking
- September 26th Issaquah Breakfast for Food and Clothing Bank; Bob Grey honoree; Mayor of Month of Concern Food Drive
- September 16th at Faith Church in Issaquah 6-8 PM. Bellevue, Sammamish and Issaquah Police meeting on personal safety and community building around racism. Will be on MPR Ask a Cop in Tukwila.

ACTION NEEDED:

- Eastside Interfaith Social Concerns Council served as the fiscal agent for Congregations for the Homeless in its early years. EISCC supports this siting of the permanent men's shelter and supportive housing within the City of Bellevue. The City of Bellevue is accepting comments regarding the **proposed permanent men's shelter and supporting permanent housing at Eastgate**. Several public meetings have been held.
- The City of Bellevue and King County are working in partnership with Congregations for the Homeless & Imagine Housing. The site at 14350 SE Eastgate Way is the most viable for the Congregations for the Homeless. Information can be found at <http://www.bellevuewa.gov/eastside-mens-shelter.htm>.
- Please write and send emails/ letters to EastsideMensShelter@bellevuewa.gov or call Mike McCormick Huentelman at 425-452-4089, or contact Bellevue City Councilmembers directly at council@bellevuewa.gov

CLOSING PRAYER: Sandy Lewis

NOTE the monthly EISCC Board meeting has been moved to the FIRST Tuesday of the month.

THE NEXT EISCC MEETING will take place on Tuesday, October 10, 2017, 12:00 – 1:30 pm

PROGRAM: An **Affordable Housing Panel**

LOCATION: St. Margaret's Episcopal Church, Bristol Hall, 4228 Factoria Boulevard SE, Bellevue, WA

Respectfully Submitted,

Karen Studders

Secretary, Eastside Interfaith Social Concerns Council Board