Workshop Objectives

- Provide a context for homelessness in Vancouver
  - National context
  - Current data
  - Causes & Characteristics
- Describe roles, responsibility and resources for homelessness services locally
- Describe current efforts to address impacts of homelessness, including upcoming action to establish a Day Center
- Review Upcoming Opportunities and Challenges
Presentation Overview

Focus of Tonight’s Workshop

Focus of Affordable Housing Task Force

- Chronic Homelessness
- Situational Homelessness
- Severely Cost Burdened Households
- Cost Burdened Households
- Affordable Renter Occupied
- Affordable Owner Occupied
Context for Homelessness in Vancouver
Context of Homelessness in Vancouver

A Nation-Wide Challenge:

L.A. to declare 'state of emergency' on homelessness, commit $100 million

Portland Mayor: City Must Do More To Address Homelessness

After 10-Year Plan, Why Does Seattle Have More Homeless Than Ever?
Context of Homelessness in Vancouver

A Nation-Wide Challenge:
As Homeless Shelter Population Rises, Advocates Push Mayor on Policies

America's homeless: The rise of Tent City, USA

U.S. hits record number of homeless children

Criminalization of homelessness on the rise in U.S. cities
National Statistics

Information from the January Point in Time Count of people were experiencing homelessness.

Some states are experiencing reductions in overall homelessness, while others are seeing increases

- Washington, Idaho, and Nevada seeing increases

- Source: National Alliance to End Homelessness The State of Homelessness in America 2015
Clark County Homelessness Point in Time Count

- 2011: 800
- 2012: 600
- 2013: 600
- 2014: 700
- 2015: 600
Housing Costs and Low Wages/Unemployment

The National Law Center on Homelessness & Poverty states that insufficient income and lack of affordable housing are the leading cause of homelessness

- 1 in 4 renters had “extremely low incomes ELI” (defined by HUD)
- 75% of those ELI renters were considered cost burdened
- “Cost burdened”: household is paying 30% or more of gross income towards housing costs
Role of the Housing Market

• Creating homelessness
• Prolonging homelessness

Increase in homelessness vs. increase in visibility

• How we measure
• Why more visible?
Cost Burdened In Vancouver – what it means

Very Low Income Individual

- Annual Earnings: $15,450
- Affordable Rent Threshold: $386
- Average 1bed/1 bath market rent: $889
- Difference: $503

Mental health

— Estimated that 20-25% of homeless population suffer from severe mental illness*

Substance abuse

— Estimated that 50% of people who are chronically homeless have co-occurring substance use problems**

*National Coalition for the Homeless Mental Illness and Homelessness 2009

** Substance Abuse and mental Health Services Administration Current Statistics 2011
Homeless in Clark County - People

- **Single people placed**
  - 2013: 349
  - 2014: 320
  - 2015: 322

- **Families with children placed**
  - 2013: 51
  - 2014: 42
  - 2015: 23

- **Single people that applied**
  - 2013: 114
  - 2014: 127
  - 2015: 108

- **Families with children that applied**
  - 2013: 109
  - 2014: 157
  - 2015: 148

Source: Council for the Homeless – Homeless Housing Applications
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Shelter</th>
<th>Beds</th>
<th>Neighborhood</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Share House</td>
<td>30 (+25 overflow)</td>
<td>Esther Short</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Domestic Violence Shelter</td>
<td>23</td>
<td>Rose Village</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Inn at the Orchard</td>
<td>46 family 4 single women</td>
<td>Orchards</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Valley Homestead</td>
<td>38 family 4 single women</td>
<td>Hazel dell Ave in COV</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Oak Grove</td>
<td>6</td>
<td>Bagley Downs</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Janus Youth</td>
<td>11</td>
<td>Forest Ridge</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Open House Ministries</td>
<td>40</td>
<td>Esther Short</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Winter Shelters

Winter Overflow (WHO): November – March
- Located at two churches and Share House
- Staffed by volunteers and paid Share case managers until 10 pm
- Coordinated by Share and Council for the Homeless
- 50 – single females, couples or families with children
- 54 – single men
Observations:

- More visible total homeless population; perceived to be growing
- Housing market issues play significant role
- Insufficient shelter capacity – historically and today
- No “solution”; many techniques and partners needed to manage
Roles, Responsibilities & Resources for Local Homeless Services
Local Partners & Roles in Homeless Services

Clark County

City of Vancouver

Vancouver Housing Authority

Non Profits
Clark County’s Role in Homeless Services

Planning

- State, Federal and Local “Designated Agency” for County-wide homeless plan
- Responsible for the Homeless Action Plan

Funding

- Funds 20+ Non-profit service providers
- Distributes more than $5.7 million in funding annually – regional
- Collects/manages revenue countywide including all cities for services and housing
Council for the Homeless Role

- **Coordination**
  - Community’s response to homeless
  - Planning, advocacy and education

- **Staffing**
  - Applicant for HUD’s Continuum of Care Program
  - Operate Community’s coordinated assessment
Largest provider of subsidized rental units in Clark County – 2,884 units

Responsible for Section 8 Housing Vouchers in the County – 1061 vouchers

Owns 3 shelters

Developing Lincoln Place
City of Vancouver Role

- **Convene**: Facilitates discussions & solutions on emerging issues

- **Fund**: Distributes $300,000 in CDBG annually
  - Funds Housing Rehabilitation Program
  - Funds limited rental vouchers

- **Zoning**: Oversight on zoning controls & Municipal Code

Homelessness - 24
Current efforts to address homelessness in Vancouver
Discussion Regarding Day Facility
Concerns regarding people with no place to go
- Complaints about people sleeping and drinking in the parks and other public areas
- No hygiene facilities
- Increased garbage
- Panhandling
Opportunity to Address Concerns

Convened Community Partners in Discussion
- Recommendation for best solution for Community Concerns: Day Facility for People who are Homeless

Property Review
- Reviewed properties that were close to downtown and current services
- Property can meet human services citing ordinance
- Willing property owner
- Can move relatively quickly
Five Willing Partners = Day Facility Solution

- Clark County
- Friends of the Carpenter
- Vancouver Housing Authority
- Share
- Homeless Day Facility
- City of Vancouver
POTENTIAL DAY CENTER LOCATIONS

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Site ID</th>
<th>Site Name</th>
<th>Distance to SHARE</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>Friends of the Carpenter</td>
<td>1,150 Feet</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>City Owned lots</td>
<td>1,150 Feet</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3</td>
<td>County Owned Warehouses</td>
<td>1,800 Feet</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4</td>
<td>Lincoln place VHA owned</td>
<td>2,125 Feet</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5</td>
<td>Private houses around share</td>
<td>2,775 Feet</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6</td>
<td>St. Paul's Lutheran Church</td>
<td>3,540 Feet</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

6,730 Feet to ESP
3,300 Feet to SHARE

Distance measured by sidewalk walking route
Day Center – Concept & Services

- Share will operate a day center program inside building
- 1,200 sq. foot portion of the building
- Seven days a week from 7 am to 5 pm
- Showers, bathrooms, laundry, personal storage, mail, phone charging stations
  - Considering shower trailer that includes 4 standard showers and 1 handicapped stall
  - 3 portable restrooms and 1 handicapped stall will be provided
- Local non-profits partner on services: mental health counseling, general education classes, case management, job search assistance
Day Center – Funding

Friends of the Carpenter
Providing the location

Clark County
$122,500 through 2016 (may be available 2017)- for Operations

- $122,500 funding through 2016 identified
Approximately $250,000 of CDBG Funds for Rehab and equipment

Vancouver Housing Authority
$30,000 for rent and utilities
Day Center – Timeline

- Workshop – October 12
- Public hearing on CDBG funds October 19
- October – November – permits and rehab
- December – open for business
Challenges and Opportunities
Impromptu Tent City

- Lincoln and 13th
- Approx. 80 people
- Mostly housing first population
Techniques - Immediate

- Camping ordinance
- Sanctioned tent city
- Faith community - Car camping and shelter
- Women’s shelter
- Discussion regarding deed recording fees
- Funding with County and other cities
- Need for additional dollars
- Peer community health worker model - Outsiders Inn
Camping ordinance

- Effective Date of Amendment October 21, 2015
- Public outreach and education & “compassionate enforcement” by Vancouver police
- Camping in public places no longer unlawful between 9:30 p.m. – 6:30 a.m.
- Camping is not allowed in Parks or on private property without owner consent
- Future refinements possible
Upcoming Opportunities – Long-term Solutions

- Multi-family dedicated to people who were homeless
  - Freedoms Path
  - Lincoln Place
  - Small multi-family developments
  - 13 West and 15 West (60% AMI)
- Single-family
  - Project working on leveraging small vacant single-family homes
Next Steps

City as convener of working group,

Stakeholders determine how to respond
Links to Resources

• Annual Plan to End Homelessness

• Clark County Community Action Advisory Board

• County Councilors Meeting Site

• Council for the Homeless [www.councilforthehomeless.org](http://www.councilforthehomeless.org)
Questions and Discussion

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