

Pueblo Continuum of Care Meeting
January 17, 2012
SRDA 3rd Floor—230 North Union Avenue, Pueblo CO 81003
Room 301

Nancy Crafton-Facilitator
Dana Tewahade –Recorder

Continuum Members: **Sister Nancy Crafton**- Centro de Los Pobres, **Anne Stattelma**n, **Dana Tewahade**, **Ben Strand**, **LaTanya Yarbrough**, **Jonna Adamich** -Posada, **Kim Baca**, **Avanye Renner**- Pueblo Community Health Center, **Roberta Avalos**- Bridges of Mercy, **Tammy Torres**- Pueblo Department of Social Services, **Heather Rider**- Pueblo Housing Authority, **Elsa Castillo**-Care and Share, **Ana Valdez** - Catholic Charities, **Jo Booms**, **Jeannie Benfield**, **George O'Brien**, **Kristen Castor**- Colorado Cross Disabilities Group and Access for All, **Mary Hobbs**- Pueblo HUD VASH Voucher Program, **Arthur Yarbrough**- Spanish Peaks Behavioral Health, **Cindy Lau**- Pueblo YWCA, **Danielle Sena**- Crossroads Turning Point, **Marcie Reynolds**- Cooperative Care Center, **Captain Maggie Laubach** - Salvation Army, **Gail Rodosevich**- Colorado Legal Services, **Thelma Archuletta**- Pueblo Migrant Worker Head Start, **Karen Ashcraft**- City County of Pueblo Emergency Management, **Claudia Stubenrouch**- King of Kings Lutheran Church.

I. Updates and Introductions:

Ben Strand of Posada said the Elko family shelter had a couple of rooms open and the last couple of weeks were busy with single singles.

Kim Baca of Pueblo Community Health Center provided Continuum members with a basic update. She stated they were still working on their waiting list for the general public (Currently approximately 3 months for general public). She also noted they had not yet filled the position of Early Intervention Services Coordinator.

Elsa Castillo of the Care and Share Cooking Matters program said they had two classes at the Boys and Girls Club and they were in search of nutritionist and chefs. Ms. Castillo noted a new pantry opening on Saturdays in the Bessemer area. This pantry would be open from 10am to noon at the Mennonite Church. This fixed pantry was expected to be up and running at the end of January.

Tammy Torres of the Pueblo County Department of Social Service, Adult Division said the utility assistance money was gone. She said the LEAP season ran through April 30th and could help qualifiers with main heat source bills. She noted they'd started processing Dec 20th LEAP applications and were behind. To catch up, the Department had hired 2 new techs and was offering some overtime. Ms. Torres spoke about the new kind of Medicaid expected to begin on April 1st. This Medicaid is to be for adults without dependent children and is limited to 10,000 people throughout the state of

Colorado. It is unclear how recipients will be chosen (by a lottery system or first come first serve). This may be a good opportunity for adults who don't have children to get on Medicaid.

Captain Maggie Laubach of the Salvation Army said their warming shelter was open and running well. She noted the Kettle Campaign fundraiser fell short and they had to cut positions. There are now only 2 part time employees to assist Captain Harold and Captain Maggie.

Patrick Hurley of the Southern Colorado Job Seekers group said February will mark their 2 year anniversary. He noted due to the significant drop off since its inception, they will meet after tonight's meeting (7pm at First Presbyterian Church) to decide whether they should continue.

Sister Nancy Crafton of Centro de Los Pobres said they succeeded in getting a 21-year-old migrant farm worker to California for bone cancer treatment.

Kristen Castor of Access for All said the Pueblo Greyhound bus station had arranged to have security inside until 10:00 pm. She also noted Pueblo Transit is doing what it can to develop a better outside shelter at the station.

Kirsten and others are working with the Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment to coordinate emergency preparedness procedures for those with disabilities. She is also working on the issue of shelter accessibility. Kirsten realizes that what the law states is not practical for local shelters to implement, especially if there is no funding for accessibility modifications. She will forward a downsized document to the group in terms of simple things that can be done to meet accessibility requirements in shelters. Kirsten is working on a number of bills in regards to accessibility issues. To be put on Kirsten's mailing list please contact her at pueblo.access@gmail.com

Anne Stattelman of Posada reported for Michelle Sandoval of the Wayside Cross Gospel Mission. The Mission is operating at capacity on the men's side and at or beyond capacity on the women's side. They will continue to take overflow on the women's side for the winter and probably beyond (I don't see any reason to turn women away now that we can accommodate any extras on cots in the chapel.) As far as our Nov. /Dec. events: they served just over 1000 at the Thanksgiving meal and approximately 850 at Christmas. Both events went smoothly, but she welcomes any feedback the group has. Their next "event" would be the Easter service & breakfast started last year. Michelle will have specifics for the group at the February meeting.

Ms. Stattelman passed out information on the Earned Income Tax Credit. She noted Pueblo Community College was providing free tax services and this Earned Income Tax

Credit was important because it brought in 31 million dollars to the community last year.

Jonna Adamich a new Posada Board member noted she recently presented to a group of High School students on homelessness and information on Posada's Youth Outreach Program. She was surprised how little the students knew about the issue and believed awareness needed to be raised.

Ana Valdez of Catholic Charities announced she replace Shirley Knafelc at the agency. She said they just received second quarter funding early from EOC. They will begin taking calls Monday. Again, applicants must have applied for LEAP and have a determination letter. The November EOC funding went fast but 20 people got deposit waived due to the agency paying the bill. She said they still have money for water and about 100 people were helped in December with water shut offs.

Gail Rodosevich of Colorado Legal Services Pro bono Program was happy to share the good news of a new Pueblo program. She said this event is the 1st or 2nd largest event of attorneys traveling to a rural area to provide pro bono services. There will be Spanish speaking lawyers, immigration lawyers and many law students. This event will be held at Catholic Charities. Continuum members asked Ms. Rodosevich for a list of these professionals providing services. Unfortunately, Colorado Legal Services Pro Bono program still has no funding from Legal Service Corp. She noted "Ask an Attorney" is up and running on Public TV. The subject of "Sealing Records" will be on April 21.

Cindy Lau of the YWCA introduced herself as the new Family Crisis Shelter Director. She started the position on December 2nd and noted it had been a very busy few months for the shelter. She stated there were many children at the shelter this week and they had open beds for homeless women and domestic violence victims.

Avanye Renner of Pueblo Community Health Center said she will start working with BOCES migrant education program and has been re-registering migrant workers as they come in.

Karen Ashcraft of Pueblo City County Emergency Management noted they had emergency planning meeting scheduled for April 30th. This will be a final review. For those interested, the community plan is on the web. Ms. Ashcraft is concerned about the recovery phase of this plan. She noted the good number of responders involved but not many people who deal with the recovery.

Diane Moore the new Director of Pueblo's 211 service said she would love to have flyers and information from agencies to share with the community. She also spoke about the Partnership with P Town foundation for Earned Income Tax Credit.

Marcy Reynolds of Cooperative Care Center said their agency had 5 programs with its primary program goals to prevent hunger in community. She stated they served over 28,000 people last year served (17% increase from the prior year). She said they served 1500 new families. Ms. Reynolds also announced they would be transitioning into their new building and will have a grand opening on February 29th. They will have to close their current location at Jan 31st and will give all non-perishable food items to the Salvation Army. They will be able to accept food at the new building on February 1st but cannot distribute until the end of February. She recognized community organizations and community members for their generous support and assistance.

Claudia Stubenrouch of King of Kings Lutheran Church said their Social Ministry was given \$1,650 for the year and they will try to assist church walk-ins with items like Walmart gift cards.

Arthur Yarbrough of Spanish Peak Behavioral Health said he expects more changes coming for the Homeless Mental Health Program but didn't have any final details yet.

George O'Brien of the Colorado Cross Disability Coalition spoke about the new grant to allow individuals to register with dispatchers. This registry would provide emergency responders with critical information regarding disabled individuals. He also noted the importance of educating disabled individuals on the subject of taking personal responsibility for their needs. He said they need to be prepared so they do not burden our first responders. He noted the number to register would be 553-2520 and believed forms necessary for registration could be gathered from the City's website.

Mary Hobbs of the Veteran's Administration HUD VASH program said she is still waiting for a new case worker to assist her with the caseload. She also said they've decided to hire a peer support position. Both job posting could be found on USAjobs.gov.

Danielle Sena of Crossroads Turning Point said the Detox unit had an increase in clients, especially around holidays. She also noted they've turned away about 3 people a day due to lack of beds. She reported 4 clients are suicidal a daily and 1 out of the 4 is actively suicidal.

II. Minutes from November 2011:

No Corrections and minutes were accepted as written.

III. Continuum of Care:

Funding and grant updates:

All the homeless grants remained static but HOME funds were cut 40%.

Homeless Definition:

The HUD Homeless Definition has changed and Ms. Stattelman will email all Continuum members the changes.

Southeast Survey

Ms. Stattelman asked Continuum members to please complete the survey and send it back in.

Sheltered Count

A Point in Time Count isn't being conducted as it was in previous years. Posada will be coordinating a Shelter Count and is awaiting guidance from the State on how to conduct this count.

IV. Homeless Prevention:

There is an issue because many Senior Citizens are not being able to obtain LEAP due to a \$10-\$15 increase in their Social Security Income. This was done purposefully and State Senators are saying it is a budgeting issue.

Black Hills continue to increase their rates. It was noted that agencies should still refer clients to the local number at 719-542-2425. It was mentioned the local number can only take 4 callers at once and the 5th caller will be rolled over to the 1-800 number. The local number is also NOT staffed 24/7.

V. Events: Debrief on November and December Events

The Salvation Army stated they delivered 250 Thanksgiving meals. The Angel Tree program served 1,600 kids (727 families). Captain Maggie Laubach thanked Cooperative Care and Posada for assistance with gifts. She also noted the issue of having to contact 106 families about not being eligible to obtain gifts due to duplication. She noted this was an issue to work on for the next year. Anne Stattelman of Posada said the Holiday Blessing store provided toys to 2300 kids.

VI. Other Business

None at this time.

The next meeting of the Continuum of Care will take place Tuesday, February 21, 2012 at 10:00am at SRDA, 230 North Union, in room 301.