

Pueblo Continuum of Care Meeting  
April 19, 2016 10:00am  
Sister Nancy Crafton-Facilitator  
Barbara Wellman-Recorder



**Pueblo County Sheriff's Office**  
**Emergency Services Center**  
101 W. 10<sup>th</sup> St  
Pueblo, CO 81003

- I. Updates and Introductions:** If your agency has extensive updates consider emailing them to [stattelman@yahoo.com](mailto:stattelman@yahoo.com) or [Anne.Stattelman@posadapueblo.org](mailto:Anne.Stattelman@posadapueblo.org) prior to the meeting so that all the information is entered correctly in the minutes.
- II. Minutes from March 2016: (any corrections/additions)**
- III. Continuum of Care:**
  - A) Kristin Toombs—Colorado Division of Housing DOLA**
- IV. Homeless Outreach---Camp Conditions in Pueblo and coordination with law enforcement—Sal Katz**
- V. Other Business**
- VI. Adjourn no later than 11:30am**

Pueblo Continuum of Care  
March 15, 2016  
10:00am Pueblo County Sheriff's Office Emergency Services Center  
101 West 10<sup>th</sup>. St., Pueblo CO 81003  
Sister Nancy Crafton Facilitating  
Barbara Wellman Recording

Members Present:

Sister Nancy Crafton-Centro de Los Pobres, Mary Joy Kogovsek, Barbara Wellman, Paula Trujillo, LaTanya Yarbrough, Sal Katz, Jr. and Anne Stattelmann – Posada, Mike Ometer, Ben Strand - Rocky Mountain Human Services Genevieve Johnson – Health Solutions, Ada Clark – City of Pueblo, Barbara Ripperger – King of King Church Melissa Hobkirk – Liver Health Connection, Jill Filer - PCCHD, Sally Romero – Neighborworks of Pueblo, Marisol Stewart – ADRC/211, Karen Ashcraft – Pueblo County Sheriff Office, Gaby Morales – PCHC, Kathleen McCainst – St. Mary Corwin/Dorcy Cancer Clinic, Nancy Ward, Steve Bundy, Mary Hobbs – VA HUD VASH, Charise Vigil, Marika Richardson, Gretchen Grappone – CEC/VA, Russ Guerrero, Corinna Carcellero, Kimberly Yarbrough – PCDSS

I. Updates and Introductions:

Paula Trujillo from Posada reported that all the slots for transitional and permanent housing, and tenant based rental assistance are full. ESG funding for Rapid Re-housing is available, clients must be working and able to afford the costs for housing after the assistance.

Anne Stattelmann with Posada reported the following statistics from School District 60 and District 70 for Title X Students. In Pueblo School District 60, more than 1,415 children were identified as being homeless during the school year in 2016 (School District 60 Title X Count). They identify 67 as unaccompanied youth. District 70 reports 23 children as unaccompanied youth.

Kristen Caster CCPC and Pueblo Access for all, was not able to attend and requested that Anne present the following information:

*The Provider Fee bill and the Service Animal bill are still wending their way through the legislature and there is no clear update. I will send you an alert when I get one.*

*Anyone who has contacts in Denver should broadcast everywhere that there is no housing here to be had. I have two clients who have moved here and a third who is thinking about it. One is living out of her car. The only remedy I can think of is a bulletin board for roommate-wanted ads. "Please don't move here unless your parents have enough money to buy a house big enough to include you. The housing list for single bedrooms is closed. Posada is serving Pueblo residents first because there are so many people moving here from other states. They send people back home when possible. There is no affordable housing if you are on benefits and Section 8. Home rentals start at \$800 and some of those you do not want to live in. The world has discovered us and we don't have room."*

Anne also reported that some property owners are charging up to 3 months deposit and this is impacting low-income people in Pueblo and their ability to find housing. A meeting was held with City Officials and some Downtown business owners who are upset by the number of panhandlers, transient and homeless people in the area. According to Ryan McWilliams who purchased the old Alpha Beta building, he spoke with approximately 150 people walking by or camping out there, and only two people were from the Pueblo area.

Sal Katz with the Mission Continues and the Homeless Coordinator Posada, has thus far identified 28 homeless camps in January and February; 16 are active, 6 are abandoned and 6 are unknown. He is working in collaboration with City and County staff to complete a geographical survey map. Sal stated that we want to adopt a community wide message regarding homelessness and how our community should address the issue. Anne suggested that the City and County need to procure one place where the homeless can stay. There is a desperate need to provide sanitation for this population. The camps are full of trash; the places where individuals can clean up are limited. People are camping near our streams and rivers, and human waste is being introduced into our watershed, a problem for all citizens in Pueblo. We expect a large influx of homeless people this summer. Our good neighbors in Denver have “cleaned up their homeless camps” We are seeing people bussed to Pueblo from Denver.

Sal continues his outreach efforts to identify and map homeless camps in Pueblo. He and four others, who are volunteering, go to camps, distribute food and clothing. Last week, he transported two people to the emergency room, one needing attention for a rash, which turned out to be allergies, and another who was being bullied by his tent mate. Looking to get a Medical Provider to do outreach to the camps. Sal has identified one family, and four couples living in camps. There are camps behind both the North Side Walmart and the Pueblo West Walmart. Posada does offer showers, but we are limited to two showers, and they are available Monday through Friday, 12 – 4 pm. Clients need to sign in and complete Posada paperwork in order to use the shower. We can accommodate individuals with special needs, but please call ahead so that we can prepare.

Some of our local churches (and other people) are providing meals to homeless. They set up in Mineral Palace Park for instance and hand out food, clothing, etc. While this gesture is well intended, the reality is that the homeless camps are full of trash, which includes clothing, food wrappings, etc. The question that is starting to form, are we helping people or are we enabling people to continue to live this way?

Latanya Yarbrough from Posada, reports that at this time Posada’s shelters are full.

Ada Clark, City of Pueblo is working to collect information on the new influx into Pueblo, utilizing State and Pueblo County Data. In tracking driver licenses out of 45,000 documents, in Pueblo, 4,900 out of state licenses were turned in since January 2015. The Police Dept reports that marijuana tied arrests (adults only) involved out of state people 48% of the time. Funds from the Marijuana impact grants were denied to the City of Pueblo because there is a tax on growers in Pueblo County.

Genevieve Johnson with Health Solutions offers mental health treatment for the homeless. She provides individual therapy and case management to people with a mental health diagnosis. She can also complete intakes, and by doing so through her office can mitigate attendance requirements, which is helpful for homeless individuals. Her office is at Posada, has crisis services available to community. Her number is 656-8249. By calling the main number, you are can be routed to the crisis line.

Sally Romero with Neighborworks said that their office still have refrigerators and coolers are available to give away to renters and property owners (with no more than 10 properties).

Marisol Stewart from ARCH 2 1 1 reported that no one has funding at this time for utility or rent assistance. According to her Black Hills is shutting off people with no notice and continuing to charge excessive deposits. This is happening increasingly to seniors on a fixed income. Anne suggested that people file PUC complaints via (on line form) to complain directly. Black hills is not responding to calls regarding this practice.

Kathleen McCainst – St. Mary Corwin/Dorcy Cancer Clinic, is currently doing genetic screening for Cancer patients, and has free breast screening available. They will celebrate St. Baldric's Day on Saturday. Health Fairs are scheduled on April 16 in Canon City at 3000 E Main St. and on April 23 at Praise Assembly, 2000 Troy Ave., Pueblo. St. Mary Corwin is having a Head, Neck and Throat cancer screening. If people are interested, they need an appointment and should call Brenda at 557-4548. It is scheduled for Tuesday 4/12 12:30 – 7.

Sister Nancy reports that seasonal workers are coming and need housing. The State of Colorado closed down the tuff sheds this year, which, in the past, provided some housing for seasonal workers. There is no housing for Ditomaso workers. Sister Nancy requested that Neighborworks rethink their policy regarding property owners receiving new appliances, because often, when property owners install refrigeration or coolers, they raise the rent. This sometimes results in the current renter being evicted so that the property owner can charge more for the unit.

We have lost many workers because of drought, and Visa monitoring. It is difficult for the workers. There are no prisoners working the fields this year to speak of, women have not been working (due to the cost of guarding them during bathroom breaks). However, it came out that some of the guards who owned rental housing had been using the women prisoners to clean their rentals. For the third year, no onions are being planted, because of the shortage of affordable labor. Growers are paring down because there are not workers available.

Gabby Morales, PCHC migrant seasonal coordinator will be out Tuesdays – Thursdays, all day, to register seasonal migrant workers. PCHC is looking to replace a provider.

Gretchen Grappone with Atlas Research attended our meeting to observe, Welcome.

Nancy Ward HUD Vash VA program. Busy assisting Vets, reported that they passed accreditation.

Mary Hobbs: Charise is a medical social worker. They completed CARF Accreditation. The Stand Down will be held on 9/30/16 at NW Community Church (Last Friday in Sept)

Alison Gerbic, Homes for all Veterans CO Springs, Pueblo reported that their Master lists for vets last quarter (Dec – Feb) showed a 91 count increase. Forty-three Vets were housed. They had 188 on the initial list. They are housing Vets at a high rate but not at the level they are coming in. Alison reports that they have not been tracking to see if there is an influx of out of state vets, but will discuss this with her COC to see if they can do so in the future.

According to officials at the county and state level, everything is antidotal. We need to quantify everything in order to ask for funding.

Mike Ometer – RMHS, screens to quantify and identify homeless vets. Can provide supportive services help with clothing boots, etc.

Ben Strand RMHS, provides service in Pueblo and Canon, housing short term rapid rehousing, trying to help with Vets with less than an honorable discharge, filling gaps left by the VA, helps with employment, housing and other serves. Ben brought handouts, which define services.

Melissa Bernstein with SCAP said that their largest fundraising event of the year is coming up in April. Details are as follows. She will bring flyers to the meeting next month as well. The 24rd annual Red Ribbon Ball is scheduled for Saturday, April 23, 2016. Tickets are \$125. The party is being held at the Antlers Hotel in downtown Colorado Springs.

Russ Guerreo, Administrator of Adult Services, DSS Adult Protection said that his services are moving to old judicial building, Child Protective Services will remain in the Wells Fargo building. A law was passed requiring mandatory reporting for the Intellectually Developmentally Delayed population. Background checks are being done for caregivers. There will be a Senior Law day July 23 at PCC—information will be forthcoming.

Corinna Carcellero said that Adult Protective Services is required to do five trainings within the community per year, June is Elder awareness day and they are hoping to set up an event on June 15th. They are happy to do additional trainings as requested. Contact Corinna 983-6979

Ada stressed that we need to document information. A universal intake form would be helpful. This is your backup data, to use in contact with HUD as part of the conversation so that we can point to a problem, needs to be part of their conversation, when there are numbers and data to back up as part of the intake form; it is harder to refute what we are reporting. It is helpful to share numbers Want to know increase of out of state numbers starting from 10/2013, PCHC and other local agencies started seeing an uptick in clients, Posada and other agencies started seeing an increase.

Ada reported that one thing that is happening is that a group of people will move into a house, and establish residency with trash service. Then the second one will do the same, and the next one, etc.

II. The Minutes from February were approved as read.

### III. Continuum of Care:

A) NOFA Announcements: Notice of Funding Availability: Transitional & Permanent Housing funds renewed at the same level as last year. HUD did not fund our SSO program, through tier one, but we are hopeful that they will fund on through Tier 2. . All Tier 1 funding projects were funded in Colorado. Tier 2 projects will be announced later in the spring. Posada's supportive services only grant is one of the Tier 2 projects. Posada is waiting to hear so it can make decisions on what supportive services will still be provided.

B) Coordinated Assessment: Posada and the YMCA are being tasked to work with the Colorado Coalition for the Homeless and be part of a pilot project for the Coordinated Assessment Plan. Roz Wheeler Bell is working with Posada on MOU's and a more compact process. It will be available for review by the Continuum in May.

### IV. YOUTH Homelessness

#### A) Brief Overview by Mary Joy Kogovsek

Mary Joy Kogovsek - Posada, is the Director of our Youth drop in Center. This project began 3 years ago to address the needs of homeless youth 25 years and younger. Needs of homeless youth are different from homeless adults. Many youth have been exploited by adults, some have mental and substance abuse issues. Some are kicked out by parents who are ashamed of sexual orientation, etc. or some run away from abusive homes, many are aged out of foster care, and end up on their own, with few skills for taking care of themselves. In 2015, we had over 400 unduplicated services in our drop in center. Stats are unreliable, and it is difficult to know how many youth are homeless. Nationwide there is a need to quantify the numbers of youth who are in need of services. Both school districts have Title X monies that can help with school pictures, sports fees, etc.

Posada has acquired a building on Norman Lane in the process of trying to fund the rehabilitation of this building for a youth shelter. We hope to provide a home like environment that will support the youth who live there. The city is willing to help with the rehab; we are pursuing the licensing, which is tenuous. This program will require staff on site 24/7 for supervision. We will need funding for staffing and operation.

B) School District 60 and School District 70 have released their numbers for 2016. School District 60 had a count of 1,415 children being identified as homeless and within a family setting. 67 students self-identified as unaccompanied youth. School District 70 reported a number of 23.

### V. Other Business:

Galen Beaver is working on trying to find a DMV person to talk to the group about acceptable documents that the State will accept. If you have any ideas, or want presentations regarding any issue, let us know and we will try to get speakers.

The meeting was adjourned 11:15 am. The next meeting will take place Tuesday April 19<sup>th</sup>.