Snohomish County Continuum of Care

Presented By

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Snohomish County Continuum of Care

- HUD Initiated CoC Planning in 1994
- Comprehensive and Coordinated Planning Process
- CoC is required to receive funding for--
  - Supportive Housing Program
  - Shelter plus Care
  - SRO Moderate Rehabilitation
Inclusive & Community-Wide Planning

- Housing for the Homeless:
  - Emergency Shelter
  - Transitional Housing
  - Permanent and Permanent Supportive Housing
- Services for the Homeless
- Outreach
- Prevention of Homelessness
Inclusive & Community-Wide Planning

- All Homeless Populations
  - Families with and without Children
  - Individuals
- All Subpopulations
  - Disabled – Severely Mentally Ill, Chronic Substance Abuse, AIDS/HIV
  - Domestic Violence
  - Veterans
  - Youth
Broad Participation

- Non Profits (including faith-based)
- Business
- Government
- Public Housing Authorities
- Homeless and/or Formerly Homeless
- Other Agencies and Interested Persons
Continuum of Care Planning

• Strategies and Plans
  • Long, medium and short term goals
  • Annual planning and goals
• Increased Coordination and Collaboration
• Coordination with other Plans and Planning Efforts
• Identify and fill Gaps in Housing and Services
• Data / Information Collection
• Analysis and Evaluation
Snohomish County Continuum of Care

- Snohomish County Homeless Policy Task Force is the local Continuum of Care body
- Snohomish County Lead Agency
- City of Everett – largest city
- Multiple Agencies and Individuals Participate
Snohomish County Continuum of Care

- Early 1990’s first local planning efforts
- The homeless system consisted primarily of isolated non-profit agencies
- Very minimal coordination or collaboration
- First Significant CoC planning Effort 1996-1997
- Culminated in a 5-year Strategic Plan
- Annual Planning 1998 – Current
- Intensive 10-year Plan Effort 2005-2006
Snohomish County Continuum of Care

- Federal and HUD Priorities
  - Data collection and reporting 2004 by Congressional direction
    - Homeless Management Information System (HMIS) and Point-in-Time (PIT)
  - Housing Inventory (ES, TH, PSH)
  - Performance Measures and Outcomes
  - Use of Mainstream Resources
  - Employment
Snomenish County Continuum of Care

- Federal and HUD Priorities
  - Discharge Planning – corrections, mental health, health care and foster care
  - Coordination and Collaboration
  - Consistency with Consolidated Plan
  - Reduction of Regulatory Barriers to Affordable Housing
  - Chronic Homelessness - 2004
  - Veterans
10-Year Plan

- **Washington State Law – 2005 to Reduce Homelessness by 50% funded through document recording fees**
  - Homeless Housing and Assistance ACT

- **HUD Continuum of Care, including 5 HUD Objectives to End Chronic Homelessness and Move Families and Individuals to Permanent Housing**
  - Annual Continuum of Care Funding Competition

- Resulted in Coordinated Planning
10-Year Planning

- Community-wide Planning
  - Address HUD Requirements
  - Address State Requirements
  - Local Needs
  - Started in 2005
  - Completed in 2006
  - Annual Planning
Homeless Housing and Assistance Act

- Requires County Governments To
  - Develop a 10-year Plan to reduce homelessness by 50%
  - Conduct an Annual Point-in-Time count
  - Use local portion of document recording fee to reduce homelessness
  - Encourage to use local portion of document recording fee to implement Homeless Management Information System
Homeless Housing and Assistance Act

- State Required To
  - Work with Interagency Council on Homelessness and Affordable Housing Advisory Board to Develop a 10-year Plan to Reduce Homelessness by 2015
  - Develop an Annual Report of State and Local Progress on 10-year Plans
  - Implement HMIS
  - Technical Assistance to Counties and Pass through Document Recording Fees
HUD Continuum of Care

- HUD is Required to Report Congress
  - Annual Homeless Assessment Report (AHAR)
    - HMIS Data Elements
    - Housing Inventory Chart
    - Populations and Subpopulations Chart

- Current and Future CoC Funding Tied to HMIS and AHAR
“Everyone@Home NOW”

Our Vision

We view homelessness as intolerable

Our vision is that every person in Snohomish County has safe, appropriate, and affordable housing.
Recommendations

Snohomish County believes that ending homelessness is a critical foundation for increasing our community’s social and economic health.

- Six long term policies were identified to created sustainable solutions to end homelessness by 2016.
Recommendation 1

Expand affordable housing coupled with appropriate support services where need is more prevalent

- Permanent, Service Enriched and other Innovative Models
- Combine housing with services to keep people housed.
- Increase housing for the homeless by 2500 units over 10 years.
Recommendation 2

Expand homeless prevention services

- Increase resources for prevention that keeps families and individuals housed
  - Rent/mortgage assistance
  - Deposit and utility assistance
- Re-housing people costs four times more than keeping people housed
- Develop skilled housing search and housing placement
Recommendation 3

Develop a community wide access system to minimize the duration and impact of homelessness and maximizing effective resource allocation

- To reduce multiple contact points and waitlists, and streamline access
- To decrease impact on those experiencing homelessness and duration of homelessness
- To Improve the identification of housing and service needs of the homeless
- Increase effectiveness and efficiency of Prevention and Rehousing
Recommendation 4

Base the development of new housing stock and services upon accurate need and capacity data

- Accurate and timely data and evaluation
- Needs Assessments and Outcomes
- Inform Planning and Funding
- A Housing Production Plan that Includes the Needs of the Homeless.
Recommendation 5

Provide funding to maintain existing housing and services that demonstrate measurable outcomes and overall progress towards ending homelessness

- Existing projects and services must demonstrate continuing need and achieved outcomes.
- New models must be strategically planned and not overwhelm current capacity.
Recommendation 6

Develop housing coupled with appropriate support services targeted for chronically homeless persons.

- Create and increase the number of housing types and resources.
- Create barrier free housing for those not eligible for other housing options.
Improving Mainstream Services

If Snohomish County is to end homelessness, public mainstream agencies and services must work together

- Washington State and Snohomish County Corrections
- Veterans Services
- Mental Health and Substance Abuse
- Health Care and Dental Care
- Education
- Employment
- Youth Systems
- Disabilities
Implementation

- Oversight Committee for Plan Implementation
- Improve data collection, analysis, and evaluation
- Cost analysis for creating permanent housing and services
- Develop strategic objectives and an action plan
- Develop a housing production plan
- Map out annual timelines and implementation responsibilities
Homeless Management Information System (HMIS)

- **History**
  - HUD was directed by Congress to work with jurisdictions to gather homeless data by 2004.
  - HMIS Data and Technical Standards published July 04.
  - Required CoC’s to implement a centralized database (HMIS) to collect information on homeless households accessing homeless services including: Emergency Shelter, Transitional Housing, Permanent Supportive Housing, Prevention and Outreach.
The Homelessness and Housing Assistance Act passed in 2005 required CTED to implement a statewide HMIS system.

- Because of this requirement, counties are required to submit HMIS data on a monthly basis to Commerce through a Data Sharing Agreement via integration.
  - Counties have the option of directly entering data into the Commerce HMIS.

- Where does this data go?
  - State – client level data
  - HUD – aggregate data
HMIS

• What is this data used for?
  • State level – used to produce State Performance Measures Report, DOC Reports, and HMIS data sent to RDA is used to produce reports on cross-systems analysis.
  • Federal level – used to produce both project level reports and system reports including:
    • Annual Homeless Assessment Report (AHAR) – annual report used to inform Congress and HUD about homelessness in each CoC.
    • Annual Progress Reports – project level reports used by HUD for performance review.
  • Local level – used for reviewing system efficiency, project performance, education, monitoring, and planning.
HMIS

• What is collected?

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Universal Data Elements</th>
<th>Program Specific Elements</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Name</td>
<td>Income and Sources</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Social Security Number</td>
<td>Non-Cash Benefits</td>
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<tr>
<td>Date of Birth</td>
<td>Physical Disability</td>
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<td>Ethnicity and Race</td>
<td>Dev. Disability</td>
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<tr>
<td>Gender</td>
<td>HIV/AIDS</td>
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<tr>
<td>Veteran Status</td>
<td>Mental Health</td>
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<td>Disabling condition</td>
<td>Substance Abuse</td>
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<td>Res. prior to program entry</td>
<td>Domestic Violence</td>
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<td>Homeless Status</td>
<td>Services Received</td>
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<td>Program entry and exit date</td>
<td>Destination</td>
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<td>Zip Code of last permanent address</td>
<td>Reasons for leaving</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Employment</td>
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<td>Education</td>
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<td></td>
<td>General health status</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Pregnancy Status</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Veteran’s information</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Children’s Education</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
HMIS: Local timeline

- Snohomish County History/Timeline
  - 2005: Snohomish County, selected as the lead agency, implemented HMIS system SAFE HARBORS (partnership with City of Seattle and CTED/Commerce)
  - 2008: purchased new system (Client Track) thru Data Systems International
    - March – June: customized software to county and agency needs and to ensure HUD compliance.
    - Summer-Fall: after testing was complete, the system went live.
    - 2010 – implemented new HUD Data Standards
How are we doing?

- Total HMIS coverage is strong – approximately 98%
  - This will mark the 3\textsuperscript{rd} year of AHAR participation – which requires quality data- HUD won’t accept “junk”
  - We’ve strengthened our local policies and procedures
    - Now includes a data quality plan with benchmarks
  - We’ve strengthened our training and relative documents:
    - Client Track Manual
    - Reports training
    - Data sharing training
    - Privacy
- Agencies are using Client Track above and beyond HMIS
What’s next?

- Required to report on HEARTH ACT performance measures
  - Reduce the # of people becoming homeless
  - Reduce the length of homelessness
  - Reduce the returns to homelessness
  - Reduce overall homeless
  - Increase jobs and income
  - Thoroughness reaching homeless
  - Other accomplishments related to ending homeless
Point in Time Count

- **Background:** HUD and Commerce require that a PIT count of homeless households be conducted annually.
  - Snohomish County has conducted PIT count since 2004.
  - Required to follow HUD requirements on how we count, who we count and when we count.
    - Required to conduct a street count and facility count (including emergency shelters and transitional housing programs).
      - Permanent Supportive Housing Programs fill out subpopulations chart.
Point in Time Count

- Background
  - 04-06: data entered into spreadsheet for analysis
  - 07-08: data entered into access database
  - 09: developed new PIT database housed in Client Track
  - 2010-2012: started using HMIS for sheltered count (those residing in shelter, transitional, and permanent supportive housing).
## Point in Time Count

- **Required to collect:** see Subpopulations chart
- **Snohomish County collects additional information on:**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Causes of homelessness</th>
<th>Needs</th>
<th>Income</th>
<th>Span of homelessness</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Zip code of last permanent address</td>
<td>Jail survey</td>
<td>Veterans Benefits</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Housing Inventory Chart

- Collects unit inventory for ES, TH and PSH (CTED requests data on Services only projects).
- Last 2 years this report has nearly doubled in information collected
- Inventory Chart should line up with HMIS and PIT data for facility information.
- Now collects the following:
  - See HIC
Snohomish County Continuum of Care 2006 - 2009

- Snohomish County Homeless Policy Task Force
- Coordinating Committee
- 10 Strategic Objectives and Action Teams in Year 2006
- 5 Strategic Objectives and Action Teams in Year 2007
  - Prevention
  - Housing and Services
  - Community Engagement
  - Political/Leadership Engagement
  - Increased Coordination and Resources
Snohomish County Continuum of Care

- Ad Hoc and Sub Groups
  - Rating and Ranking
  - Chronic Homeless
  - Youth
  - Discharge Planning
  - Community Case Management
  - Rental Assistance Continuum
  - New project/collaboration groups
  - Point-in-Time
  - HMIS Users Group
Continuum of Care/10 year planning

- Main Data Collection
  - Homeless Management Information System
  - Point in Time Count
  - Housing Inventory Chart
    - Subpopulations Chart
- AHAR
- CTED Annual Report
Recent CoC Activities and Changes

The HEARTH ACT of 2009 is bringing about many changes

- Focus shifts from managing homelessness to ending homelessness
- Rapidly rehouse homeless persons
- Emphasis on performance
- Systems perspective and performance
- Pressure to stop funding low performing projects
Recent CoC Activities and Changes

The HEARTH ACT of 2009 is bringing about many changes

- **Formalized CoC Governance Structure**
  - Specific HUD requirements

- **Coordinated Assessment**
  - Same tool, same process & eligibility

- **Project changes**
  - Definitions
  - Activities
  - Types – expanded to include RRH