

## COMMISSION ON DISABILITIES

### November 7, 2013 MINUTES

#### Commissioners Present:

Susan Dye, JoAnn Fritsche, Don Izenman, Roxanne Miles, Gerrit Nyland, Lois Stark

#### Staff Present:

Gail Himes, Diane Powers, Marya Gingrey, Kim Dodds, Kelly Crouch

**Guests Present:** Ken Gibson (TACID), Jane (guest of JoAnn Fritsche), Frank Gavaldon, Genal Gavaldon

**Call to Order:** The meeting was called to order. The agenda was accepted as presented. The minutes of the October 3, 2013 meeting were accepted as presented.

#### **Presentation: Mental Health Chemical Dependency Program - Kim Dodds, Program Coordinator**

- Ms. Dodds reported about the .1% Mental Health Sales Tax program, which the City of Tacoma began collecting in April 2012. From the very beginning, the city's goals were to provide services in the following areas:
  - Community Based Care Services that would increase community access to individuals who were either uninsured or underinsured.
  - Jail and hospital diversion by expanding services for clients leaving hospitals, jails or other crisis facilities, while increasing housing capacity for this same population.
  - Programs Targeted to Help Youth by increasing supportive services for uninsured or underinsured youth struggling with mental health and/or chemical dependency.
- The funds collected are only from what is collected within the City of Tacoma and the funds can only be spent on residents from the City of Tacoma. These funds are available only to cities with more than 30,000 residents.
- The homeless population is being helped with these funds when they have been discharged from hospitals or jails as they need to have a bed to go to right away. The city has begun to purchase 'beds' so that the homeless population can go directly to these 'reserved' beds. While receiving stabilization housing, individuals with co-occurring disorders will receive counseling and be offered services provided under comprehensive life connection program.
- The City of Tacoma SCORE program embeds a full time mental health professional at the South Correctional Entity (SCORE). This professional provides assessments and evaluations to the court in an effort to divert individuals away from long-term incarceration and works to create a jail transition plan allowing individuals to be discharged from jail with a clear direction of where they may obtain supportive services needed to successfully reintegrate into the community.

#### **Presentation: Human Rights Complaint Investigations and Update on Suggested Changes to TMC Chapter 1.29 – Marya Gingrey, Human Rights Manager**

- Ms. Gingrey reported about Human Rights complaint investigation process, including an Intake Flow Chart. This included the EEOC, HUD and ADA processes.
- She gave handouts to the commissioners and guests.



### **Director's Report: (Tansy Hayward)**

- Division Manager, Diane Powers reported for Director Hayward.
- The Comprehensive Emergency Management Plan will be updated at the December 12 PSHSE council meeting.
- There will be community clean ups occurring in 2014. Applications will be available on the Community Based Services website and will be due on February 1.
- The CDBG program and HOME funds will continue to be reduced in the future.
- The current predictions are that CDBG, HOME and ESG will be reduced by 5% annually for the next 10 years. There are some members of Congress who recommend complete elimination of the CDBG and HOME programs.
- Ms. Powers is working on a program to assist citizens to complete their federal taxes.

### **TACID Report (Ken Gibson):**

- Mr. Gibson handed out a report to the commissioners concerning the challenges and opportunities at TACID. The report also includes changes that will occur during 2014.
- TACID will be discontinuing the following programs:
  - Permanent Supportive Housing Services (Pierce County Community Connections will take over this program).
  - Independent Living for Older Blind Adults service (Consumers who are over 55 will be referred to the Dept. of Services for the Blind).
- TACID will still support the following programs:
  - Information and Referral
  - Informal Education Workshops
  - Wellness Activities
  - Self-Sufficiency
  - Advocacy
  - Peer Support, Needs Assessments and Goal Planning and Coaching for the Low Vision and Blind Consumers (under the age of 55).
  - Social and Recreation Opportunities
  - Coaching and Individual Plans
  - Employment Services
  - Volunteers and Consumer Engagement

### **New Business Items:**

- Chair Nyland discussed the End of the Year Celebration, which will be held on December 5 from 4:00pm to 6:00pm. Plans of the event were discussed by the commissioners.
- Commissioner Dye asked if there was a COD Retreat schedule for January 2014. Chair Nyland suggested that a committee be put together to plan this event. Ideas for the retreat were discussed by the commission members. A tentative date of Saturday, January 11 was set. A location will be determined.



**Good of the Order/Announcements:**

- Commissioner Stark mentioned that this was her last official meeting as a commissioner, as her term was up.

The meeting was adjourned at 6:10 pm.

Next Meeting – February 6, 2014, 4:00-6:00pm at TACID

