



Clark County Commission on Aging
1300 Franklin Street, 6th Floor
Vancouver, Washington

Meeting Notes

Tuesday, September 17, 2013

4:30 p.m. – 6:00 p.m.

Members Present: Gary Beagle, Chuck Frayer, Patti Gray, Bob Holdridge, Kathy McLaughlin, Lisa Rasmussen, Randy Scheel, Kiersten Ware, Karin Woll

Community Partners: Klaus Micheel, David Kelly

Staff: Colette Anderson, Jacqui Kamp, Mary Beth O'Donnell

Welcome and Call to Order

- Gary Beagle, commission chair, opened the meeting at 4:30. The agenda was approved. Meeting minutes from June 18th and the summary of the August 20th retreat were unanimously approved as submitted.
- Chair report
 - At the August retreat priorities were set for accomplishments in 2013–14. Consultant, Gary Had, facilitated.

Project Updates

- Randy Scheel, Telehealth: The conference will be October 2nd, 8:00–noon. A panel of five speakers will present topics based on their expertise. It will be a very comprehensive overview of all aspects – medical, quality of life, technology, reimbursement and regulatory. The county website offers a registration option. 50 signed up to date. All citizens and professionals invited to attend.
- Kathy McLaughlin, Time Banking: Program for people to volunteer their time and bank an equal amount of time to be returned to them in a way that meets their needs. Subcommittees are working on a feasibility plan for Clark County to be completed by the end of the year then move forward in 2014.
- Chuck Frayer, Universal Green Design: 70% draft plan complete. Committee member, Jim Wilson, has been following up leads for information. They must go through the National and International Code Councils (ICC). Contact with those agencies has proven to be difficult. The ICC is the overriding body that recommends code changes then the states and counties pass those. The committee knows what and how they want to proceed, however the next step is figuring out how to put that into code. The goal is to reach more than just the county and try and have an effect at the state and national level.

- Bob Holdridge, Shared Housing: The housing subcommittee has been working most of this year to establish a program in Clark County. The Portland area shared housing program has agreed to extend their program into Clark County. Once a business plan and details have been worked out, the committee hopes to kick off the program in 2014. The next step is conducting a community awareness effort with as many local social service, client and membership organizations as possible. With the upcoming large number of retirees on limited income, this program could be a benefit to them.

Presentation: Shared Housing by Michele Fiasca and Zoe Morrison, managers of Portland Let's Share Housing Program:

- Let's Share Housing website was launched in 2010 as a way to help those moderately low-income people, who are not eligible for public housing support and can't afford retirement facilities, find housing. In addition to the website, "meet-ups" were created so people could meet face-to-face with those interested and learn more about it.
- They were contacted about one year ago by county staff and asked to attend a Housing subcommittee meeting. Since then they've been working with Bob and the committee to formulate a timeline and a plan.
- Definition: two or more unrelated people sharing a home together. Purpose of the program is to educate people and give them the tools they need to be successful. Not limited by age, but obvious need is with the boomer generation due to their increasing numbers.
- Benefits: affordability; increased sense of security and safety; saves government money in costs to build enough affordable housing to accommodate the growing number of those in need; become proactive in choosing compatible housemates where you can age in place together at a fraction of the cost of doing it on your own; encourages healthy social relationships and eliminates isolation.
- Website gives people a place to create a profile and effectively communicate; offers in-depth questionnaire to help match people; is confidential, can communicate and remain anonymous, photos of the home and the person are shown.
- Series of workshops will be available next year to introduce the program, offer information on each phase and answer questions. They have people (either live or through video) and resources to provide support through the application and selection process. If legal advice is necessary, they will offer the ability to participate in the LegalShield process, a low cost alternative to regular attorney fees.
- Due diligence: they use "Victig" company for screening and background checks for a fee of \$24.95. This covers criminal history, financial background and eviction reports. These are kept confidentially on site. Since the actual report cannot be divulged, a scoring system is used to rate clients and that is shared with potential users. A two week trial period is recommended between the two parties prior to making a commitment.
- More details available at info@letssharehousing.com

Questions:

- How was this program launched in Portland?

- The training program hasn't launched in Portland so Clark County would be a pilot project.
- Is being a web-based program a barrier to older people?
 - Yes, it can be a barrier. Recently, Elders in Action has stepped up to teach home seekers and providers how to fill out their profile and learn to do the messaging and emails. Workshops and case managers will also help coach in this area.
- How many people have been linked up in Portland?
 - About 50-60. Website does not have a reporting mechanism now but is being worked on to track where people have been successful and where they may fall out.
- What about liability insurance?
 - An agent is currently looking into that.
- How can you make money?
 - Criminal history background check costs them \$14.95 and they charge \$24.95. Their idea is to charge small amounts from a lot of different sources so there's not one large cost to one person. There will be a charge for the workshops. They will likely charge the homeowner for receiving an ongoing income stream, similar to an adult placement agency.
- Are you going to have any kind of infrastructure or grants that will pay the fees for those who can't afford to?
 - They've discussed that. Maybe the intake processes of the social service organizations in Clark County could help to provide that sort of support to people who are seekers. They're putting a V Corp into place, and part of the company will be a non-profit. That non-profit will seek grants to provide scholarships for additional support to those in need, including the workshops.
 - Looking for a fiscal sponsor so they can file for a 501c3 status.
- What is the feedback from users about their success?
 - Currently there isn't a mechanism for reporting back but they've heard from approximately 25% of their clients about their experiences through email or phone calls.
- Is there competition?
 - There are programs nationally, but locally Ecumenical Ministries closed the doors. There's Craig's List, but it's very different than this program so not truly a competitor.
- Have you talked to the folks in Southern California that you modeled this program from to see what their success rate is?
 - They have been established for 25 years and their success rate is about 75%.
- What is the age of the person using shared housing in Portland?
 - 50-75, more women than men.
- Are you going to expand the resource list into Clark County?
 - Yes, and referrals are welcome.
- Are the background checks thorough enough to protect vulnerable adults?
 - The background checks extend nationally, not just local. They check eviction, financial, and criminal history. They can't take away all the elements but through the process, they try to eliminate as many potential risks as possible.

Bob Holdridge entered the following motion to the commission members for approval:

To approve the Housing subcommittee work to date and authorize the committee to continue to assist the Portland Shared Housing program in establishing a Shared Housing Program in Clark County and include conducting a community and social service agency awareness project regarding this new and upcoming program for Clark County.

Member's discussed their reservations and concerns about this motion. They would like to see a business plan before approving the program in Clark County and want to see how this will work with other agencies in Clark County that might be able to assist as partners.

The following amended motion was entered:

That the CoA's Housing subcommittee support the Portland Shared Housing Program in investigating the establishment of a program in Clark County.

This amended motion was seconded and unanimously approved by commission members.

Open Issues

- Volunteer Hours: The policy and procedure has been reviewed by the commission. A motion was entered to approve and seconded. Clarification was made that hours can be lumped together when submitted. The motion was unanimously approved by the commission.
- Motion to change the By-laws to allow for a checking account for funding purposes, with a change in the policy and procedures to be forthcoming for a vote, and Kiersten Ware will act as Treasurer, was entered and seconded. Motion was unanimously approved by the commission.
- Next work session October 15 at 3:30pm. Agenda items will be follow up on the Telehealth conference and "Rules of the Road" by Chris Cook.

Public Comment

- None.

Thank you to Michele and Zoe of Shared Housing Portland for the presentation.

Meeting adjourned at 6:00 p.m.

Adjournment