
From: Christine Mansfield <countrygirlinnw@gmail.com>
Sent: Sunday, October 11, 2020 4:13 PM
To: Cathy Halka
Cc: Barry Buchanan
Subject: HSW - WINTER 2020

HSW, specifically Michael Berres,

Please consider including in the HSW a local provider representing homelessness network facilitators and professionals assisting people experiencing

- poor mental health
- disability
- substance abuse issues

directly whose expertise can provide data consistent with the needs of afflicted unhoused neighbors in our region in addition to those whom you have come to recognize.

Immediate | Winter

The condition of compromised personal ability for self care and survival is less than adequate to survive winter conditions in our region without assistance from the family/friends and/or direct intervention by the public.

Program providers may need to be amplified to meet unanticipated high volume of emergency or critical need of this demographic: Homeless persons experiencing behavioral health conditions, chronic substance abuse, and/or mental illness.

Please include in the HSW additional member(s) of •local independent citizens• who provide daily care as retired nurses and care workers, homelessness survivors (survivors of trauma who are stabilized and dedicated to reforms), and/or local daily street outreach providers IN ADDITION to affiliated or existing represented agencies. These citizens are uniquely positioned with people in crisis, whose real-time daily contact with the people re their health and DAILY sustainability is vital to anticipating threat, advocating need, and sounding any alarms.

We have some profoundly dedicated local citizens in direct contact with high at-risk population who have voiced relative ongoing concerns in meetings and in public comments (Ex Shari Lapof) whose wisdom is needed for winter emergency response. Please heed their warnings and address concerns being presented as quickly and efficiently as possible.

Rain and cold season is generally debilitating to our unhoused neighbors, and further exacerbated when mental health and behavioral conditions exist. Some may not survive. Added COVID19 strain will make this a difficult winter for many. Without coordinating access points that are EASILY recognizable, people with compromised mental or physical ability will need direct assistance.

Longterm Resources

GRANT RESEARCH Please identify local agencies that would qualify for State or State facilitated Federal grant programs, identifying programs that exist or do not exist (and are needed), are being used, or could potentially serve our area (what sorts of service providers we lack that could potentially be coordinated with community assistance to CREATE.)

Can the PATH program serve additional agencies in Whatcom County? (Example of a service currently using PATH- Compass Health)

Please review grant and application data and dates due of any similar grant that can effectively reduce disparity and strengthen our network of supporters now and in the new year.

Reaching out to community organizers by establishing a NEED/help wanted ad could enlist potential providers in our area to answer the call.

Please forward information and requirements to any existing agencies who could presumably and effectively qualify (and in a timely manner affording the planning needed for any potential local group to apply and use in the new year). An ongoing roster

of potential grant applicants could help promote pathways for growth of needed services by maintaining contact when opportunities arise.

If a lack of services is discovered, please make record of this lack and advertise this need as official bulletins to recruit agencies or potential groups who could pool their resources to coincide with a particular local objective. Our community can help.

Short and longterm solutions exist and will come to fruition if we plant the seeds today. Thank you for your ongoing commitment and work towards solutions which is greatly appreciated.

JC Mansfield

PATH <https://www.samhsa.gov/homelessness-programs-resources/grant-programs-services/path>