

# **Beacon Center Stakeholder Meeting Notes**

## **November 21, 2019**

### **Introduction and Overview**

- Review of the Beacon Center Renovation Project meeting on October 17, 2019.
- Four topics were discussed, with small breakout sessions on each topic.
  - The discussion topics were services for seniors and youth & young adults, design of the Beacon Center, relocation during the renovation, and general questions/comments.
- If you have signed up for email updates, you will receive the notes from the last meeting, as well as all notes going forward. If you have not opted for email updates, you may find printed notes at the Beacon Activity Center.
- The next meeting will take place on Thursday, January 16, 2020, with a presentation on the renovation design options.

### **Meeting Norms**

- Setting 'Meeting Norms' for this and all future meetings.
  - Treat each other with dignity and respect.
  - Be genuine with each other.
  - Listen to understand.
  - Practice being open minded.
  - Present problems in a way that creates mutual discussion.
  - Do not take anything personal.
  - Ask questions before assuming.
  - Be 'solution' focused.
  - Community input:
    - One person talks at time.
    - Be mindful of time and how much space you are using, to give others in the discussion room for input.
    - Everyone should feel respected and safe.

### **Youth & Young Adult Services Overview**

- In 2015, the City collaborated with CLR (Comprehensive Life Resources) to provide drop-in shelter services to youth & young adults at the Beacon Activity Center.
  - This is currently the only drop-in youth shelter in Pierce Co.
  - Before 2015, it had been more than 30 years for youth & young adult shelter services.
- Youth & Young Adult services serve ages 12-24 years.
  - The HYPE Center serves 50-60 participants a day, from the hours of 8:30a-7p.
    - Jacob Nao, Shelter Program Manager for CLR and HYPE Center, states that out of 210 YYA served in 2019, thus far, 60 have received housing and several have established reunification.
    - They provide services such as mental health, MHSUD support services, and case management.

### **Senior Services Overview**

- In the age of computers and technology, many seniors do not have that knowledge or access to it.
  - Would be helpful to have computers that are equipped with access to Microsoft Office programs, the internet, and USB capabilities, as well as a training on use of the computer programs.
  - There are seniors who want to work and utilize their expertise, not just volunteer, even for just a few hours a week.
    - Would like opportunities to work with the youth & young adults to build relationships and help one another.
    - Possibly have paid mentorships for the seniors to help the youth & young adults.
  - Would like access to transportation for the Beacon (previously there was a van).

- Possible volunteer opportunities for youth & young adults to staff the van on senior outings and field trips, to assist the seniors.

- **Comments**

- Community members spoke that there is a third party to this discussion not being heard – the neighbors.
  - There are real safety risks with having the youth & young adults at the Beacon Activity Center, causing a need for security.
    - The youth & young adults are not considerate of the community's needs, including excessive noise and suspected drug dealings.
    - Onsite counseling of the youth & young adults is not adequate, need to include continuous onsite monitoring and rules/regulations for use of the Center.
  - Would be helpful for the community members and neighbors to know the results of who has completed the program, resulting in housing.

- **Questions**

- What about general safety and having a security presence? What about onsite monitoring?
  - There was previously a security service that did onsite monitoring, and we are currently looking at other options.
- Are there plans, in the interim, to bring the seniors and youth/young adults together to discuss the updates and plans?
  - Yes, there is a plan to have smaller group sessions to bring the two populations together to bridge the gap.
- Can you hire a staff to accompany the youth & young adults during the transition timing between arriving/entering the Center?
  - This will be further explored and considered.
  - Suggest asking for volunteers for this role.
    - There are community members who want to be involved, such as college students and those needing to fulfill community service hours.
      - This can also serve as an opportunity to bring smaller groups together and build the relationship between the seniors, youth & young adults, and the community/neighbors.
        - Possibly develop a 'Community Board' that could help to handle these issues.
          - CLR currently has a Board that consists of a variety of community members and providers.
- Will services at the new center be geared towards seniors and youth/young adults?
  - Yes they are.
- Is this a time to discuss the services that seniors would like, or just a listening session?
  - Yes, this is the time to discuss services. We are hearing what you are saying regarding what services you want to be at the Center.
- Is there a way to have mirrored programs at both Beacon Activity Center and Lighthouse Activity Center versus having different programs at each?
  - Yes, Kristine will work with center staff.
- Is there transportation, such as a van, for Beacon Activity Center?
  - KWA will look into having transportation for the Beacon Center