

Accomplishments, challenges and goals 2011-2012



North Shore
Homelessness Task Force

HOMELESSNESS ACTION PLAN 2008-2018

1. Maintaining linkages to related initiatives and work
2. Gathering of information and evidence
3. Establishing and maintaining a communications strategy
4. Advocating for a continuum of housing
5. Advocating for a continuum of support services
6. Advocating for adequate income levels and employment training

Summary of Recent Accomplishments

- **Emergency Shelters & Transition Houses**
 - Hollyburn expanded transitional housing for youth (8 beds)
 - Outreach efforts targeting extremely hard to house
- **Continuum of Support Services**
 - Integrated Case Management (ICM) - better coordination & connections with local services
 - Hollyburn/Lionsview Seniors Outreach program
 - Shower Program at Recreation Centre (Saturday mornings) – shower, breakfast, support services
 - Expanded drop in programs including St. Andrews offering lunch, coffee and connection to supports & North Lonsdale Community Dinner
 - Central (one-stop) source for information on affordable housing – CMHA produces & circulates weekly housing list (rentals under \$1000)

- **Health, Mental Health & Addictions services**

- Community Nurse Practitioner providing low threshold services out in the community
- VCH Needle exchange service
- HAW Connect event at JBCC
- Dignity Day at Salvation Army
- Quarterly health connect events at Lookout Housing Centre
- Hospital SWs working closely with ICM coordinator when planning discharge for homeless clients
- VCH Mental Health, chronic disease & MDs also actively involved in ICM

• **Continuum of Housing**

(NSHTF played advocacy role)

- Anavets –Old building being replaced with new four story building with 76 affordable units for seniors (addition of 18 new units)
- Need for continuum of housing (including emergency, transitional and social housing) is recognized in both District of North Vancouver and City of North Vancouver Official Community Plans
- DNV & CNV's have been supportive of the Regional Affordable Housing Strategy, such as providing municipal land, pre-zoning/designating development sites, partnering, reducing fees and processing times for affordable housing projects etc.

- **Adequate Income and employment training**

- North Shore Culinary School at Lookout – Chef training - free for people in need (funded by BC Housing). Intake is 8 to 10 students per program and preference is given to NS residents.
- Chef training program at Salvation Army
- Hollyburn – employment training initiatives for youth
- Efforts underway to expand opportunities

Challenges

- Very high housing costs, low availability
- No permanent supported housing
- Income assistance/PWD rates not keeping up with housing/living costs
- No dental services, difficult to get family doctor
- Limited access to immediate needs such as food, drinks, blankets, clothing, bathrooms, shower, laundry & personal hygiene
- Limited access to drop-in spaces
- Many homeless individuals are still reporting that they do not feel welcome in most public facilities
- Resources are stretched, struggle with funding

2011 Work Plan Review

- Update work plan
- Update *Housing vulnerable populations* report (inventory of local emergency/social housing & resources)
- Survey to determine priorities
- Set goals for next 3 years

Priorities for 2012-2015

- 1. Increase transitional housing programs (including various vulnerable populations)**
- 2. Rehab – Support Recovery Facility**
- 3. Expand employment programs/employment training programs**
- 4. Improve communications and increase political engagement (Communications)**
- 5. Create targeted services for the chronically street entrenched and extremely hard to house**

Looking ahead

- We have formed sub-committees to address each priority area
- Five priority areas are regular NSHTF agenda items
- We are developing a communications strategy that includes media, political engagement, business engagement and educating the public
- We will work with student interns to gather local statistics of housing resources and service use
- We are working towards more regular connect events, but also engaging dentists, optometrists and other health professionals to provide in-kind services to homeless population

Presenter Contact Info

- **Leya Eguchi – NSHTF Coordinator & Holyburn Family Services Case Worker:**
leguchi@hollyburn.ca
- **David Newberry – Lookout North Shore Housing Centre Community Liaison:**
nscommunity@lookoutsociety.ca