

MINUTES – Sitka Homeless Initiative for Transitions (SHIFT) – Work Group

SEPTEMBER 4, 2013

1. CALL TO ORDER & ROLL CALL

Present: Dorrie Farrell, Evadne Wright, Dave Nuetzel, Chester Miyasato, Donna Callistini, Jack and Judy Ozment, Lynnda Strong, Julia Smith, Ellen Daily, and Mary Wegner

2. DISCUSSION OF NEED FOR HOMELESS SHELTER AND HOMELESS TRANSITIONAL HOUSING IN SITKA

General Feasibility Discussion/Comments: Dorrie provided some context about the definition of homeless/transitional housing.

Pros

- We have many partners who share our mission: SAFV, Police, STA, BIHA, SA, YAS, Sitka Counseling
- Realtors may also have resources for us regarding vacant buildings
- We have a very real need in the community
- STA to hold a strategic planning meeting this fall should be helpful
- We should be able to provide this resource/we shouldn't turn people away
- We have buildings vacant in town that could use
- We need to find money to hire a development position to deal with the details
- Youth Build might be an option
- There are best practices available for us to use as a base - Donna will assemble a packet of info on best practices for the board members
- STA domestic violence resources are for all Sitkans

Cons

- Lots of factors to consider before we jump in
- Lots of questions about how to get there
- Where do we start?
- What is the personal liability for Board members if we get a facility?
- Funding, funding, funding
- Must be a cooperative venture, as Easter Group doesn't have the capacity to do this alone
- There is a whole lot of work between where we are and where we need to go
- We need to identify the talents we need to bring together to make this happen
- On-going funding is year to year
- How do we ensure that all of the players are at the table?
- Is 10 beds too much, and could we start smaller?

3. ITEMS NEEDING RESEARCH BY COMMITTEES: (Items not discussed at this meeting)

- Gather data on those needing services:** Committee Members to Gather Data? Possible Sources of Info? Estimated Time Frame for Research & Report?
- Identify local partners who share EG mission in efforts to provide housing:** Committee Members to Identify & Make Contacts? Estimated Time Frame for Research and Report?
- Possible Locations for a Shelter and/or Transitional Housing:** Committee members to do research? Possible sources of info? Estimated Time Frame for Research and Report?
- Possible sources of funding for housing:** Committee to research possible sources of funds? Committee to prepare grant applications? Estimated Time Frame for Research & Report?