



January 2013 Newsletter

Peninsula Homeless to Housing Task Force

Providing leadership in the South Surrey White Rock communities

The Mission of PH2H is to assist people who are homeless or at risk of homelessness on the South Surrey White Rock Peninsula to live in safe and appropriate housing.

Please circulate our newsletter to your congregations and members. Send feedback or news to: petergreenwell@telus.net

NEXT MEETING:

Friday, January 11th at 9:45am, White Rock Baptist Church, 1657-140th St. Surrey with a presentation by Peter Fedos on the upcoming Greater Vancouver Shelter Strategy and impacts in South Surrey White Rock.

PH2H Goal: To improve access and availability of support services and shelters

Greater Vancouver Shelter Strategy Service Plan

PH2H Task Force has been asked by the Greater Vancouver Shelter Strategy, the umbrella group for all shelter providers across Metro Vancouver, to comment on their renewed Service Plan for the next three years. Copies of the Service Plan will be available at the PH2H January 11th meeting and we will consider the following issues:

1. *How well do the principles, strategies and goals in this document fit with Task Force plans and future directions?*
2. *Can the Task Force identify any areas of concern in the text, or parts that may need to be clarified?*
3. *Does the Task Force have any other feedback or input to offer?*
4. *Looking at this document and thinking of Task Force future directions, what areas of possible convergence would you see for our tables?*

Volunteering for Extreme Weather Shelters

To volunteer at the First United Church shelter please call Dick Avison at 604-531-6003. Volunteers greet guests when arriving at night; and providing coffee and soup in the morning. This year has already seen multiple openings and a great deal of volunteer effort.

PH2H Goal: Improve Community Awareness and Understanding of Homelessness

The State of Integrated Case Management

Integrated Case Management system was introduced across several provincial government ministries in April 2012. The BC government website says: *ICM has been developed in response to the repeated calls over*

the years to improve information sharing across government to support better outcomes for British Columbians who need government services and assistance. ICM is intended to ensure critical case information remains safe, secure and accessible to protect and support the citizens of British Columbia.

We want to get a sense of how the ICM system is working in the homeless sector. One homeless outreach worker said this about his ICM experience:

"My experiences haven't been bad. The online application is certainly useful. Trouble is when you get to the office they have to basically duplicate the questionnaire in-person. As well, many times the EAW's are blaming the system for slowness....and we sit around waiting for it to get going.

Do you have experience with the ICM system, good, bad or neutral? Are there specific improvements that could make the system work more effectively in the homeless sector? Please forward us your thoughts.

The Province newspaper reported efforts in the fall to fix the system cost an additional \$12 million, boosting the over-all bill for the system to \$194 million to date.

May 14, 2013 Provincial Election

On May 14, 2013 there will be a provincial election in British Columbia. Please let us know your concerns so that we can compile a list of questions for prospective candidates. We'll publish responses in a special election issue of our Newsletter. For information about registering to vote please visit the BC elections website: <http://www.elections.bc.ca/>

The new boundaries for the three constituencies in South Surrey/White Rock can be found here: <http://www.elections.bc.ca/index.php/voting/electoral-maps-profiles/va-maps-2012/>

Anyone interested in working on the elections please check the following link for future postings. <http://www.elections.bc.ca/index.php/about/employment/>

Food Security Fund

Working with the Peninsula Community Foundation (PCF), PH2H has developed a fund to support low-income food security in our community. Charitable Tax Receipts are available.

Contact Debbie Magson at PCF: Tel: 778-292-1367
Email: info@peninsulafoundation.ca.