

February 6, 1995

MEMO

To: Cheryl, Cathy, Nick, Leon, and Connie

From: Jerralynn 

Subject: Legislative Visit on February 10th

Attached is a draft summary description of the programs that we operate with State funds. This will be a handout for our legislators. Shirley, Cindy and I will be visiting them on Friday. I need your input to complete this document by Thursday.

Cathy: Please fill in the missing info in DOE and pass to Nick to confirm numbers. Make any corrections in or additions to program description.

Cheryl: Please complete the other sections and pass to Nick to confirm numbers.

Nick: Please check all numbers and pass to Connie to produce final document.

Leon: Anything missing? Give input to Cheryl.

Connie: I am passing to you the disk to produce a final document for me to review on Thursday. It is titled "ore\$9395" and is on my hard disk under docs/prog as well.

THANKS EVERYONE--I APPRECIATE YOUR HELP.

# WASHINGTON COUNTY COMMUNITY ACTION ORGANIZATION

## **Background**

Washington County Community Action Organization (WCCAO) is a private, non-profit organization serving low-income families and individuals in Washington County since 1965. The emphasis of the organization is to address both the causes and the conditions of poverty. Our mission is to prevent destitution by assisting with emergency and basic needs and to promote self-sufficiency through long range, human investment strategies.

## **Oregon State-Funded Programs**

Approximately 20% of WCCAO's budget is funded by Oregon general funds, which come through the Department of Housing and Community Services and the Department of Education. We use these funds in Washington County as follows:

### **I. Department of Education:**

In the 1993-1995 biennium, WCCAO received \$1,065,000 to provide Oregon Pre-Kindergarten/Head Start services to 192 low-income or disabled pre-school children and their families. These funds allowed us to expand our services from 504 children in 1991-93 to 692 children, reaching about 25% of the eligible population annually. These children come from the poorest of the poor families in Washington County. The health, nutrition, social and educational services measurably increase their chance of success in public school. WCCAO's Head Start biennium budget is \$3,066,000, with 35% coming from the State.

### **II. Department of Housing and Community Services:**

By Oregon law, the State passes all "anti-poverty" funds from the federal government to the local areas through the Community Action network. Community Action Agencies play a lead role in planning and coordinating funds and services in the local areas. WCCAO serves as the lead agency in Washington County for homeless, farmworker and general low-income services.

Following is a description of programs and services supported by State homeless funds:

**A. Emergency Housing Assistance (EHA):** We use these funds to provide homeless prevention services as well as services to prevent destitution and achieve housing stability for homeless people. WCCAO convenes a community planning process to determine the local priorities for these funds. This biennium we have invested \$630,000 in EHA funds in our community. To date, we have collaboratively served 3516 low income

people at an average cost of \$180 per person to prevent homelessness and achieve housing stability. The services we provided are as follows:

1. Homeless Prevention Services:

A total of 1212 individuals in 269 family units received services which prevented them from becoming homeless. Oregon Legal Services provided bilingual legal services to prevent low-income tenants from eviction. Domestic Violence Resource Center provided bilingual outreach and counseling to prevent domestic violence related homelessness. In addition, WCCAO leveraged additional funds to provide rent assistance to 891 individuals in 255 family units to prevent the loss of their home due to financial hardship.

2. Sheltering and Support Services:

A total of 1423 homeless individuals in 369 family units received 3,018 bed nights of shelter from WCCAO's Family Shelter, the Domestic Violence Resource Center (DVRC) Shelter, the Interfaith Outreach Shelter (IOS) in Tigard and local motel vouchers. All of these individuals and families received a range of support services to help them through their emergency and support them in achieving housing stability and self-sufficiency. In addition, Housing Services of Oregon provided day shelter for 881 homeless individuals to shower, launder clothes, make phone calls and address other needs.

3. Transitional Housing:

WCCAO, in partnership with the County Department of Housing Services, DVRC, IOS, the City of Beaverton and the Sheltering Homeless Coalition (Beaverton area churches) has established nine units of housing that homeless families can move into, from shelter, and stay for up to eighteen months. EHA funds allowed WCCAO to provide the case management and support services needed for these families to get back on their feet and in a home of their own.

In addition, WCCAO has been working with Lutheran Family Services, Domestic Violence Resource Center and Tualatin Valley Mental Health Center to establish the Hopesprings Project. This project will provide thirteen additional units of transitional housing for formerly homeless single mothers and their children. These families will receive child care, case management and a full range of support services.

**B. State Homeless Assistance:** This biennium \$108,000 has been allocated to serve homeless families and victims of domestic violence with shelter and the support services needed to achieve self-sufficiency. In addition, parenting education, housing locator services, life skills education workshops, homeless information and referral as well as support programs for homeless children were provided by WCCAO and DVRC.

## **Summary**

Homelessness in Washington County has grown steadily over the past ten years, with a very sharp increase in the late 80s and early 90s. Funding from the State of Oregon has saved our shelters from closing their doors. It has allowed our community to develop the capacity to deliver the continuum of services needed to prevent homelessness, assist homeless people in crisis, and promote their achievement of long-term housing stability and family self-sufficiency.

The State's continued support will ensure that homeless people in Washington County have a place to turn and hope for their families' future.

## **Board of Directors**

WCCAO is locally governed by a Board of Directors that represents the public, private and low-income sectors of Washington County. The current Board membership is as follows:

*Chair, Shirley Huffman, designee for Mayor Gordon Faber, Hillsboro*

*Vice-Chair, Cindy Hirst, North Plains business owner*

*Treasurer, Greg Zuffrea, designee for Mayor Lou Ogden, Tualatin*

*Secretary, Maria Loreda, Virginia Garcia Memorial Health Clinic*

**Sherry Robinson**, Dean of Students, PCC Rock Creek Campus

**Bob Shoemaker**, Attorney and former Senator

**Russ Wilkinson**, CPA

**Dick Stenson**, President & CEO, Tuality HealthCare

**Dick Porn**, President, Western Realty Advisors & TVEDC Board Chair

**Margaret Eickmann**, Beaverton community activist, parent & student

**Darlene Greene**, Hillsboro City Council & West One Bank, Branch Mgr.

**Andy Duyck**, County Commissioner & business owner

**John Kelly**, designee for Mayor Walt Hitchcock, Sherwood

**Sandy Miller**, designee for Mayor Rob Drake, Beaverton

**Jeff Fish**, Director, Hillsboro Legal Services

**Katrina Pirkle**, Chair, Head Start Policy Council

**Jeannine Murrell**, designee for Centro Cultural Board of Directors

**Charlotte Karvia**, Head Start parent

**Catherine Spinelli**, designee for Head Start Policy Council