

NWYS Board of Directors Board Report – June 27, 2019

Northwest Youth Services collaborates with at-risk, runaway and homeless youth to foster self-reliance.



Executive Leadership	
Current Success	<p>Quickly getting accustomed to this beautiful community, especially now that Quina and I have a place to call home in Ferndale. We will be moving in July 1st. This past month I have met with many community partners: Andrew Meyer, President of Mount Vernon Chamber of Commerce, Mount Vernon Mayor Jill Bourdeau, Whatcom County Housing Authority Rud Browne and Brian Thane, Compass Health leadership, Hans Erchinger ED Light House Mission, Laura Gelwicks-Community Liaison Congressman Larsen’s local office, David Weasley, and City of Bellingham leadership.</p> <p>We completed interviews for a Clinical Director and Kristen Hagin, MA LMHC CHMS, has accepted the position. Actively working on her starting date currently. We have also hired a Benefits Specialist for the REVIVE Project that will start July 1st. In process of interviewing for Clinical Care Managers for our holistic approach to our programs. Negotiated and amended Whatcom DOH contracts to create Crisis Specialist on-call positions, Ann Deacon is working with us to meet the need of our youths by encouraging a whole health intervention and prevention approach to service delivery.</p>
Current Challenge	Figuring out the changing costs to the remodel of our administrative offices, and pin pointing a construction start date.
Current Opportunity	<p>Continue to set up meetings with key community partners like the Bellingham Mayor, Fire and Police Chiefs in both Bellingham and Mount Vernon, local businesses around our programs, and others. We had a retreat with the Leadership Team to discuss Budget Management and Development, Organizational Infrastructure Review, and developing trust with each other.</p> <p>I am in the middle of a process to meet individually with each staff throughout all the programs. It has been an enriching and uplifting experience.</p>



Emilio Vela, Jr., Executive Director

Programs	
Current Success	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> -Award of HUD’s Youth Homelessness Demonstration Project. NWYS was one of the top applications, resulting in receiving the requested funding plus being asked to do capacity building in a neighboring County. -Highly successful Youth Pride Event. A community celebration! -3rd Core Team Meeting, renamed the PIT Crew, to reflect that this team is functioning in support as leaders of the larger organization as well as the team of staff doing direct service. -New way of compensating staff that take on after hours supervisory responsibilities.
Current Challenge	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> -Transitioning leadership of the Programs will create an opportunity for Program Managers/Coordinators to step into new responsibilities. Ensure that they have the capacity to do so. -Busy season of funding applications!

Current Opportunity	<p>-The Federal Runaway and Homeless Youth funds applications were opened. NWYS will be applying for both Transitional Living funds for Whatcom County and Basic Center funds to support the PAD. The team is opting to not apply for Street Outreach funds in honor of a move towards working more smartly and in line with quality services that meet the needs of the community.</p> <p>-Workgroups have come out of the Team formerly known as the Core Team, which will move necessary work forward more quickly and provide opportunity for staff to participate in a meaningful way.</p> <p>-A new funding source has been identified for Vocational Services, they have done a site visit and will be considering contracting with NWYS.</p>
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Robin Meyer, Director of Programs

Development & Communications	
Current Success	<p>We're excited to share that we received the 2019 Impact Grant from Peoples Bank - \$25K to put the finishing touches on The Ground Floor! Along with the funding, the award includes some press work and a video featuring our mission – more to come!</p> <p>Northwest Youth Services was successful in receiving funding from the Youth Homeless Demonstration Project (2nd highest rated application in the State) and in receiving support from OHY for outreach in Skagit.</p>
Current Challenge	<p>We're still working to complete the Jerry H. Walton match for the PAD – with \$3,750 left to raise in the next two weeks. We see a marked increase in support when the campaign is shared on Facebook – please consider sharing one of our posts with your friends about the PAD. See below:</p> <p>Example: As a board member of Northwest Youth Services, I couldn't imagine our community without the PAD – a safe place for youth 13-17 to go when they have nowhere else to turn. Please consider helping us complete our matching campaign today!</p> <p>We did not receive OHY support for The Ground Floor, which would have allowed us to expand our services. We debriefed our application and understand why we were not funded (there were 45 applications for \$24M dollars – they made 9 awards for \$2.5M) – and are using the feedback to improve our two RHY applications (for the PAD and Transitional Living) due at the end of the month.</p>
Current Opportunity	<p>Whatcom Beer & Wine Foundation – We are in conversation with the Foundation to be a long-term recipient of support from their two annual events – the Whatcom Beer & Music Festival (June) and the Whatcom Wine & Food Festival (August), starting in 2020. Their hope is to find a second long term partner (currently they partner with the Alzheimer's Foundation and a rotating organization).</p> <p>ASK: In order to show our interest and sincerity in partnering, they have asked that our staff and board attend both 2019 events. Thank you to those who have volunteered – please buy your tickets ASAP.</p> <p>For the June Beer Festival: https://www.eventbrite.com/e/bellingham-beer-and-music-festival-radio-isnt-dead-tickets-55877189177</p>

	<p>For the Aug. Wine Festival: https://www.eventbrite.com/e/bellingham-northwest-wine-festival-tickets-55641479162</p> <p>Birch Golf Classic – Mark your calendars for 9/5/19 and join us in thanking Birch Equipment for their generous support at the 19th Hole after party at Bellingham Golf & Country Club, from 4 pm – 6 pm! Tickets for dinner are \$50 per person. We’d love to have more representation from the Board this year to help communicate our gratitude for their generosity.</p>
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Jenn Daly, Director of Development & Communications

Operations	
Current Success	<p>Ongoing progress for water mitigation at the main office continues. The professional team working with us have submitted proposals for permit to mitigate the water from the inside of the building along the east wall. A drainage system will also be installed outside along the east wall at the ground level to direct any surface water toward the water management system on the street. Our permit should be approved by the end of the month and construction begin in July.</p> <p>Our new Maintenance Technician, Gordon Black started work this month. He’s been at our program sites and at the main office this month. He’s helping stretch our budget on the renovation at main by doing work to prep for the upcoming construction.</p>
Current Challenge	<p>A due diligence process for CMS expenses under contract is in process. Our Administrative team is looking at our infrastructure with a critical lens for sustainability and cost effectiveness. The areas of maintenance, IT services, and program supplies are under review with a goal to identify savings processes which are implemented in July.</p>
Current Opportunity	<p>The Finance team is working with program managers to project costs for services through the end of the year. All contracts will be expended so our most restricted funding will be utilized fully. More flexible program funding is being reviewed to insure all programs staff are adopting lean practices.</p> <p>Leadership and program teams will be looking at all space identifying highest and best use in location of staffing to strengthen services both programmatically and administratively.</p> <p>The Administrative team, Sydney Denessen, Ashtin Carnahan, Stephanie Wagner, Dianne Ersser, and Gordon Black work to strengthen our best practices and provide incredible support in their work realms to our staff providing direct service to youth and young adults.</p>



Paula Matthyse, Director of Operations

Human Resources

Current Success	<p>We believe our search for a Clinical Director is complete! We have interviewed several good candidates. We feel we have selected someone who is just right for the organization. Stay tuned for more information! Additionally, we have hired a Maintenance Technician, Skagit Vocational Coordinator, and three PAD Youth Advocates.</p> <p>We are interviewing applicants for the Clinical Care Manager and hope to fill these two positions soon.</p> <p>Our staff turnover continues to remain low, with only two staff leaving since the start of the year.</p> <p>We had another successful Core Team meeting and have changed the name of this group to the Point in Time Connection or PIT Crew.</p>
Current Challenge	<p>I continued to learn about our budget and what it means for human resources for the remainder of this year and going forward into 2020. I look forward to continuing and learning this work with the Leadership Team.</p>
Current Opportunity	<p>The Leadership Team will be having a retreat on June 25th. We will be working on getting to know each other better and growing as a work family. Additional topics on the agenda are: budget, space, and organizational structure.</p> <p>At our last PIT Crew meeting, three staff members requested to be in the on the Staff Appreciation/Retention Work Group. This group now has representatives from Skagit, PAD, Ground Floor, Finance, QYP, and Human Resources.</p>



Shantel Rapp, Human Resources Manager