



# Communiqué

Volume 1, Issue 3

March 2011

## THEN & NOW

### 1983

COG Planners: 5

Total COG Staff: 10

### 2011

COG Planners: 8

Total COG Staff: 16

## New direction in 10-year plan update

The Cowlitz Housing First Coalition spent the past year working on an update of the Ten-Year Plan taking a substantially different approach to eliminating homelessness in our communities. Multiple factors prompted the revision, including:

1. A new state and federal focus on outcomes and performance benchmarks;
2. The need to focus on projects that provide access to services for people who are currently excluded from the system, such as the chronically homeless, people suffering from mental health and substance abuse (disorders requiring integrated treatment), ex-offenders, and homeless youth; and
3. The need to maximize effectiveness by incorporating evidence-based approaches that are working around the United States.

The plan takes bold steps to retool the current homeless system in a way that expands access to people who need services and increases accountability for better results. Participation in the homeless data tracking system will be a requirement for funding. A targeted process will request proposals from interested agencies to implement a prioritized list of projects in addition to pursuing coordination with other community and state funding sources. Formerly, individual agencies determined the array of projects presented for consideration.

Some of the key short-term project priorities in the plan include:

- \* "Housing First" pilot for chronic homeless
- \* Permanent supportive housing pilot
- \* Landlord incentives program
- \* Housing retention team
- \* Short-term rental assistance & rapid re-housing
- \* Urban rest stop or drop-in center
- \* Extreme weather shelter



The Cowlitz Housing First Coalition membership has expanded to include representation from each city in Cowlitz County and the faith-based community and is now seeking representatives from the business sector as well. If you are interested in learning more about the Ten-Year Plan or would like to schedule a presentation for your group, contact Melissa Taylor at the Council of Governments, 360-577-3041.

## Vulnerable Populations Emergency Plan kicked off in March

Do you have a family member or know of a neighbor who needs assistance with daily activities that may be impacted if a disaster strikes? A new planning effort is underway by the COG and the Cowlitz County Department of Emergency Management that focuses on assisting people with functional needs before, during and following an emergency. A functional need refers to a "restriction or limited ability to perform activities normally considered routine." Examples of these vulnerable populations include people who need assistance with communication, transportation, medical care, or require supervision. Other examples include people with disabilities who live in congregate facilities, are from diverse cultures or with limited English proficiency, or who lack access to transportation.

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## Vulnerable populations (continued)

A newly formed steering committee is guiding the effort and a technical committee will provide local expertise. Technical committee members also participate in small, time-limited and task-focused work groups to address key functions of sheltering, communications, transportation and evacuation, medical needs, and long-term recovery and housing. Emergency Planning Resources, Inc. of Vancouver has been hired to support these groups with identifying needs, resources and gaps, and developing strategies to address the gaps.

The COG is using fund balances from the *Cowlitz-Lewis Business Disaster Resiliency Project* and the *Human Services Transportation Coordination Plan* to support this project. Additional funding is being sought to support development of policies and procedures to implement the strategies. For more information, contact Melissa Taylor at the COG, (360) 577-3041. If you would like to volunteer for a short-term work group, please contact County Department of Emergency Management at (360) 577-3130.

## Castle Rock & Woodland graduate 11 families from program

Eleven families graduated from the Castle Rock and Woodland Strengthening Families program in March. The families gained a greater appreciation for one another, developed better communication skills using “I” statements while listening for others’ feelings and learned how to effectively resolve conflicts. Youth learned to be more patient with their parents and effective ways to resist negative peer pressure.

The Cowlitz Substance Abuse Coalition is grateful to the following agencies for their support: Castle Rock and Woodland School Districts (facility use), ESD 112 (funding), Retired Senior Volunteer Program (magazine cutouts), Washington State University Extension (evaluation). The program would not have been possible without your support. For more information about the Strengthening Families program contact Brian McCrady at (360) 577-3041, or e-mail [bmccrady@cwog.org](mailto:bmccrady@cwog.org).



Castle Rock group



Woodland group

## Upcoming meetings

- |                             |   |
|-----------------------------|---|
| CWCOG Board Meeting:        | March 24, 2011 ~ County Administration Building, 12:00 noon |
| Regional Information Forum: | March 18, 2011 ~ Cowlitz PUD Building, 7:30 am              |
| Regional Information Forum: | April 12, 2011 ~ River Street Building, Cathlamet, 8:00 am  |

## National Youth Violence Prevention Week

The National Youth Violence Prevention Campaign helps to build individual and community awareness of youth violence. This initiative brings violence prevention strategies to students, teachers, school administrators, counselors, school resource officers, school staff, parents, and the public. <http://www.nyvpw.org/>



**CORRECTION:** The picture of Lake Mayfield in February’s Communiqué was actually a picture of Riffe Lake. Thanks to Mike Kroll, Transportation Planner for Lewis County Public Works, for the information.

### TITLE VI and ADA Notice to the Public

COG ensures full compliance with Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964 and the American Disabilities Act of 1990 by prohibiting discrimination against any person on the basis of race, color, national origin, sex or disabilities in the provision of benefits and services resulting from its federally assisted programs and activities. For more information, or to obtain a Title VI Complaint Form, call program coordinator at (360) 577-3041.



## 1983 Annual Report highlights: some déjà vu?

- ◆ The urban area transportation committee focused on planning a new route through the Longview industrial area from SR432, and conducted a thorough analysis of the street linkages leading to the Allen Street and Cowlitz Way bridges;
- ◆ Received \$960,000 from the federal Economic Development Administration for several local projects: upgrade of Longview's Third Avenue, Kelso infrastructure improvements, and \$300,000 to establish the Longview revolving loan fund to assist small businesses;
- ◆ Updated the Regional Park Plan, enabling Kelso and Longview to qualify for state grants from the Inter-Agency Committee for Outdoor Recreation;
- ◆ A new site for the Castle Rock Post Office was agreed to, following extensive review and negotiations between the city planning commission, property owner and Postal Service, with COG planner assistance;
- ◆ Longview's Comprehensive Plan was approved by city council, after two years of update work by the planning commission, with COG staff help;
- ◆ An extensive rider survey was accomplished for the city of Kelso;
- ◆ Wahkiakum County planning commission, with COG assistance, completed work on a floodplain development ordinance and began drafting subdivision codes;
- ◆ COG scored 93 out of 100 in a self-evaluation process and a received a Certificate of Merit by the National Association of Regional Councils.

## 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Celebration Dinner

April 27, 2011 ~ 6:00 pm  
Monticello Hotel ~ Longview



Detailed information will be coming soon ~ keep watching!!!

## February board meeting highlights:

- \* Approved resolutions amending the Regional Transportation Improvement Program by adding \$2,672,000 for the City of Longview's Highlands Trail and transit capital purchases and operating assistance, and the transfer of funds for the Washington State Department of Transportation;
- \* Reviewed the 4<sup>th</sup> quarter 2010 budget report indicating that 76% of budgeted revenues were received and 75% of expenditures were made;
- \* Heard a report from COG staff, Matt Hermen, on the Smart Growth Conference that he, Amy Asher and Barb Kincaid attended in February;
- \* Director Harvey indicated that the COG is in the process of finalizing the revisions to materials for the SR 432/433 highway and rail project and the Port of Woodland is updating information about the Woodland transportation improvements;
- \* The director noted that the COG hosted a state environmental policy act (SEPA) training with 75 folks attending from Olympia to Vancouver, and we are hosting two days of geographic information systems (GIS) software training, both as efforts to serve member needs efficiently and as locally as possible; and
- \* The director was one of many who attempted to attend the U.S. House Transportation and Infrastructure Committee hearing at the Clark Public Utilities building in Vancouver on February 21<sup>st</sup>, but there was insufficient capacity to accommodate many who wished to attend.

For more information, contact the COG office.



## Kick Butts Day

On March 23, 2011, thousands of youth in every state and around the world will **STAND OUT ... SPEAK UP ...** and **SEIZE CONTROL AGAINST BIG TOBACCO.**

Kick Butts Day is a national day of activism that empowers youth to speak up and take action against Big Tobacco at more than 1,000 events from coast to coast.

<http://www.kickbuttsday.org/>

For more information on the topics above or if you or your agency is interested in free training, information, or materials contact: Shannon Miller, coordinator Cowlitz Meth Action Team or Brian McCrady, coordinator Cowlitz Substance Abuse Coalition at 360-577-3041.



# Local economic competitiveness training offered

The National League of Cities (NLC), with the Trade Development Alliance of Greater Seattle (TDA), has announced a new Leadership Academy on Local Economic Competitiveness in a Global Era. It is designed to provide local officials with the tools needed to facilitate global economic linkages in their community and to learn how to put these leadership skills into practice. The academy will be Wednesday-Thursday, April 20-21, 2011, at the Seattle Sheraton Hotel.

The academy will bring together teams of city elected officials, staff, and stakeholders with experts from all levels of government, academic, and business sectors to discuss opportunities and challenges of foreign investment and trade promotion and to showcase promising practices from cities and regions across the country. As part of the academy, NLC is also partnering with the U.S. Departments of Commerce and Treasury to host a delegation of Chinese mayors, senior business executives and economic offi-

cials. Academy attendees will have the opportunity, in a session facilitated by the Department of Commerce, to engage foreign businesses seeking U.S. investment opportunities.

**How to Apply:** The content of the academy is specifically tailored to meet the needs of local elected officials and local economic development decision makers and staff. NLC strongly encourages teams from the same city or region. Participants will be eligible for credits from NLC's Leadership Training Institute. [To access the Seattle 2011 Academy Application](http://www.nlc.org/resources_for_cities/finecondesc.aspx), visit the National League of Cities website at [www.nlc.org/resources\\_for\\_cities/finecondesc.aspx](http://www.nlc.org/resources_for_cities/finecondesc.aspx)

NLC is offering complementary registration for this event to selected applicants. Space is limited. For questions, contact Christiana McFarland, Program Director, 202-626-3036 or [mcfarland@nlc.org](mailto:mcfarland@nlc.org); or Jennifer Keene, at the COG 360-577-3041 or [jkeene@cwco.org](mailto:jkeene@cwco.org).

**Save the date ... April 28, 2011**

**Census 101**

How to Use National & State Data (public & private)	When:	Thursday, April 28, 2011, 2:00 – 5:00 pm
How to Use “On the Map 5.1”	Where:	Cowlitz County Expo Center
Regional Demographic discussion	Presenter:	Scott Bailey, Regional Economist Washington State Employment Security Dept

Questions: Jennifer Keene, 360-577-3041; [jkeene@cwco.org](mailto:jkeene@cwco.org)


