

# Western Washington University–Bellingham Campus Community Coalition

Friday, November 16, 2007  
St Luke's Community Health Education Center

## Meeting Minutes

### Attendees:

Adrienne Battis, Whatcom Family & Community Network	Jeff Bates, York Neighborhood Association
Amanda Downs, WWU Student	Jim Schuster, WWU Student Activities
Barney Goltz, Cornwall Neighborhood Association	Joe Fuller, Whatcom County Health Department
Billie Lindsey, WWU Physical Education, Health & Recreation	Joshua O'Donnell, WWU Prevention & Wellness Services
Blair Smith, WA State Liquor Control Board	Kevin Majkut, WWU Student Activities
Brian Waller, The Beaver Inn	Kristi Coy, CLX Rentals
Buff Schoenfeld, WWU President's Office	Kunle Ojikutu, WWU Student Affairs
Casey Hayden, WWU Student Activities	Lara Welker, Campus Community Coalition
Chris Berry, Shalom Center	Lidia Tillman-McAdoo, Rental Property Owner
Craige Ambrose, Bellingham Police Department	Linda Stewart, City of Bellingham Mayor's Office
Darren Sandstrom, Bellingham Police Department	Lisa Rosenberg, WWU Student Activities
Dave Doll, Bellingham Police Department	Luke Loeffler, Congressman Rick Larsen's Office
David Doughty, University Police Department	Margaret Vlahos, Whatcom Community College
David Garcia, University Police Department	Mark Young, Bellingham Police Department
Devlin O'Donnell, WWU Prevention & Wellness Services	Michael Schardein, WWU Student Life
Don Davis, City of Bellingham Office of Emergency Management	Michael Sledge, WWU Residence Life
Elva Giddings, WWU Prevention & Wellness Services	Richard Maneval, Association of Bellingham Neighborhoods
Erwin Lloyd, Puget Neighborhood Association	Richard Sullivan, Happy Valley Neighborhood Association
Iain Davidson, Whatcom Falls Neighborhood Association	Ryan Anderson, City of Bellingham Attorney's Office
Janet McLeod, WWU Counseling, Health & Wellness	Sheryl Davis, Fairhaven Neighbors Association
	Wendy Henerlau, WWU Prevention & Wellness Services

### Welcome, introductions, and acknowledgements

Lara welcomed Coalition members, and members introduced themselves. Lara recognized and welcomed new members to the Coalition. Attending for the first time were Adrienne Battis, (Whatcom Family and Community Network); Amanda Downs (WWU Student); Billie Lindsey, (WWU's Health Education program); Blair Smith (Washington State Liquor Control Board) Casey Hayden (WWU Student Activities Advisor); Craige Ambrose (Bellingham Police Department); David Doughty (WWU University Police Department); Don Davis (City of Bellingham Office of Emergency Management); Janet McLeod (WWU Counseling, Health and Wellness Business Manager); Jeff Bates (York Neighborhood Association); Linda Stewart (City of Bellingham Mayors Office); Lisa Rosenberg (WWU Student Activities); and Sheryl Davis (Fairhaven Neighbors Association).

Lara announced that the Coalition received a 2007 Community Building Award. The Ken Gass Community Building Awards are given through the Whatcom Family and Community Network. This year the Coalition is one of the 23 individuals, businesses, and other organizations that "reflect our community's highest values and deepest respect for the well-being of all our children, youth, families, and each other." The Coalition was specifically recognized for "community building work between students and local neighborhoods to reduce substance abuse and engage students with the neighborhoods where they live."

Lara pointed out that community building is done together, and she acknowledged the many people who have been involved in the Coalition's efforts, including neighborhood associations, rental owners,

law enforcement personnel, community organizations like the Whatcom Dispute Resolution Center and Western faculty and staff, and—very importantly—Western students.

### **CCC Funding Update and Discussion**

Kunle Ojikutu gave an update on the current status of the Coalition's funding. He explained that in 1999 President Karen Morse and then Mayor Mark Asmundson created the Campus Community Coalition and that since that time it has been funded by grants. Current funding from the National Institute on Alcohol Abuse and Alcoholism is coming to an end, and WWU's Prevention and Wellness Services has committed financial support for the Coalition through August 2008. After that, other resources will be needed to continue the Coalition's work. He noted that the Coalition is a model program that has garnered local and national awards, and he invited members to get involved in helping to identify sources of financial support.

Buff Schoenfield agreed that the Coalition is an important entity, and pointed out that it is unusual for grant funded programs to be refunded for extensive periods of time, as grants are typically awarded to start programs rather than sustain them. She said that funding possibilities were being explored, and that the Coalition is important to President Morse. Janet McLeod, business manager for Counseling, Health and Wellness, said that she was quite optimistic about the future of the CCC.

Barney Goltz suggested that an effort be made to contact local legislators, and suggested that money from liquor sales might be identified to fund the Coalition.

There was a general discussion about the Coalition's financial needs and possible ways to trim the budget. Kunle stated that the Coalition's basic operating budget is about \$150,000, much of which goes to salary and benefits. Richard Maneval felt that the Coalition's budget is already lean, and that more funding was needed to carry out all the programs and goals. He said that it was important to consider future projects, and that both Western Washington University and the Association of Bellingham Neighborhoods had a vested interest in keeping the Coalition strong. He asked whether the WWU Board of Trustees was aware of the current funding situation. Buff replied that the Board is aware, but it doesn't set the budget. The President makes recommendations, but it is important to keep in mind that there are many good programs at Western that are in need of funding.

Joe Fuller suggested a benefit/cost analysis, and asked what it would cost NOT to have the Coalition, e.g. what is the dollar figure of reduced arrest rates? Lara acknowledged that such an approach could be very powerful, even though it can be hard to quantify that kind of value.

Lidia Tillman-McAdoo suggested that rental management companies provide some funding, and Richard Sullivan suggested that city officials become more involved. Erwin Lloyd suggested a grass roots campaign with the Steering Committee drafting a letter that members of the Coalition could send to their associations, constituents and friends.

Dave Doll suggested that a sub-group be formed to address the funding questions, and Lara stated that the plan is to convene the Coalition's Steering Committee, which represents the Coalition's main stakeholder groups. She noted that permanent funding is necessary to give the Coalition a firm base, and grants could still be sought for supplemental funding or special projects. She said that she was optimistic about securing funding for the Coalition and will be sure to keep members abreast of developments as they unfold.

## CCC Projects

### 2007-2008 work plan overview

Lara reminded members that last winter the Steering Committee prioritized Coalition goals and projects in preparation for a Department of Education grant proposal. Although the Coalition was not a grant recipient, the priorities that the committee identified will guide the Coalition's work during the upcoming year. The five goals are: 1) Increase education regarding campus and community alcohol policies and expectations; 2) Increase student engagement in their neighborhoods; 3) Enhance enforcement of alcohol and noise laws; 4) Increase availability of and participation in late night events on campus; and 5) Enhance partnership with the local hospitality industry to promote responsible hospitality practices.

*[Please see the attached **2007-2008 Work Plan Overview** for a full description of the goals and associated activities.]*

### Project updates

Lara pointed out the handout of a summary of activities that the Coalition has undertaken from June through October. Three new areas of activity are the Hospitality Resource Alliance (HRA), the campus alcohol advertising project, and the students on neighborhood association boards.

*[Please see the attached **Summary of Activities June – October 2007** for a full description of all the activities.]*

#### ▪ **Hospitality Resource Alliance (HRA)**

The Hospitality Resource Alliance (HRA) was formed in 1996, so was actually a predecessor to the Campus Community Coalition. The HRA brings together bar owners, restaurateurs and others in the hospitality industry, law enforcement, and others concerned with issues of responsible hospitality. Although it has been inactive for several years, the group has had several meetings over the last few months with downtown bar owners and law enforcement discussing concerns.

Brian Waller noted that it was important for the bar owners to get together with law enforcement personnel. In the many years he has owned a bar in downtown Bellingham he has seen a lot of misperceptions and miscommunication. Meeting together in a format such as the HRA allows people to discuss problem issues and how to resolve them.

Dave Doll agreed that it was important to collaborate. As downtown becomes more residential, it is important to figure out how the nightlife and the residential life can coexist. Lara pointed out that the growing trend towards a residential downtown area is not unique to Bellingham and other communities are facing similar challenges. The HRA will be having a work session in several weeks on how to mitigate alcohol-related problems in the downtown business district.

#### ▪ **Campus Alcohol Advertising and Policy Project**

This fall a group of WWU Lifestyle Advisors (peer health educators) who focus alcohol and other drug education are doing a "mini-public health project" on campus. In the past some advertising directed to students has had very strong drinking messages, and it seemed valuable to assess this more thoroughly to see if it was something that needed to be addressed. The students have been assessing alcohol-related advertising on campus, and researching the existing policies regarding

alcohol advertising. They will be meeting soon to compile their findings, but so far, they are seeing very little advertising on campus that promotes high-risk drinking.

Kevin Majkut asked if electronic advertising was also being scanned for alcohol ads (Facebook, MySpace, etc.). Lara said that the group is looking at this, but the assessment did not systematically look at electronic forms of media.

- **Students on neighborhood association boards**

Lara reminded members of the discussion at the spring Coalition meeting about establishing a more systematic way to get WWU students onto their neighborhood association boards. She reported that the Associated Students supported the idea, so she took it to neighborhood leaders through e-mail and at a Mayor's Neighborhood Advisory Commission meeting. It generated quite a bit of discussion about what students' role should be, with some disagreement about whether there should be a "special position" on a neighborhood association board for a student representative. In the end, neighborhood leaders agreed that student board members would be welcome and an asset and that they should be referred and follow the procedures of their neighborhood association. Lara noted that the logistics of a referral process are more involved than anticipated, but details are being worked out with the Associated Students.

## **Ongoing projects**

In addition to these new undertakings, Lara highlighted some of the numerous projects initiated over the last couple of years that are becoming a permanent part of the Coalition's efforts.

- **Doorknockers**

About 3,000 educational doorknockers were distributed in the York, Sehome, and Happy Valley neighborhoods the week before fall quarter by students, neighborhood association members, and Coalition staff. One side of the doorknocker has information about being a good neighbor, and the other side states, "If you party, be smart and safe," with citation information and safe party tips. The doorknockers also included specific information about the upcoming neighborhood association meetings and the neighborhood Let's Talk Forums.

*[Please see the attached **Think Locally-Act Neighborly Doorknocker**]*

- **Let's Talk Forum – "Living Together in Bellingham: Student Parties, Enforcement Practices, and Neighborly Relations"**

Based on feedback from Coalition members last year, this fall the Coalition cosponsored three neighborhood-specific forums in York, Sehome, and Happy Valley. About 120 students, community members, and law enforcement personnel participated in the discussions about the issues facing students and long-term residents living together in Bellingham's neighborhoods. Lara said that the neighborhood-specific format was well-received by those who attended, but there was still only a very small representation of community members.

Richard Sullivan attended the Happy Valley forum and said he felt it was good for students to see other neighbors. He mentioned the neighborhood mapping project led by the City of Bellingham, and said that getting to know one's neighbors is an important aspect of that project. Linda Stewart mentioned that her first day on the job as the City's new Neighborhood Services

Coordinator included participating in the Let's Talk Forum. She felt that the forum was valuable for the open communication between all participants.

Lara extended a special thanks to the law enforcement personnel who had participated and noted that students feel that their presence is one of the most valuable aspects of the forum.

Don Davis described the "Map Your Neighborhood" project, a disaster-preparedness approach that which brings neighbors together to identify skills and equipment that would be useful in case of a disaster. Should an emergency arise, neighbors will know each other and who has First Aid training, specific tools, etc. Involving renters has historically been hard because they are seen as transient members of the neighborhood, but Don noted that there is a huge value in involving students and other renters. He often sees a real opening up among neighbors in the mapping process. He noted that according to a Harvard study of neighborhood resilience, a consistent indicator of neighborhood resiliency is residents knowing their neighbors' first names.

#### ▪ **Letter to Rental Property Owners**

This is the second fall that the Coalition has sent a joint letter with the neighborhood associations in York, Sehome, and Happy Valley to rental property owners in those neighborhoods. This year the City of Bellingham was also a signer on the letters, which were sent to over 1,000 owners: 314 in York, 342 in Sehome, and 432 in Happy Valley. The letter explains that rental owners have an important role in encouraging their renters to be good neighbors, informs them of city ordinances, and gives information about relevant community resources.

Lidia Tillman-McAdoo shared the brightly colored bookmarks she made from the Renter's Guidelines that she distributed to renters in her rental properties.

#### **Late Night @ WWU**

Similar to the last few years, several late night events were held during the first week of fall quarter: Late Night at the Student Recreation Center, Viking Union Late Night, and Late Night Outdoor Movie (which was actually held indoors because of rain). Attendance was similar to last year, with 2,000–3,000 students at the Recreation Center event, about 1,800–2,000 at the Viking Union event, and 175 at the movie. Casey Hayden reported lots of participation and enthusiasm at the Viking Union event, which included movies, a concert, caricature drawings, a roving magician, and lots of free food. This year Dining Services made a tremendous contribution to all the late night events by providing free food, and organizing numerous off-campus businesses to do the same.

Lara noted that LateNight@WWU is transitioning from a "Coalition project" to an integral aspect of WWU's campus culture, which is in keeping with the nature of grant-funded projects. This year John Purdie from Residence Life is coordinating the LateNight@WWU work group.

#### **Bellingham Police Department enforcement update**

Craige Ambrose reported that there were several student parties in the early fall. However, not all the students cited were Western students; at one party, there were more Whatcom Community College students. The police department keeps a high profile in the beginning of the school year to reinforce the boundaries and let them know that there is zero tolerance for alcohol misuse and noise disturbance. After the first few weeks of the fall quarter, alcohol and noise issues usually diminish. There has been a significant reduction in both the size and number of parties that the Party Patrol

responded to this fall. When police respond to a party, the behavior of the partygoers greatly influences the police actions. Cooperative partygoers who permit access are generally legal age, and if they respond to the police's warning they are not always cited. If guests refuse access to the police, or attempt to hide from police, this often indicates underage drinking, and police obtain a search warrant to enter the house. In such situations, the police exhibit zero tolerance and issue citations.

Erwin Lloyd asked whether warnings were verbal or written, if warnings appeared on record, and how rental owners could access such documentation to monitor any problems at their properties. He noted that if no citations are issued, it is more difficult for him to take action with his renters. Mark Young said that he can look up the record of any given address, and that he regularly responds to rental owners seeking information about their properties. He also said that rental property owners have leeway in their expectations of tenants and can stipulate in their leases that renters do not hold parties. Kristi Coy stated she could provide Erwin with the language she uses in her leases.

Billie Lindsey inquired about the legal process when students receive citations. Ryan Anderson replied that the citation is a criminal charge with penalties, and the student must appear before a judge. If the student disputes the charges, the student has the right to request a trial. Lara added that if a WWU student receives a Miner in Possession (MIP), that student is referred to WWU's Alcohol and Drug Consultation and Assessment Services.

Buff Schoenfeld asked if there were "party houses," perhaps similar to frat houses at other universities, which consistently have alcohol-related problems. Mark Young said that the number of houses with repeat offenses has gone down dramatically. He monitors incidents, and if more than one citation is given at an address in a year he contacts the rental owner. Most rental owners have been very responsive and cooperative, and Mark attributes this to the loop of communication and accountability.

Jeff Bates asked about the housing ordinance restricting the number of unrelated renters in a house to three. Dave Doll replied that currently that ordinance is not being enforced, and that the number of unrelated people living in a house is not necessarily indicative of whether that will be a problem house. He said that the issue is being looked at by the city.

### **Proposed plan for future CCC meetings**

Lara brought up the subject of the Coalition meeting format and frequency. Responses to a member survey last spring showed agreement that three meetings per year was "about right," with work group meetings in between. Regarding another format besides a lunch meeting, there was an almost even split between members' preference for a morning meeting and an afternoon meeting.

Lara proposed that the Coalition change its meeting time to afternoons, which would make it easier for students and people in the hospitality industry to attend. She asked if anyone would be unable to attend an afternoon meeting, and since those in attendance felt they could attend in the afternoon, it was decided that the next meeting would be in the afternoon. Lara will send out information as it gets closer to the winter meeting. Dave Doll suggested that refreshments could be reduced or eliminated to save the Coalition effort and money.

Lara thanked Coalition members for their comments and suggestions. She will send out information on the new time and date of the next meeting, and she invited members to contact her or Wendy at any time with any questions, concerns, or suggestions.