

**WWU – Bellingham Campus Community Coalition**  
**Fairhaven College Chartroom**  
**March 20, 2008, 3:00 – 4:30 pm**

**Attending:**

Anna Carey, WWU New Student Services  
Barney Goltz, Cornwall Neighborhood Association  
Bianca Smith, University Police Department  
Billie Lindsey, WWU Physical Education, Health & Recreation  
Brian Tines, The Royal / Fairhaven Pub & Martini Bar  
Byron Ford, WWU New Student Services  
Chris Berry, Shalom Center  
Dave Doll, Bellingham Police Department  
David Doughty, University Police Department  
Doug Dahl, Whatcom County Sheriff's Office  
Gayle Shipley, WWU Environmental Health & Safety  
Iain Davidson, Whatcom Falls Neighborhood Association  
Janet McLeod, WWU Counseling, Health & Wellness  
Joe Fuller, Whatcom County Health Department  
John Hymas, Happy Valley Neighborhood Association  
Kent Nelson, Columbia Distributing  
Kunle Ojikutu, WWU Student Affairs  
Lara Welker, Campus Community Coalition  
Linda Stewart, City of Bellingham Mayor's Office  
Lindsay Kershner, City of Bellingham Planning Division

Louise Bjornson, Bellingham City Council  
Mark Young, Bellingham Police Department  
Mary Gamache, WWU Prevention & Wellness Services  
Michael Schardein, WWU Student Life  
Michael Sledge, WWU Residence Life  
Moshe Quinn, City of Bellingham Planning Division  
Nina Lau, WWU Associated Students Board  
Paul Cocke, WWU University Communications  
Rafael Lucatero, WA State Liquor Control Board  
Ramiro Espinoza, WWU Associated Students Board  
Randy Stegmeier, WWU Police Department  
Renée Collins, WWU Student Life  
Richard Conoboy, Samish Neighborhood  
Richard Maneval, Association of Bellingham Neighborhoods  
Richard Sullivan, Happy Valley Neighborhood Association  
Ryan Anderson, City of Bellingham Attorney's Office  
Sheryl Davis, Fairhaven Neighbors Association  
Van Hudson, NW Rental Owners Association  
Wendy Henerlau, WWU Prevention & Wellness Services

**Welcome, introductions and acknowledgements**

Lara welcomed the group and members introduced themselves. She extended welcomes to new members: Chief Randy Stegmeier, new Director of Public Safety and Chief of the University Police Department; Chief Todd Ramsay, new Chief of Police for the City of Bellingham (not in attendance); Byron Ford, graduate assistant with New Student Services/Family Outreach; and Lindsay Kershner of the City of Bellingham Planning Division.

**CCC funding update**

Dr. Kunle Ojikutu spoke about the current funding status of the Coalition. He stated that with the end of the NIAAA grant monies, the Coalition is now being funded by Prevention and Wellness Services through August 2008. He showed a slide of the proposed annual Coalition budget of \$93,000 and possible funding sources. Most of the budget goes to cover the Coalition's part time staff. The proposal is for WWU to pay for most of the personnel cost (\$63,600) with the City of Bellingham possibly contributing \$10,000. Operation expenses of \$19,400 could be absorbed by WWU's Prevention and Wellness Services (\$5,000) and program expenses, such as the Think Locally, Act Neighborly doorknocker campaign, could be

met by other community sponsors/partners. Kunle said that he hoped to have concrete information on Coalition funding by the end of June.

Barney Goltz asked about the proposed legislation to increase safety on college campuses. Randy Stegmeier replied that the budget request was drastically reduced, resulting in only enough funding to hire a mental health professional on campus. The legislature also allocated \$200,000 to further study the needs of safety at higher education institutions.

Lara reported that the Steering Committee met last month to discuss funding issues. The Steering Committee identified other organizations outside of Western that might contribute financially. She emphasized that these are potential supporters, since none but Prevention and Wellness have made a commitment.

Linda Stewart posed the question of housing the Coalition someplace other than Prevention and Wellness Services. She said in her work in the community she frequently hears that the Coalition should be involved in the many issues that impact both the city and the university and that it is perceived to have a broader focus than just alcohol. She pointed out that the Coalition has been alcohol-focused partly because of grant stipulations, and suggested that if it were housed in another WWU department it could broaden its scope and perhaps access other funding sources.

Ramiro Espinoza agreed that campus community coalitions serve a larger purpose nationwide; they are not just about alcohol, but about improving communities, and that Linda's suggestion was one to consider. Richard Sullivan said it was important for WWU to be involved with public affairs. He voiced concern about WWU's "footprint" in Happy Valley, and said the neighborhood association board would like to be able to have a place to take such concerns. He felt that the neighborhood associations might get quicker results if they could work through the Coalition on neighborhood issues.

Chris Berry pointed out that the original title for the Coalition was "Campus Community Coalition for Prevention of Alcohol and Associated Violence." Through the years the Coalition has broadened its focus. It's positive that the Coalition has expanded, and it's exciting to hear that people want to find funding and not let it die.

Lara said that from her perspective, the Coalition is going through a significant transition. If it is not bound by grant goals, the Coalition can expand programs, and be more spontaneous in responding to needs and opportunities that arise. At the same time, if funds come from sources other than WWU, the Coalition's structure and organizational system may need to change. The first step is to secure funding, even if it's just a "bridge" to sustainable funding.

Barney asked if any effort had been made to work with WWU's biannual budget committee. Kunle replied that the funding request had been taken to the President's Planning and Resources Council. Janet McLeod said that Prevention and Wellness Services had been a "squeaky wheel" in pushing for Coalition funding and noted that people in other parts of the university were also advocating for the Coalition. Ramiro affirmed that he had spoken with President Morse about it, and said that the matter has her attention.

Richard Maneval asked if there was anything that Coalition members could do to expedite the university's process. Dave Doll suggested that members could write letters urging WWU to fund the Coalition. He said that the Coalition has helped facilitate the Bellingham Police Department's mission of creating a safe community. Lara said that it's the role of the Steering Committee to take a leadership role regarding funding, but that input from all members was welcome. She assured members that she would let them know of any news that develops.

### **Collaboration: Maximizing our relationships and linkages**

Lara explained that because the Coalition is not in a position at this time to take on any big, new projects, there are no significant project updates to report, as is customarily done in quarterly meetings. She said that this is a critical time to focus on relationships, which are the fabric of any coalition.

Lara presented a short video that had been produced by Maggie Feeny about the Coalition. The video was created as an advocacy tool to help secure funding and to advocate for the Coalition in general. It was created to capture the views of some of the many members about the Coalition and the benefits of having a working relationship between the campus and community. She thanked the members who were interviewed for the video, and acknowledged the additional views that others could have brought to the project had it been a longer video. *(We will be putting the video online and will notify members when it is available for viewing.)*

Following the video, Lara pointed out that a recurring theme was the value of the relationships within the Coalition. To demonstrate the many different relationships and linkages among members, she asked each person to think of someone in the room who, as a result of their participation in the Coalition, had helped them learn, understand or accomplish something. She asked members to stand and name that person and explain the interaction. Members named specific people with whom they had interacted, and the valuable partnerships between law enforcement agencies, the interaction between students and neighbors in Let's Talk forums, the care and well-being of students, and the importance of local government representation in the Coalition. Lara summed up the activity by reflecting that at this time when other resources are limited, it's important to keep in mind that the relationships among Coalition members are our most important resource and asset.

Dave Doll asked how the video was going to be used. Lara replied that it was intended to accompany a written funding proposal to WWU and/or other potential contributors. It could also be used as an informational piece. It was suggested that it be aired on Channel 10. Louise Bjornson said that a most people have no idea what the Coalition is—including some City Council members—and it would be a good idea to use the video in a presentation to the Council. Janet McLeod stated that multiple CDs could be burned to distribute to Council members or other potential viewers.

Before closing the meeting, several members made announcements. Richard Sullivan announced the Earth Day Clean-up in Happy Valley, with participants meeting at the Lutheran Church on April 26. Iain Davidson reminded members that the Association of Bellingham Neighborhoods would meet on Tuesday, March 25, and Mayor Dan Pike would be talking to the group.

Lara thanked the Coalition members for their participation. She invited members to contact her or Wendy at any time with any questions, concerns, or suggestions