



Linking individuals and families to resources

Newsletter

October 2003

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Welcome

Welcome to the ConneXions Newsletter! We are pleased to share with you the highlights of the October 21, 2003 ConneXions Steering Committee meeting and news about exciting local projects.

ConneXions Logo

We have a winner! Thanks to all who gave input. We are in the process of developing materials for everyone to use as aids in community discussions.

Committee Formation

To continue to move forward, we decided to focus the next phase of our work in two areas and formed subcommittees around them: the Universal Application committee and the Web Support/Information Systems committee. Attached you will find the draft charters and responsibility for each committee. If you are interested in joining either of the committees please contact the appropriate chair listed below.

Universal Application Committee: Chair(s) Debby Gaffney and Jane Jones can be reached at 412-4420 or 459-1718 or email dgaffney@nthurston.k12.wa.us or jjones@casey.org they will soon be contacting all those who signed up to discuss meeting dates, times and locations.

Information Services Committee/Information Service Database Committee: Chair Bev Peterson can be reached at 360-586-2888 or email bevvp@crisis-clinic.org She will soon be contacting all of those who signed up to discuss meeting dates, times, and locations.

ConneXions is growing

Interest in ConneXions continues to expand. Discussions are underway in both Grays Harbor and Mason Counties regarding this project. Both have expressed interest and are hoping to join us at the table. We imagine that each local area will want to organize services in the way that works best for them, but as a steering committee, we are committed to thoughtful coordination that works towards a regional way to fold the locally organized information into a region-wide information and referral database. Discussions with Lewis and Pacific counties are scheduled over the coming months.

Steering Committee Input

As part of the follow up to our October Steering Committee meeting and to help us think through our next phase of work, we are asking for 30 minutes of your time to meet individually with John, Holly, or Bev to discuss the following questions:

- What does ConneXions look like to you?
- What is your top priority that ConneXions could accomplish?
- What are the three most important challenges for us to consider as we move ahead?

- How is the process of creating ConneXions working for you?
- What can we do to improve upon the process?

The responses will be shared at the January meeting. Over the next two months John Masterson, Bev Peterson or Holly Detzler will be contacting to you set up a meeting.

Ongoing Meetings

As we focus our work ahead on the sub-committees, we have decided the steering committee will meet quarterly. The next steering committee meeting will be on Tuesday, January 20, 2004 from 3 –5 pm. Location to be announced.

Highlights from Local Projects

- 1) **Union Gospel Mission Adult dental clinic** has broken ground! The clinic, just the second of its kind in Washington State, hopes to serve 700 un- and underinsured adults ages 18 and over at no charge during its first year. It will be open several days a week from 8 a.m. – 2 p.m. A benefit concert will be held on Saturday November 22nd at the Washington Center for the Performing Arts. The group is called "Breath of Aire" and proceeds will support the cost of construction and dental services. Donations marked "Dental Clinic" can be mailed to Union Gospel Mission, 413 Franklin St., Olympia, WA. Dentists who are interested in participating by providing volunteer care are welcome. Contact: George Wehnes at Olympia Union Gospel Mission, 360-709-9725.
- 2) There is a group working to create **a rest house for the homeless** as a place to recover for homeless people in our community who are discharged from the hospital. They are looking for a four or five bedroom house that could be used for this purpose. Contact: Selena Kilmoyer, Bread and Roses, 360-754-4085.
- 3) Olympia's Westminster Presbyterian Church has taken the lead in developing a **Free Medical Clinic** to serve the uninsured in our community. A steering committee comprised of church members representing health care, social services and a variety of other disciplines has been formed and is meeting to further define the mission and scope of this endeavor. While the steering committee considers the location of this clinic as well as other resources needed in order to open the doors in the coming months, anyone interested in this project is urged to contact Jane Jones at (360) 459-1718 or bjkjones@comcast.net for more information or to register interest in volunteering in some way. Westminster hopes to see this become a collaborative effort, uniting the faith community with the health and social service delivery systems as a way of utilizing the rich resources available to help meet the needs of the uninsured.
- 4) The first meeting of the **Thurston County Community Health Task Force** will be Wednesday, November 5th at 6 p.m. at the Thurston County Department of Health and Social Services. The task force has been reconvened to ensure the coordination of several health-related projects in Thurston County, including ConneXions. Please RSVP to Holly Detzler at 360-493-5762.
- 5) The **Emergency overflow shelter** for the homeless is operated from November to March on evenings when all beds are full in existing shelters and the temperature drops below 32 degrees. Contact: Kathy Erlandson, 360-357-7224, Associated Ministries.

ConneXions is dedicated to linking individuals and families to community resources. The ConneXions newsletter will be emailed periodically to keep friends of ConneXions informed and involved.

To receive this newsletter or to be removed from the list, please send an email to simcicht@crhn.org. For more information or to make suggestions please contact:

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CHOICE Regional Health Network, detzlerh@crhn.org or (360) 493-5566