**Northlake CAC Meeting Minutes**

**August 27, 2019   5:00pm**

**John Stanford International School**

***ACTION NOTE:  Next CAC meeting will be on Tuesday Sept 24, 5:30 pm at John Stanford International School.****(4th Tuesday as usual.)*

*At that meeting, we hope to decide on an****alternative meeting location****for future meetings, since Sarah will be on maternity leave starting November and we won’t be able to meet at John Stanford School during that time.*

***CAC members, please research other possible meeting locations i****n the neighborhood (close to Northlake so residents can access) so we can make decisions at that meeting.*

**8.27.19:**

**CAC members present:**Mike Dunn, Jami Fecher (chair of this meeting), Sarah Jones, Ed Mast (notes)

**Others present:** David Olsen, Zachary Lake, Hanna Lake, Jay Perry, Peggy Hates, Marvin Futrell III, Adrienne Easter, Will Lemke, Will Uhlig, Piper Hackett, Josh Castle, Becca Finkes

**RESIDENTS’ REPORT**

**Census:**

21 adults: 14 M, 7 W, 1 child

4 couples, 2 family, 3 pets

1 move out

**Camp meetings**continue to be on Mondays at 6pm.

**Bus tickets** continue to be issued daily.

**No police calls** this month.

**Housing vouchers:** the couple at camp who received a housing voucher two months ago still hasn’t been able to move into housing.  They hope the opportunity will come soon.

**Bars**: 2 bars over this period:

1. A former leadership member was permanently barred for repeated violations and then drug paraphernalia.  Barred person continue to deny facts behind decision.  Bar was appealed, majority of residents voted to uphold the bar.  Appealed to NV Central Committee, which considered it and decided there was not enough reason to hear the appeal.  Person in question was only barred from Northlake; has since moved into 22nd Ave village.

2. One other person was temporarily barred for verbal abuse.

3. Contrary to info that has been spread, Case Manager Will Uhlig was not barred from the camp.

**ONGOING CONCERNS FROM RESIDENTS:**

**Privacy:**

Residents are concerned to maintain the privacy of people involved in bars and are concerned that LIHI has used this need for privacy against them and that case managers have shared information that is detailed enough to embarrass people.

If CAC wants to have some sort of subcommittee that would confidentially hear confidential information about how these bars are handled, residents would be open to that.

**Visitor policy**:

Visitors are welcome.  Not LIHI staff other than case manager, for fear of forced takeover as at Othello.  HSD staff are asked to make appointments by contacting Nickelsville staff.

Residents don’t like bolting the gate but feel it’s needed in the current crisis and with threat of forced takeover by LIHI.

**FOOD SUPPLIES:**

University Street Food Bank is now bringing food every Wednesday

Burritos without Borders has been temporarily suspended.

University Sunrise Rotary Club continues sending over a breakfast once a week.

A Thai Restaurant continues letting Peggy Hotes bring food on most Thursdays.

Residents wrote to Ivar’s Salmon House three months ago, and were glad to have been invited to host last month’s CAC meeting there, but otherwise have not heard back. **ACTION:**Sarah suggests that residents write another letter with a more overt request for food donations, and Sarah will see that the letter gets to her contact at Ivars.

Residents continue to appreciate Sarah and Piper picking up and delivering food from Amazon, which happens biweekly or more often.  Piper will continue while Sarah is on maternity leave.

**ACTION: Piper would welcome other volunteers with vehicles**to help with these pickups which happen Saturday mornings early in Kent.  **Volunteers need to coordinate with Piper in advance**so they can go through Amazon security clearance before arriving to pick up food donations.

**COMMUNICATIONS WITH LIHI:**

A LIHI GRIEVANCE POLICY has been posted on the Case Manager’s door. Residents have used it for a group concern, and LIHI did respond.  Residents were not satisfied with LIHI’s response and will appeal using due process.

The particular grievance involved the current Case Manager and was hotly debated among residents.  The camp voted more than once not to bar the Case Manager.  Residents ask LIHI to contact Nickelsville Staff if they have questions about bars.

Case Manager has been absent for some weeks. (see Case Manager’s report below)

SUPPLY DELIVERIES are getting back on track, though at least one 41-piece delivery never arrived.  It was re-clarified that if a delivery fails to arrive, Nickelsville staff should contact LIHI immediately.

BEDBUG treatment has also been requested, with no action so far.  Residents reaffirm that such things need to be carefully scheduled in advance because of concerns about letting too many LIHI staff in at any one time.

LIHI sent CAC a two page letter dated August 8.  Northlake residents find that letter full of misstatements and misleading claims.  Residents sent a letter of response on August 12.

Residents hope that LIHI will continue to contact them through Nickelsville staff, including to update them on which residents have not complied with HMIS in the way Nickelsville agreed to.

**COMMUNICATIONS WITH HSD:**

HSD staff have not responded to residents’ email from 6 weeks ago.

Residents were very concerned to hear that HSD staff Lisa Gustaveson is telling people that HSD is going to close Northlake Village soon.  Residents continue to call for mediation and resolution with HSD and LIHI.

**COMMUNITY ACTIVITIES**

Residents continue to make their own drums with the folks who bring a Drum Circle to Northlake each Wednesday evening.

Women in Black stood vigil on July 17th for 5 more deaths of homeless people outside for by violence in King County.  Over 70 people have died for lack of shelter already this year, which exceeds even the record-breaking numbers from 2018.

**CASE MANAGER’S REPORT,** copied/pasted from Will’s email received 8.27.19:

*Northlake case management report: July 24, 2019 to August 27, 2019*

*• 4 clients have shared with me that they have paid employment.*

*•  3 clients spoke of housing assistance possibly being granted.*

*• 1 client was excited to report that they are receiving assistance from a nice new social   
worker.*

*• 1 client qualified for and was offered subsidized housing in a house that has individual   
rooms and shared common areas, kitchens, and bathrooms. They did not want to move   
into that type of housing.*

*• 3 clients asked for their LIHI release of information, agreements, and housing   
information back. I complied immediately.*

*• On August 8, 2019 a client called my LIHI phone number to tell me they were barred and asked to leave by 6 pm. I provided them information of shelters and availability. They chose to not go to an alternative shelter and wanted to stay in a tent in North Seattle. They asked if LIHI could provide a tent so I bought one from Big 5.*

*• According to HSD, 10 out of the 22 clients at Northlake are in compliance with the City of Seattle's requirement of being signed into the Homeless Management Information System. (HMIS)*

*• On August 6, 2019 the Northlake Village arbitrator yelled at me over the phone that I have been permanently barred and hung up on me.*

*• On August 8, 2019 the Northlake Village external communicator yelled at me over the phone that they do not have to tell me about availability and hung up on me.*

*• This helped guide the decision by LIHI’s tiny village area manager and supportive services supervisors that I should not attempt to enter Northlake Village for my scheduled August 9, 2019 shift. I have not been in Northlake Village since August 5, 2019. I have still been in communication with some Northlake clients by phone and email.*

*• On August 12, 2019, on Nickelsville letterhead, 12 Northlake clients filed a grievance report asking that I, the case manager, be relocated.*

Will’s email also included photos of what he considered inappropriate postings on residents’ doors.

Some statements in Will’s report are disputed by residents and staff.

**OTHER REPORTS:**

• HSD Staff Adrienne Easter reports that only 10 residents are in compliance with HMIS regulations by having their information registered with HMIS.  Nickelsville staff understood that HMIS registration is “opt-in” or voluntary; Adrienne understands that registration is mandatory but can be anonymous.  Anonymous registrations would still appear as residing at Northlake.  Residents, Nickelsville staff and Case Manager all confirm that all residents meet and have met with Case Managers on entering Northlake.

[It was not made clear what information is gathered at initial meeting with Case Manager vs. what other information is necessary for HMIS registration or when/how residents can opt-in or choose anonymous registration.  There seems to be dispute about what is mandatory, and it was not made clear if these regulations have changed over time.]

• Adrienne also brought copies of the outcome letter from an HSD monitoring report on LIHI.  (CAC members reminded all that when materials are only delivered to us at a meeting, we can’t respond in any organized way at that same meeting.)  The monitoring report has found LIHI out of compliance in several regards.  LIHI must improve performance by October or face consequences that could include contract restrictions, funding restrictions, or contract closure.

Adrienne was asked if any such monitoring is being done for HSD itself, since many CAC members are concerned about HSD’s role in causing the current crisis.  The answer was unclear.

[It was not made clear whether or not this monitoring report happens every year, and if so why CAC saw no such report last August.]

• In response to a question, Adrienne asserted that LIHI is the only contractor for Northlake.  This assertion caused visible upset to residents and to Nickelsville staff present, since residents, NV staff and others have grave concerns about the nature of the original contract, the alteration of the contract over time without participation of all contracted parties, and ongoing violations of the original ordinance.  One resident voiced concern that the assertion meant HSD was unilaterally supporting LIHI’s takeover of the camps and would support another forced takeover at Northlake. This cluster of issues was going to escalate into an argument, and CAC re-stated our conviction that this meeting is not the correct place for such an argument, especially when materials are being handed to us for the first time.  We also re-clarified that our choice not to challenge statements and assertions does not indicate that we agree with or accept those statements or assertions.  Our CAC has continued to support professional mediation between the disputing parties.

• Josh Castle from LIHI brought copies of the Program Outcomes by Project Type.  Josh clarified that HSD is requiring this report be given to CAC every month, even though the monthly reports might have little or no numbers of successful outcomes, as was the case with this month’s report.

• Josh also asked for clarification from residents on the process for making sure that requested supply deliveries happen on schedule.  Residents and Nickelsville staff agreed to make sure they contact LIHI by the next day if a schedule delivery fails to arrive.

• Sarah will gather CAC contact information to be posted at Northlake so residents can contact any of us.

**PUBLIC COMMENT**included concerns from residents and Nickelsville staff as stated above.  Residents also restated their appreciation for CAC community members continuing to be helpful and engaged with Northlake.

**NEXT CAC MEETING:**

**Tuesday September 24**

**5:30 pm**

**John Stanford International School library**