Welcome

The meeting began at 1:00 pm. Introductions followed. The minutes from the August 12th, 2019 meeting were approved. The agenda was approved.

Agenda Item 3 Homeless Crisis Response Plan

Keylee gives overview of the HCRP. She will be presenting the summary of the plan to each jurisdiction over the next several weeks. In 2018 the County adopted a 5 year Homeless Housing Plan, however the State has requested an update that is focused on the County’s homeless crisis response system. Keylee briefs the CIP on the goals as stated by the State and the goals as included in the draft HCRP.

Keylee highlighted four themes that run throughout the plan that drive the goals for the Homeless Crisis Response System, which are equitable, coordinated, consistent and concise. She then began describing the strategies under the five goals, which were provided by Commerce:
**Goal 1:** Quickly **identify** and **engage** all people experiencing homelessness under the state definition, and all unaccompanied youth under any federal definition, through outreach and coordination between every system that encounters people experiencing homelessness.

**Goal 2:** **Prioritize** housing for people with the greatest need:

**Goal 3:** **Operate** an effective and efficient homeless crisis response system that swiftly moves people into stable permanent housing.

**Goal 4:** **Project** the impact of the fully implemented local plan on the number of households housed and the number of households left unsheltered, assuming existing resources and state policies

**Goal 5:** **Address** racial disparities among people experiencing homelessness.

Throughout the presentation, members asked questions and held discussions about various components of the Plan.

John stated that he would like to see the Plan describe the intent and process by which persons are moving into housing. Keylee indicated that this is in the plan, but will look to see if she can call it out more explicitly.

The group discussed the idea of incremental progress and being clear that just because the public continues to see homeless persons on the street or camping in woods does not mean that the plan is not working.

Joan commented that in addition to language on racial equity, she thinks that gender equity is also an important element to address in the plan.

Members generally expressed support for the plan and talked about the importance of communication with councils and members of the public.

**AGENDA ITEM 4 CAC request to return CIP grant funds**

Members reviewed the letter submitted by Community Action Council (CAC) that indicated they were returning the $13,417 in 2019-2020 CIP funds that were to be used for the Women, Infants and Children program. The group speculated on possible reasons for why CAC was not seeing as many beneficiaries accessing these funds as in the past. In discussing how to reallocate the funds, Tom suggested that the funds not be equally divided amongst all existing grantees and that funds be awarded to either an existing project or to a project that applied for funding in 2019.

The group discussed whether to delay making a decision on reallocating funds until members had more time to consider options and for other members not in attendance to provide input. After discussion of different possible funding options, Renata made the following motion:
Moved: Allocate $3,400 to the Rochester Organization of Families (ROOF) for its Emergency Needs program, bring its total award to $17,000 and allocate $10,017 to Senior Services for South Sound for its Senior Nutrition Program.

In the discussion, it was noted that this allocation would fully fund ROOF, which was the highest scoring application that was recommended by all CIP members and provide additional funding to the Senior Nutrition Program, which was underfunded due to lack of available resources.

The motion was unanimously approved.

**AGENDA ITEM 5 Housing Pipeline**

Tom provided the group with a brief overview and history of the Affordable Housing Capital Pipeline. The Pipeline began in 2016 when agencies in the County sought to have greater certainty around capital funding, which would allow projects on the Pipeline time to leverage additional funds. During the initial development of the pipeline, 9 projects from 2017-2021 were selected with one open position left for 2020. In the 2019 funding process, modifications were made to the Pipeline process, so that the technical review team scored applications to the Pipeline and the Pipeline would identify projects to be funded in 3 years, rather than over 5 years.

Joan asked if the CIP/HHSC was locked into the Pipeline or if they could add additional projects. Tom stated that the Pipeline represents an informal agreement or understanding between the agencies on the Pipeline and there is no legal requirement for the CIP/HHSC to follow the Pipeline. During the 2019 process, the CIP/HHSC awarded the Horizon Housing project funds, which was not originally on the Pipeline schedule. However, not funding projects on the Pipeline would likely cause significant angst and frustration from members of the Housing Action Team.

Anna Schlecht was brought to the table and she discussed the value of the Pipeline back in 2016, but how there is a need to bring in more for-profit developers to Thurston County to develop affordable housing and that the Pipeline is limiting the ability of the County to attract new affordable housing developers.

The group concluded the discussion by stating that they want to continue the conversation about how to attract and build more affordable housing, while honoring the Pipeline process. The group discussed inviting Trudy Soucoup, as chair of the Housing Action Team Pipeline Team to a future meeting to get her input.

**ADJOURN:** The meeting adjourned at 2:45 pm.

**Next regular CIP Meeting:**
October 14, 2019
1:00 pm to 3:00 pm
Conference Room 280