

**Thurston County HOME Consortium  
MEETING MINUTES  
March 9, 2015 11:00 AM-1:00 PM  
Thurston County Public Health & Social Services Department  
412 Lilly Rd NE, Olympia WA 98506-5132  
Conference Room 107ABC**

<b>In Attendance: Consortium Members</b>					
Cathy Wolfe	Thurston County		Jeannine Roe	Olympia	x
Virgil Clarkson	Lacey	X	Dennis McVey	Rainier	X
Neil McClanahan (Chair)	Tumwater	X	Sirena Painter	Tenino	X
Jen Littlefield	Yelm	X	<i>Vacant</i>	<i>Bucoda</i>	
<b>Other Attendees</b>					

Curt Andino	Luke Swinney	Tim Ransom
Paul Knox	Brett Rader	Anna Schlecht
Andrew Oommen	Theresa Slusher	Raul Salazar
Danny Kadden	Trudy Soucoup	Don Sloma
Jane Sherman	Tammie Smith	Gary Aden
Meg Martin	Schelli Slaughter	Dan Schnabel
Maxwell Goldsmith	Charles Shelan	Linda Abell *Minutes*
Tarryn Bieloh	Diane Harris	
David Wade		

<b>Welcome and Introductions</b>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Introductions were made.</li> </ul>
<b>Public Comments/Announcements</b>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• David and Max, shelter staff at the Interfaith Works Overnight Shelter thanked the Consortium for funding the program and shared positive stories and appreciation from the residents. Shelter staff go above and beyond to assist the residents and want the Consortium to know they are operating at capacity every night.</li> </ul>
<b>Approval of Agenda for March</b>
Virgil made a motion to approve the March meeting agenda. The motion was seconded by Jen.
<b>Approval of Minutes for February</b>
Virgil made a motion to approve the February meeting minutes. The motion was seconded by Jeannie.
<b>Review of Financial Report - Gary Aden</b>
Gary reports that 2163 is only 1% less than projected and with 2060 being under by 4%, it may even out. Staff appreciate agencies submitting invoices on time.
<b>Review HOME Consortium Timeline Calendar - Gary Aden</b>
Gary gave an overview of the very busy next three months highlighting the following - March: Release of the HOME RFP and the Tumwater CDBG. April: HOME Review Panels will go through the RFP review process. May: The final selection and BOCC approval for funding HOME RFP proposals. Ongoing projects for staff include the Annual Plan, Contract Compliance and continuing with technical support from HUD.

**New State CHG Funding Available**

Gary reports that the Department of Commerce has once again approached Thurston County with \$45,000 in conditional funding from the Ending Family Homelessness set-aside within the CHG program. The state wants to be sure that needed funds are being used. This funding must be used for Rapid Rehousing of homeless families who currently receive Temporary Aid to Needy Families (TANF).

Currently there are 3 contracted providers who are eligible to receive these funds: Family Support Center, Housing Authority of Thurston County and Community Action Council.

Staff is looking for an approval to accept these funds and recommends allocation of \$15,000 to each of the three agencies. Dennis made a motion to recommend the BOCC to approve and allocate the staff recommendation of funds, Virgil seconded the motion.

Charles pointed out that this is the second time in recent months that the county has been the recipient of unspent CHG funds. He suggests that if receiving these funds is “the new normal” that the county might consider looking at the way they fund shelters, who are not eligible to use these funds.

**HCAC Priority Recommendation – 2015 Funding Round**

Paul explained that the HCAC has spent the last two months working on priorities for the upcoming HOME RFP. The recommendation document provided lists in order of priority: Supportive Housing (targeting 30% AMI and below), Affordable Housing (targeting 50% AMI and below), and Homeless Housing.

Andrew commented that today’s Recommended Funding Priorities document looks much different than the draft Recommendations document provided at the last HCAC meeting. He also stated that an updated draft was to be shared with HCAC members before being presented to the HOME Consortium for consideration. Jeannine Roe requested to see the previous draft and copies were produced for all members.

Don asked for an explanation of funding reductions suggested on the document which include the homeless census and reducing county administrative costs but does not include any type of reduction in the Homeless Coordinator position.

Paul explained that the HCAC felt that all costs should be reviewed, but that the Homeless Coordinator position was valuable. Don stated that with the reduction in funding we may not get to the 2<sup>nd</sup> priority.

Sirena asked for clarification on how rents are subsidized through agencies such as Homes First. She feels while there will always be a need to provide affordable and supportive housing, Habitat for Humanity provides a home-ownership opportunity that benefits entire families for the same cost as subsidized housing.

Curt requests that the updated priorities not be used and rather that the review committee be empowered to decide.

Theresa feels that the review committee will not be experienced or knowledgeable enough to make the decisions without guidelines. Jeannine feels it was helpful to get both versions and thanked Andrew for his comments. Dennis feels the HCAC has done what was asked of them and that the decisions have been made. Neil agreed that they have performed in their role as an advisory group. Neil asked for head nods to approve the recommendations.

**Review Committee Selection 2015 RFP**

A diverse group of 11 people have been contacted and all have agreed to participate. Gary provided an overview of the process and the timeline. Staff is anticipating approximately 25 applications. The review committee will receive the RFP information and review process at a meeting on April 8<sup>th</sup>.

**Homeless Coordinator Monthly Report**

Theresa gave an overview of her regular monthly report and a Supportive Housing Solutions paper. She also provided a detailed presentation of her Year End Report including a list of recommendations. There was discussion about Permanent Supportive Housing and the real needs in Thurston County. Don Sloma pointed out that there are actually more beds available than are accurately portrayed in the report. There are various programs through the State of Washington which provide approximately 8000 beds for those in need of Permanent Supportive Housing. These sites include adult family homes, assisted living centers, mental and acute care beds and homes provided by the Housing Authority.

Don asked the Home Consortium to be aware that the department has a significant difference of findings and conclusions and does not agree with many of the recommendations in the report. Neil asked for more information and Don shared that in regards to the unfinished 10 Year Plan, a detailed letter was sent last November to both the Homeless Coordinator and the Consortium Chairman but a response was never received. Don states there is additional work to be done and he would like the project reviewed, finalized and completed.

**HCAC Report**

There was no additional report.

**Additional Public Comments/Announcements**

Staff from Interfaith Works Overnight Shelter shared a story about a resident who went through some very tough times and with help from staff, is now in clean and sober. Staff again thanked the Home Consortium for funding the shelter.

**NEXT MEETING**

**Monday, April 13 , 2015 11:00 a.m. – 1p.m.**

Thurston County Public Health

412 Lilly Road, Olympia 98506

**Meeting Adjourned at 1:00 PM**