

**Thurston County HOME Consortium
MEETING MINUTES
April 14, 2014 11:00 AM-1:00 PM
Thurston County Public Health & Social Services Department
412 Lilly Rd NE, Olympia WA 98506-5132
Conference Room 107ABC**

In Attendance: Consortium Members					
Karen Valenzuela	Thurston County	X	Jeannine Roe	Olympia	X
Virgil Clarkson	Lacey	X	Charmayne Garrison <i>(Alternate for Dennis McVey)</i>	Rainier	X
Neil McClanahan (Chair)	Tumwater	X	Craig Lester	Tenino	X
Mike McGowan	Yelm	X	<i>Vacant</i>	<i>Bucoda</i>	
Other Attendees					
Gary Aden	Paul Knox		Kat Sliwinska		
Curt Andino	Meg Martin		Schelli Slaughter		
Miek Arieta	Heather Moore		Don Sloma		
Sierra Brown	Monica Peabody		Trudy Soucoup		
Kathy Cooper	Tim Ransom		Cathy Wolfe		
Danny Kadden	Anna Schlecht		Amanda Lehr *Minute Taker		
Danille Kettel	Dan Schnabel				
Diane Harris	Jill Severn				
Welcome and Introductions					
The meeting was called to order by Chairman McClanahan at 11:05 AM. Introductions followed.					
Public Comments/Announcements					
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • None. 					
Approval of Agenda for April 14, 2014					
ACTION: A motion was made by Commissioner Valenzuela and was seconded by Councilmember Clarkson to approve the agenda for April 14, 2014 as written. Motion passed unanimously.					
Approval of Minutes for March 10, 2014					
ACTION: A motion was made by Commissioner Valenzuela and was seconded by Councilmember Clarkson to approve the Meeting Minutes for March 10, 2014 as written. Motion passed unanimously.					
Review of Financial Report - Gary Aden					
Gary Aden reported that agencies have been submitting invoices on time. A recent discussion with the Thurston County Auditor regarding HB 5875 and its impact on Homeless and Affordable Housing revenues revealed that revenue is expected to increase (as opposed to previously thought). The law clarified the types of documents and exemptions for which fees could be collected, which should increase revenue by a slight amount and will remain stable until the first sunset in 2019. Councilmember Roe clarified that the "bubble round" was a one-time funding round last year that took savings incurred from changing the program cycle and put that amount out for Request for Proposals (RFP).					
Review HOME Consortium Timeline Calendar - Gary Aden					
Gary Aden reported that applications for the 2014 HOME Consortium funding round are due by 5:00 PM on Friday, April 18, 2014. Consortium members will select members for the review committee, and thumb drives containing pertinent materials will be prepared and delivered once all applications are received. The review committee will meet on two (2) dates, May 2 nd and May 9 th , to make their funding selections for recommendations to be made by the HOME Consortium to the Board of County Commissioners. In May, funding selections will be made and the FY 2014 HOME Annual Action Plan will be prepared and put out for public comment for thirty (30) days, from May 20, 2014 to June 20, 2014. In June, a public hearing is anticipated to be held on June 17, 2014 to consider public comments, and is anticipated to be adopted by resolution by the Board of County Commissioners on June 24, 2014. Staff anticipates submitting the annual plan to the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) on July 8, 2014.					
Councilmember McGowan confirmed that the Community Investment Partnership (CIP) RFP applications were due on April 11, 2014, and asked Mr. Aden to give a brief overview of the program. Mr. Aden explained that the CIP is a					

combination of funding from United Way and the Health and Human Services Council (HHSC), previously known as the Human Services Review Council (HSRC), combined to have a broader reach to applicants for greater collective impact. The CIP Steering Committee will select grant amounts, and it was clarified that CIP funding covers general human services needs.

Councilmember McGowan requested more information regarding any overlap between CIP and HOME Consortium funding. Commissioner Valenzuela, Councilmember Clarkson, and Councilmember Roe are on the CIP Steering Committee. Discussion followed regarding coordination of CIP funds with Affordable and Homeless housing dollars. Commissioner Valenzuela reviewed the CIP Steering Committee members, which includes four (4) representatives from jurisdictions, and four (4) from United Way of Thurston County. The CIP provides for greater coordination of funded projects, with an eventual goal for this to be one (1) combined sources of funding with multiple revenue streams. Councilmember McGowan requested a future discussion about how communication can exist between funding streams for planning purposes and coordination.

2014 RFP Review Committee Selection - Consortium

Chairman McClanahan reviewed the proposed HOME Consortium RFP Review Committee, which included representatives from the following: HOME Citizen Advisory Committee (HCAC), the Homeless Coordinator, City of Olympia, City of Yelm, Thurston County, Thurston Regional Planning Council (TRPC), City of Tumwater, and City of Lacey. The Consortium members are to approve the individuals to serve as representatives on the committee. Councilmember McGowan mentioned that this list of representatives was not decided by the Consortium, and requested more information on how this decision was made. Chairman McClanahan explained that there was more than one (1) nominee from some jurisdictions, while others had no representation, and that this was meant to more evenly distribute representation. Commissioner Valenzuela further clarified that nominees were submitted and reviewed, and that this is a suggested solution to assure more of an even representation.

There was a concern from one individual about over-representation of Homeless Housing needs and not enough for Affordable Housing needs. Councilmember McGowan clarified that these suggestions would be voted on today. There were two (2) individuals nominated to serve on the committee but were not represented on the list due to duplication from jurisdictions. Councilmember McGowan explained to Councilmember Roe that in the past, the review committee had been appointed by the Consortium one year, by the HCAC another year, and this year it is being modeled after Kitsap County's review committee, which has representation from the Consortium, jurisdictions, and valuable knowledge from the public. There was some discussion about how to ensure that the rural community and those with the highest need are represented. Councilmember McGowan suggested that with the HCAC and Homeless Coordinator leaning more towards homeless issues there may not be enough representation for Affordable Housing or rural areas. Schelli Slaughter, Vice-Chair of the HCAC, explained that Leslie Owen was their nominee because she is a non-applying member. Charmayne Garrison noted that their nominee is Fred Evander of the TRPC, who would better represent the three (3) rural communities. The complete list of nominees are as follows:

Representing	Name
City of Lacey	Steve Kirkman
City of Olympia	Leonard Bauer
City of Tumwater	Neil McClanahan
City of Yelm	Mike McGowan
HCAC	Leslie Owen
Homeless Coordinator	Theresa Slusher
Thurston County	Karen Valenzuela
Thurston County Regional Planning Council	Fred Evander

Concern was expressed about a lack of representation for Affordable Housing. Curt Andino mentioned that there is a Homeless Coordinator but no one representing Affordable Housing, and expressed concern that the Homeless Coordinator will be advocating for homeless services which is unbalanced and unfair. Commissioner Valenzuela disagreed; Affordable Housing is listed in the priority goals, ensuring equal representation for both Affordable and Homeless Housing projects.

ACTION: A motion was made by Commissioner Valenzuela and was seconded by Councilmember Clarkson to approve the proposed HOME Consortium Review Committee for the 2014 funding round. Discussion followed regarding the desire for a representative from the private sector, and the need for more engagement from this and other committees well in advance of making a decision on this matter in the next funding round. Motion passed unanimously.

South County Needs Assessment Update - Gary Aden, Consortium

Gary Aden reported that there were four (4) applicants for the South County Rural Needs Assessment; the HOME Consortium initially selected the City of Olympia. Mr. Aden was tasked with a question regarding County's ability legally to contract with municipalities. The Prosecuting Attorney's Office (PAO) determined that it is acceptable. In the meantime, the City of Olympia withdrew their application. Mr. Aden requested the Consortium members choose which agency the County should contract with to complete the South County Needs Assessment. A handout was provided including Mr. Aden's request, the City of Olympia's withdrawal, and the applicant rankings. Councilmember McGowan expressed concern regarding the method of ranking and scoring, stating that parameters need to be set in stone before rankings takes place. Chairman McClanahan suggested postponing the decision to allow the three (3) remaining applicants to be re-scored. Councilmember McGowan stated that he would like to move forward as is, but that this should be addressed in the future.

ACTION: A motion was made by Commissioner Valenzuela and was seconded by Charmayne Garrison to allow Thurston County to enter into a contract with Parents Organizing for Welfare and Economic Rights (POWER) to complete the South County Needs Assessment, for a maximum total consideration of \$9,225. Discussion followed. The motion passed unanimously.

2014 Homeless Connect Event and 2015 Point-in-Time Count - Gary Aden, Consortium

Gary Aden reported that contracting for the Point-in-Time (PIT) Homeless Census and Homeless Connect Event (HCE) was requested to be accomplished earlier this year than it was last year. In 2013, Thurston County contracted with the City of Olympia for the PIT Homeless Census and for the Homeless Connect Event (HCE) that occurred at the Olympia Center in downtown Olympia. The requested amounts for this year's PIT count and HCE are \$25,000 and \$6,000, respectively. Mr. Aden requested that the Consortium members approve to enter into these two (2) contracts, in order to give some surety for planning purposes.

Councilmember McGowan expressed appreciation for the City of Olympia's work, and mentioned that the 2013 HCE was excellent. However, Councilmember McGowan also expressed concern for allocating \$6,000 for the HCE without any similar event in the rural area, and would like to see the rural areas be allocated funding as well. Anna Schlecht clarified that this is a condensed proposal, and that the City of Olympia is working with Yelm Community Services (YCS) to host a smaller event located at their community services center that would serve as the rural hub event. Charmayne Garrison mentioned that the need in the south county is as great as the rest of the county, and would like the event to be comparable. Councilmember McGowan proposed including rural jurisdictions in the discussions. Anna Schlecht explained that with the limited budget, the south county event is focused on Yelm because of YCS; they are the only agency in that area. Another event (in Tenino, for example) would have costs associated with putting the event in multiple jurisdictions. Councilmember McGowan asked if the \$6,000 proposed for the HCE could be increased. Anna Schlecht mentioned that the City of Olympia will do all that they can within a reasonable budget. Councilmember Lester suggested a location in Tenino to host an event. Discussion followed in regard to including the Homeless Coordinator in the process, and increasing the budget to improve events in the south county. Anna Schlecht suggested that the City of Olympia return to the Consortium at the regular meeting in May 2014 with a more cogent proposal of costs. M. Schlecht stated that they would meet with jurisdictions to discuss opportunities.

ACTION: A motion was made by Commissioner Valenzuela and was seconded by Councilmember McGowan to approve, in concept only, Thurston County to contract with the City of Olympia for the 2014 Homeless Connect Event and the 2015 Point-in-Time Homeless Census. The motion passed unanimously.

2014 Point-in-Time Homeless Census: Preliminary Numbers - Anna Schlecht, Consortium

Anna Schlecht is the coordinator of the Homeless Census, and reviewed the preliminary numbers from the 2014 PIT Count. There were 603 homeless people counted. There are more specific information in this report regarding sheltered versus unsheltered individuals, and those in transitional housing through rapid rehousing into permanent housing are being counted more accurately. There are fewer people in shelters, which could be from reporting differences. There are fewer people unsheltered. However, more people are living beyond the pale of transitional and supportive housing.

The numbers of homeless individuals spiked up to approximately 1,000 in 2010, and is slowly coming down. These trends follow the recession and are seen as accurate. Demographic information and causes will be available soon specific to each jurisdiction. On the back of the handout, the data source does not follow the recession. The number of homeless school children is increasing each year. The biggest difference between the one-day census and school census is that the school census is taken year-round. The free and reduced lunch program provides deeper information about family homelessness and poverty. In Thurston County, there was a forty-one percent (41%) increase over last year, with 500 more homeless school children. There are some differences between methodologies: Schools take into account those

staying with friends and family, while the count by the City of Olympia does not. There was discussion about the change in methodology by the City of Olympia from year to year and its lack of consistent data as a result. M. Schlecht explained that the City of Olympia works hard to enhance efforts and works with the Homeless Coordinator and agencies to get the most accurate data. The good news is that more people are getting into housing, but the bad news is that number of unsheltered individuals increased.

Councilmember McGowan mentioned that the Consortium does the best possible within context of the funding available, but does not think that the rural count is accurate. This highlights the point that school numbers will be more accurate due to the compulsory nature of education and the ease of missing homeless individuals. Councilmember Clarkson requested more information about how individuals are counted. M. Schlecht explained that due to relationships with rural areas, they have expanded their efforts in the south county. Working with the Homeless Coordinator, they were able to extend the census for an additional nine (9) days in rural areas. Each of the dozen (12) food banks in the south county had volunteers stationed at all times. M. Schlecht explained the difficulty in finding individuals who do not want to be found, as they are unable to do a sweep to comb through parks. Most people who are homeless are doing everything they can to not to be found because they are continuously harassed, arrested, and fined. Homeless individuals understand that they technically have no right to be anywhere, leaving them afraid of police and other people. The current methodology is to have more people at every urban hub, food bank, bus stations, libraries, street searches, and mobile rovers. The final report will give detailed information about this methodology.

People's House Editorial and Discussion - Consortium

Chairman McClanahan stated that there was an editorial published in The Olympian regarding the People's House. This agenda item is meant to be a discussion of the editorial as it related to the People's House and what role or responsibility the Consortium has to that effect. Councilmember Roe prepared comments and read them to the group, stating that the siting process has been unproductive, the community has been polarized, and the county should have a greater role in the siting process. Councilmember McGowan stated that some comments in the editorial have validity and some do not. For example, it is not correct to say that the Consortium "walked away" after awarding Interfaith Works the funding for the People's House; this is no different than funding awarded to any other service provider. Efforts so far have been made to provide funding and not as much in providing support to the planning process. The Consortium could be more involved in public support, however.

Commissioner Valenzuela noted that this is the first time that The Olympian has acknowledged that there is a need for this type of shelter in Olympia. The Consortium can be more involved in conversations with the community about the need for shelters, but Thurston County cannot be the deciding body for this. It is clear that shelter needs to be located in Olympia; there is no way to avoid this since it is the central urban hub. Larger roles are required from both the City of Olympia as well as Thurston County, as permits are provided by one (the city) and funding is provided by the other (the county). Interfaith Works has done great work; the Consortium awarded them \$400,000 to stand up a shelter, and they are doing their very best to do that. Commissioner Valenzuela further reminded everyone of Camp Quixote that formed in 2005, which had to move from church to church and required that churches conduct community meetings. When the camp left each neighborhood, neighbors expressed their growing support. Camp Quixote went on to become the local success known as Quixote Village, which had to go to court to begin construction. It was not an easy journey, and this project will not be easy moving forward. Shelter is needed in this community, and is part of an ongoing discussion.

Councilmember Roe acknowledged Interfaith Works in their efforts, and mentioned that in the City of Olympia, the topic has become a divisive and controversial one. Councilmember Roe stated her belief that the Consortium should help Interfaith Works to come up with a process to site their facility and gain community support. Councilmember McGowan noted that emergency shelters are often full, that communication can be improved to reduce divisiveness, and suggested the following: coordination of a task force (for planning or other), and funding for public restrooms. Input from Interfaith Works was requested regarding what would improve communication and where support is needed most. Paul Knox agreed with Commissioner Valenzuela's analysis of this unique and controversial situation and appreciates the support from the Consortium thus far. However, in hind sight, the City of Olympia and Thurston County could have stepped in and assisted sooner, recognizing that the shelter should not be located anywhere except within the City of Olympia. Councilmember Roe requested clarification on the comment that the City of Olympia should have helped more; the City of Olympia has felt that it is not their role, and requested staff perspective from Anna Schlecht. Anna Schlecht reported that the city has proceeded cautiously; when the Consortium made the funding allocation there was a condition that the site's location be chosen in consultation with the City of Olympia and other stakeholders, which has been interpreted broadly in different ways. The City of Olympia has been encouraged to step away from the process and allow Interfaith Works to drive the process. Councilmember Roe mentioned that this topic has never been a conversation in the city council because it is an Interfaith Works project that was funded by the Consortium.

Danny Kadden spoke on the topic and reassured the group of Interfaith Works' tirelessness in commitment to discussing this topic. The board of directors is gratified with the editorial; there is a tone and willingness to discuss these issues, which is a good place to continue the effort. Mr. Kadden disagreed with Councilmember Roe and the Olympia city council and is willing to discuss the issue with them. Mr. Kadden recognized Meg Martin's leadership of their team, who deals with anxieties and fears from the public as well as the day-to-day life of homeless individuals and their needs. The work done over past year has been exemplary; they have set a high standard and set an example for listening respectfully and analytically. Mr. Kadden noted appreciation for the strong professional support and advice that the county staff and leadership have provided, and has high respect for engagement by the county and Consortium. The City of Olympia has also been source of feedback, quality support, and interest in engagement. Mr. Kadden explained that a task force, while productive in some ways, should not be done in the context of a moratorium on new shelters. Shelters are needed year-round. Men's beds are unavailable as the cold weather shelter comes to a close for the year, and women's shelter needs are much higher. Interfaith Works will be working on siting the shelter in the most workable, professional way possible. There are a number of opportunities in siting the shelter that will be shared soon.

Ms. Martin noted that Interfaith Works has held many public forums; however there are some who feel they have not been represented. Ms. Martin suggested that the Consortium and/or the City of Olympia could assist by conducting community conversations and include those who have not been included previously. Councilmember McGowan clarified that the best assistance from the Consortium would be through Public Relations, holding public hearings, etc., and not through the siting process. Mr. Kadden stated that the siting process is governed by municipal code, which has limitations. An intergovernmental body like the Consortium could raise confidence for Interfaith Works as a sponsor, host, or facilitator of conversations. Councilmember Roe emphasized that it is more appropriate for the Consortium to assist in broader education and improvement of public comfort with the project, and suggested either a task force or the Consortium members.

Commissioner Valenzuela added that she has been attending community meetings regarding the People's House for over a year, and disagreed that Interfaith Works is not ready to take on such a task; they have managed to move the community forward, with the local newspaper agreeing that there is a need for this type of shelter. Councilmember Roe posed the question: When is too long to site the project, and is there a deadline for re-evaluation? Councilmember McGowan stated that there is no evidence that this project will fail, and is under the impression that the project has been successful so far. Chairman McClanahan stated that as a body, the Consortium could write letters of support for Interfaith Works. Commissioner Valenzuela agreed, and requested that the People's House be a regular agenda item to check in on the progress. Charles Shelan mentioned that he has been doing this kind of work for thirty (30) years, and noted the importance of wording, suggesting the slogan "low barrier, high expectations" to help curtail the public's perception of low-barrier shelters. Councilmember Roe stressed that a perception change is needed, and Interfaith Works will still need to get community support. Councilmember McGowan confirmed that the majority of Consortium members are behind and supportive of the project.

HCAC Report - Schelli Slaughter, Vice-Chair of the HCAC

Schelli Slaughter chaired the last HCAC meeting, which was held on March 20th. There was discussion specifically regarding prioritizing membership spots, including the need for realtors, developers, and bankers. There were new applicants, and membership participation will be solidified for recommendation for the Consortium to approve in May 2014. HCAC members discussed the impact of HB 5875, and how important it is to take advantage of advocacy opportunities for homeless and affordable issues. Theresa Slusher's Ten Year Plan update it is a priority as well. Ms. Slusher also suggested that the county participate in the 100k Homes campaign. They also had a conversation about the People's House. Councilmember McGowan suggested that the Consortium should assist the HCAC in the recruitment of new members, and suggested that this be a future agenda item for the Consortium.

Homeless Coordinator Monthly Report - Theresa Slusher, Homeless Coordinator

In the absence of the Homeless Coordinator, this agenda item was tabled.

Additional Public Comments/Announcements

- None.

Next Meeting

Monday, May 12, 2014 – 11:00AM-1:00PM – Thurston County PHSS Conference Room 107ABC

Meeting Agenda: Review Committee planning for the 2015 funding round; ranking and scoring parameters of applications received; updated proposal on the 2014 HCE and 2015 PIT by the City of Olympia; People's House discussion (standing agenda item); HCAC membership designations and recruitment plan for empty membership slots.

Meeting Adjourned at 1:12 PM