

Thurston County HOME Consortium
MEETING MINUTES
August 12, 2013 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	Jim Cooper – Olympia	X
Ron Lawson – Lacey	X	Dennis McVey (Vice-chair) – Rainier	X
Neil McClanahan (Chair) – Tumwater	X	Robert Scribner – Tenino	X
Mike McGowan – Yelm	X	<i>Vacant – Bucoda</i>	

Other Attendees		
Gary Aden	Daniel Kadden	Schelli Slaughter
Casey Allan	Paul Knox	Jill Severn
Curt Andino	Lee Johnson	Charles Shelan
Jessica Archer	Jodi Lamoreaux	Anna Schlecht
Cassie Burke	Chris Lovell	Dan Schnabel
Kathy Cooper	Emma Margrof	Don Sloma
Desdra Downing	Meg Martin	Trudy Soucoup
Jefferson Doyle	Heather Moore	Sue Stack
Pat Fealy	Monserrat Morales	Vera Williams
David Gerardot	Jan Naughton	Mary Wheaton
Sally Goetsch	Phil Owen	Roger B. Tanquist
Patty Gregory	Kellie Patton	Billie Williams
Natalie Hagenlock	Tim Ransom	Candace Wood
Gene Hoover	Rob Richards	Amanda Lehr <i>*Minute Taker</i>
Daryl Kallberg	Julie Rodwell	
Selena Kilmoyer	Gary Sandwick	

Welcome and Introductions

Chairman McClanahan called the meeting to order at 11:06 AM. Introductions followed.

Approval of Agenda

Chairman McClanahan amended the August 12, 2013 agenda to cover all agenda items except the 2060/2163 funding recommendations, which will follow a presentation by Jeff Spring from Commerce at 12:00 PM.

ACTION: A motion was made to approve the 8/12/13 agenda as amended, and was seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

Public Comments/Announcements

Chairman McClanahan requested that each person stand up and state their name and address for the record before giving their comment or announcement.

- Casey Allan – 1431 - 11th Ave SE, Olympia 98501. Stated that she is the owner of Swantown Bed and Breakfast. She believes there are too many services for the homeless population, and with the proposed People’s House shelter her neighborhood will turn into a “homeless neighborhood.” Believes that the shelter will increase the already negative view of Olympia in the media. She called the Eastside Neighborhood a “dumping ground” for the homeless.
- Jessica Archer – 1316 Central St SE, Olympia 98501 – Discouraged with Interfaith Works’ notification process for People’s House; she found out about the project through the neighborhood association and otherwise had no idea about this project. Choice of the location to serve pedophiles and criminals within a quarter (¼) mile of two (2) elementary schools. Told a story about a felon who tried to make his way into her house and ransacked her neighbor’s house after he left her alone. She claimed that

other towns are dumping their homeless population in Olympia.

- Billie Williams - lives in Lacey, WA – Spoke with support of the congregation about the shelter. Understands the dismay of residents. Stated that there needs to be a low-barrier shelter for the homeless to have a place to take care of immediate needs; this system does work. Is unsure of people being dumped here, but knows that people are being helped and that Interfaith Works has a stellar record. Where will they go if there is no shelter? She doesn't see it as dangerous; it might be safer to have homeless people in the shelter rather than on the street.
- Jill Severn – 607 Central St NE, Olympia 98506 – Thanked the Consortium in advance for support of funding proposal. Enormous and courageous struggle to find balance to fund low-income and homeless projects. Appreciates difficulty of the work and thanked the Consortium board.
- Schelli Slaughter – 201 Capitol Way N, Olympia 98501 – Echoed Jill's sentiments – Consortium has a very difficult decision ahead of them, and that there are no easy decisions. Would like to say that reducing rapid rehousing for children is a significant reduction to family services. With the currently proposed funding, Family Support Center will have to cut services to 45 family households with children, the largest cut to this agency. Rapid rehousing was identified as one of the top five (5) gaps, and is recognized by nationwide tools for reducing homelessness. Their funding is being reduced each year rather than increased. Cannot reach the 10 Year Plan to end homelessness by reducing rapid rehousing for families. Rapid rehousing helps move families to permanent supportive housing, and should be funded for all populations, not just for families with children.
- Casey Allan – Addition to previous comment – The problem with low-barrier shelters is that you don't know who is being served. The problem is with the type of shelter being proposed and its location. She stated there is not a lack of beds, but a lack of services. If residents don't want to follow the rules to receive services, then she doesn't know what to do.
- Seth Hut – 608 Quince St, Olympia. Found out about this project on Friday. The people they are trying to house are the wrong demographic; there are other services in Olympia they can access. Stated that Olympia is becoming a dumping ground for the homeless. Enabling them (homeless) has to stop instead of adding to the problem.

Councilmember Cooper responded to comments regarding the People's House site location. The permitting process is through the City of Olympia and he encouraged everyone to let People's House and City of Olympia receive those comments. Suggested that they email the council and plan to attend the council meeting tomorrow (Tuesday) night at 7:00 PM. Public comments are allowed at every meeting, and are encouraged. He requested that future comments be directed to the City of Olympia.

Approval of Minutes for July, 2013

ACTION: A motion was made and was seconded to approve the 7/18/2013 Meeting Minutes as written. Motion passed unanimously.

Review of Financial Report

Gary Aden reviewed the budget for the 2013-2014 program year. Current contracts come to a close on Aug 31, 2013, completing 28 projects. Four (4) agencies are expected to request extensions. A list of the recommended new projects for 2060 and 2163 will be given later during the meeting for approval.

Neil McClanahan noted that funding recommendations will be discussed later.

Review Calendar HOME Consortium Timeline Calendar

Housing staff is working on the contracting process for CHG, ESG, HOME, CDBG, and 2060/2163 (once they are approved). The HUD monitoring visit will finish this week, and we can expect a report in about a month. The CHG RFP was released on 8/2/13 and is due on 8/23/13. The September Consortium meeting will have CHG RFP selections for Consortium approval. In September, staff will be working on 2060/2163 contracts. CHG contracts will go to Commerce in September; October is the HOME Consortium retreat and the month for data reporting. Councilmember McGowan asked if the current CHG contracts are with shelters. Mr. Aden reported that the 2012-2013 CHG recipients were the Housing Authority of Thurston County, Yelm Community Services, Community Youth Services, Salvation Army, and SafePlace for shelter, homeless prevention, transitional

housing, and permanent supportive housing services. Councilmember McGowan confirmed that these agencies rely on the CHG funding, and requested information about the review committee. Mr. Aden stated that it will be the same review committee as for 2060/2163. Councilmember McGowan stated that he would like to see the RFP applications before the HOME Consortium meeting in September. Mr. Aden confirmed the amount for CHG this year is \$611 K for two (2) year funding, beginning January 1, 2013 and ending December 31, 2014.

Point in Time (PIT) Homeless Count & Homeless Connect Event

Gary Aden requested approval to negotiate a contract with the City of Olympia, which has been done in past years to conduct a county-wide homeless count (PIT), for reporting to the statewide database. Requested to begin negotiations with City of Olympia for the traditional amt of \$25,000 with an additional \$5,000 for various costs related to the Homeless Connect event in downtown Olympia. The Homeless Connect event will take place in December, with the PIT count starting in January 2014. Mr. Aden clarified that the request is for the director of PHSS to execute contracts under the requested \$25,000 amount.

ACTION: A motion was made by Commissioner Valenzuela to approve the request for \$25,000 to conduct a Point in Time Homeless Count and an additional \$5,000 for the Homeless Connect event. The motion was seconded by Councilmember Lawson. Discussion followed. The motion passed unanimously.

HOME Annual Retreat – Subcommittee Report

Chairman McClanahan noted that Commissioner Valenzuela spent a lot of time on the retreat agenda and thanked her for her efforts. A draft of the HOME annual retreat agenda was circulated. The event will take place on October 14, 2013 from 12:00 PM to 4:30 PM, at the county's public works campus on Tilley Road. Lunch will be provided. Discussion followed regarding the length of the meeting and whether it will be enough time. Commissioner Valenzuela agreed that it is an aggressive agenda, but that with the help of a facilitator from the Thurston Regional Planning Council, the meeting can be focused enough to get through everything.

Homeless Coordinator Report – Theresa Slusher (on vacation)

Gary Aden reported that Theresa Slusher is on vacation, and that she and Kathy Cooper visited Kitsap County to take notes on their RFP system and other various items. Their entire funding pool is put into one (1) RFP round, and puts the entire application online. The full report would come better from Ms. Cooper and Ms. Slusher, and is a topic for the HOME retreat in October. Ms. Slusher began meeting with subcommittees for coordinated entry and the chronically homeless, discussing ways to address those challenges in the community. The subcommittees meet once a month, and over the next few months hope to address those issues.

HOME Citizen Advisory Committee Update – Schelli Slaughter (HCAC Vice-chair)

Schelli Slaughter reported: The HOME Citizens Advisory Committee (HCAC) met on 7/18/13, where members reviewed the previous Consortium meeting. Ms. Slusher presented a survey monkey she had sent out on the Consolidated Plan and the HMIS dashboard for Thurston County. It will take some getting used to using that tool to inform future work. Ms. Slusher is also developing a new website, developed by Phil Owen, which looks like a useful tool for the entire county. HCAC members also discussed the subcommittees that Mr. Aden reported on earlier. Next HCAC meeting in September will look for nominations for representation for statewide committees for the Washington State Housing Alliance.

CHG RFP Update - Gary Aden

Gary Aden reported that the CHG applications are due on August 23, 2013. The review committee will be the same as the 2060/2163 RFP round.

2060/2163 - Funding Recommendation for Both Funding Rounds

Gary Aden reported that the review committee met and had forwarded the recommendations to the Consortium to be reviewed at this time. Theresa Slusher did a lot of work on identifying the top five (5) priorities, and there are five (5) projects recommended for funding to address these gaps. 28 projects were received; 25 are recommended for awards, with \$160 K to be held in reserve.

Councilmember McGowan stated that this must have been a difficult assignment, since there is not enough money to go around. He noted that about \$21,000 was targeted to rural organizations, which is about 1% of

the total funding. He is not opposed to low barrier or youth shelters; however \$600 K, more than 25%, is going to shelters whereas rapid rehousing and TBRA are getting much less funding. Commissioner Valenzuela agreed with a lot of what Councilmember McGowan said, and wants to hear from review committee members' thinking behind recommendations. Half of the money was thought of as onetime (bubble funds). There has never been a mix of funds like this before, or a mix of recommendations like this before weighted so heavily towards capital projects. She hopes that funding given, even at a lower level, will prove useful to the community. There is still a problem with performance measures, and there will need to be a serious conversation about this topic at the HOME retreat in October. She noted that HMIS data is a basic measure that must be done to get funding. Agencies that cannot or will not do the measurement tracking will be ranked lower for funding. People's House award is conditional on both acceptable location and on provider getting permits from the city. If the conditions are not met, their funding will be made available to other agencies and projects. More discussion followed regarding the contingent funding for the People's House, and what a backup plan might look like if they do not meet conditions of funding. Cutting families and individuals from receiving services may create a greater need for beds, which is sadly the reality of the situation. The allocation of funding in this round is trying to accomplish a lot, and information in the applications is not always correct. Councilmember Cooper suggested adding \$160 K to the total rapid rehousing funding pot, and to not execute a single rapid rehousing contract until all agencies who applied for rapid rehousing funding had a meeting and agree on a method to do allocate funding in a way that will move towards a better system countywide. This would put all funding for rapid rehousing into one pot (possibly with more in each year), with the intent to motivate these agencies to find a way to distribute the funding between them in a way that will benefit those in need countywide.

Chairman McClanahan announced that Mr. Jeff Spring arrived. The discussion and voting will have to wait until after Mr. Spring's presentation.

Budgeting and Best Practices for Housing - Jeff Spring (Commerce)

Jeff Spring introduced himself, Program Manager at Commerce, and Mary Schwartz, Data Measurement Manager at Commerce. Data is emerging presently that they are receiving regarding best practices for homeless support in communities. Information is coming in from all over the country suggesting that counties who are funding rapid rehousing are making enormous strides towards ending homelessness. There is a body of evidence, which conclusively points to rapid rehousing. Will make electronic links available to anyone who wants one. The upcoming contracting cycle for CHG effective January 1, 2014 has built into it two (2) hard performance measures including length of stay and returns to homelessness. Increases in rapid rehousing have shown improvements in those two (2) measures. Jan 2016 will have even more hard measures.

Commissioner Valenzuela asked if the studies show the difference between demographic types, i.e., single men, families, female, etc. Mary Schwartz stated that Washington state separates families from singles in all measures. Comm. Valenzuela asked which shows better results. Ms. Schwartz answered that there is not a clear designation between families and singles. Rapid rehousing being a part of client's assistance was a key indicator to success in general. Without this component, they were not as successful.

Jeff Spring stated that rapid rehousing is successful because knowing at the start who is and who is not a good candidate for services, which can be a common tool for service providers. Councilmember McGowan stated that reduction in funding may cost 45 families services in rapid rehousing programs, and 17 families in another program. Mr. Spring agreed that this will distress the system as a whole. Ms. Schwartz commented that recidivism rates by homeless types have not been done, and an assessment is needed to know for sure what the best method is for particular clients, specific to that community. HMIS does not track mental health clients.

Heather Moore stated that sufficient mental health challenges and disorders need intermediary support and case management to become successful in keeping housing. TBRA and People's House create initial support for individuals to build up a sense of reserve. Having mental health professionals working with those people to help them deal with and manage their challenges. Chairman McClanahan thanked Jeff Spring and Mary Schwartz for their presentation.

2060/2163 - Funding Recommendation for Both Funding Rounds (continued)

ACTION: Commissioner Valenzuela moved that this list of recommendations as originally written be advanced to the Board of County Commissioners for approval; Councilmember McVey seconded. Discussion followed.

Motion to Amend: Councilmember Cooper moved to amend the motion to pool the \$160K set-aside funds with the recommended awards for SideWalk and Family Support Center to form a joint contract with three (3) rapid rehousing provider agencies (SideWalk, Family Support Center, and SafePlace); Councilmember Lawson seconded. Discussion followed. Amendment passed, five (5) in favor, two (2) against (Commissioner Valenzuela and Councilmember McVey).

Main motion passed, six (6) in favor, one (1) against (Councilmember McVey).

Chairman McClanahan stated that the abovementioned agencies will meet to discuss the approved funding for rapid rehousing. Gary Aden stated that Kathy Cooper will be at the meeting to facilitate. Chairman McClanahan wanted clarification on which agencies will be there. Mr. Aden clarified that the three agencies are SideWalk, Family Support Center, and SafePlace.

HOME Citizens Advisory Committee Update

None

Additional Public Comments/Announcements

- Charles Shelan: Regarding CYS's underperformance. They did what they said they would; it is difficult to find staff who will work for \$11/hour. Their pilot project hoped for four (4) nights a week, and ramped up to seven (7) nights a week. They are now able to provide 10 beds in addition to the 30 beds from People's House. Confident they can be successful. Council members Cooper and McGowan clarified that they do not believe CYS is underperforming.
- Jessica Archer – There would have been a lot of people here, but they did not know about meeting. It will be made known that \$400 K is being put towards a "high risk" shelter, and that funding is being taken away from families. She will make it known that they are putting families out of housing.
- Daniel Kadden, Interfaith Works – The first of several community meetings on Monday, August 19, 2013 will be advertised widely. This will be a more constructive place to have dialogue regarding issues to be addressed.

Next Meeting

Monday, September 9, 2013 – 11:00AM-1:00PM – Thurston County PHSS Conference Room 107ABC
Meeting Agenda:

Meeting Adjourned at 1:14 PM