

**Thurston County HOME Consortium  
MEETING MINUTES  
February 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	X	Jeannine Roe	Olympia	
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	Brett Rader	Raul Salazar			
Paul Knox	Theresa Slusher	Don Sloma			
Danille Kettel	Bob Ricks	Gary Aden			
Diane Harris	Trudy Soucoup	Dan Schnabel			
Andrew Oommen	Tammie Smith	Linda Abell *Minutes*			
Danny Kadden	Schelli Slaughter				
Meg Martin	Anna Schlecht				
<b>Welcome and Introductions</b>					
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Introductions were made. Anna Schlecht is representing the City of Olympia today.</li> <li>• Sirena Painter will be the 2015 representative for the City of Tenino.</li> </ul>					
<b>Public Comments/Announcements</b>					
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• There were no public comments.</li> </ul>					
<b>Approval of Agenda for February</b>					
Virgil made a motion to approve the February meeting agenda. The motion was seconded by Cathy Wolfe.					
<b>Approval of Minutes for January</b>					
Virgil made a motion to approve the January meeting minutes. The motion was seconded by Cathy Wolfe.					
<b>Review of Financial Report - Gary Aden</b>					
<p>Gary reports that agencies continue to submit invoices on time and that today's financial report is current through December. Revenues for both 2160/2163 are still down but otherwise things are looking well.</p> <p>Dennis is concerned about the impact on funding for HOME projects if the 2160/2163 revenue sources continue to decrease or are eliminated altogether. He stated he recently received a Tweet from the AWC that indicated the legislature is currently discussing the future of these revenue sources which includes a decrease the amount of recording fees. Theresa was unaware of this and offered to follow up and report back to the group. Gary reminded the group that unless the legislature chooses to change it, the sunset date for HB2160 and HB2163 is 2019. Dennis is hoping the county, local jurisdictions and providers are being proactive about this.</p> <p>Neil thanked Dennis for bringing this topic to the meeting and encouraged all, especially elected officials, to testify to the importance of this funding source.</p>					

### Review HOME Consortium Timeline Calendar - Gary Aden

Gary provided an overview of the timeline. The final Homeless Coordinator Report for Year 3 will be presented at the March meeting. The release of the HOME RFP will be delayed until the HCAC comes to an agreement on what the funding priorities will be for 2015. Staff continue to receive technical assistance from HUD for both HOME and CDBG. RFP's for the CIP and CDBG funding are released this month and in all, this will be a very busy spring for staff.

### HOME Consortium Chair and Vice Chair Nomination/Selection

Neil opened the floor for nominations for both Chair and Vice Chair for the HOME Consortium for 2015. Cathy Wolfe nominated Neil McClanahan for Chair and Virgil Clarkson seconded that nomination. Hearing no other nominations and with all in favor, Neil McClanahan accepted and will serve as Chair for HOME Consortium for the next year. Dennis McVey nominated Jen Littlefield for Vice-Chair and Virgil Clarkson seconded. Hearing no other nominations and with all in favor, Jen Littlefield accepted and will serve as Vice-Chair for the HOME Consortium for the next year.

### 2015 PIT and Homeless Connect Reports

Anna Schlecht provided a recap of the Point In Time (PIT) census and the Homeless Connect Event held in the Urban Hub. The weather in the morning was very cold which contributed a slow start but by the afternoon the event became much busier. Overall the total number served seemed to be lower than expected likely due to nice weather in the afternoon. She stated that the final numbers are not yet available and won't be until the first of March.

Hundreds of people, including city staff and volunteers, took part in the census and distribution of services and commodities. Anna reports that 175 unique people were served and that 150 volunteers assisted in the event including serving meals, distribution of socks, coats, providing haircuts and foot care treatments. Live music was provided which brought a fun and positive energy to the event. The Thurston County Medical Reserve Corp (MRC) provided 46 health exams, 22 vision screenings and administered 17 flu shots. Anna is hopeful that next year's event can be held in a larger venue.

Theresa gave an overview of the three Rural Homeless Connect events she coordinated in Tenino, Yelm and Rochester. The Thurston County MRC attended all three events and provided immunizations, health screenings and provided referrals for sliding scale and low cost medical care available in the south county.

Theresa stated that attendance was lower than expected and that her expectations were based on the average number of visits at the local Food Banks. Of the contacts made in the rural area, very few people identified as being homeless or in need of housing assistance. She was surprised at the number of single people versus families, who are living in RV's and trailers. She provided an Affordable Housing Survey for those who are not homeless to find out what their needs are and what they are struggling with. The results of that survey are being compiled.

Both Anna and Theresa feel that changing the name from Homeless Connect to something such as Housing Resource Fair might be a good idea and could draw more people to the event. Theresa mentioned the idea of separating the census from the Connect Event and a discussion followed. Anna mentioned that the website of the OSPI (Office of Superintendent of Public Schools) has a page devoted to statistics based on the number of free and reduced meals provided. This would provide an indicator of the number of families in need.

Dennis suggested contacting the Thurston Regional Planning Council and sharing statistics and mentioned that the city of Rainer has been providing free lunches for children during the summer for many years.

Don Sloma mentioned the Thurston County Food Bank distribution of weekend backpacks with food for children and youth and would like to know how many of those backpacks are distributed each week.

Sirena stated that the Tenino schools have several children from homeless families and requested early notification of the event to the schools next time. She pointed to an annual event which provides free backpacks and school supplies, noting that hundreds of families show up for that. Sirena also agrees that changing the name would be a good idea since many of the homeless do not want to come forward. In the future she would like to see correct advertisement of all the services available at the event.

Paul asked Anna why the census numbers could not be released sooner the way they are in larger areas such as King County. Anna responded that it has to do with the terms of the contract and cost for staff who are assigned to compiling the data.

Virgil asked for the total numbers served in the rural areas and Theresa reported collecting surveys from 3 households in Tenino, 8 households in Yelm and 9 in Rochester.

Meg felt that moral among the homeless people at the event was low and said that many of the homeless people she talked to had participated in the Connect Event in many years past and they feel that nobody really cares about them other than counting them and getting their pictures in the newspaper. She expressed that they would like to see attention to the homeless population throughout the year and not just on this one day.

#### **2015 RFP Priority Recommendation/Discussion**

Paul reports that the group met last week and continue to do analysis and are examining past funding, set-asides and grants. In addition, they are reviewing performance and those programs which used funds for leverage. The extra time needed for a careful look means the release of the RFP will be delayed. Paul will have a full report at the next HOME meeting.

Curt Andino asked if a draft version of the Priority Recommendations will be made available and Paul said yes, it would be. Curt reminded the group that last year, funding recommendations were for projects that served those at *30% or below* the Average Median Income (AMI). He pointed out that Affordable Housing is for those *above 30% of* the AMI and would include housing programs such as Section 8 and projects offered through Habitat for Humanity. Curt feels strongly about the need for Affordable Housing and requests that it be included in this year's Priority Recommendations.

#### **Review Committee Member Discussion**

Neil McClanahan requested to have his name removed from the list of potential members, instead offering John Doan as the Tumwater representative. Virgil recommended Steve Kirkman for the City of Lacey. Dennis offered to step off and allow Fred Evander to participate. He stated that if Fred is unavailable, Dennis will take his place. Cathy Wolfe requested County Commissioner Bud Blake, who would like to become more involved with Housing. Paul suggested Theresa Slusher.

Dennis asked "how many is too many" on the panel and Gary said less than 10 is best because too many panelists will make the process cumbersome. Gary stated that the number of participants should be an odd number, so the ideal number would be 7 or 9 and that not all nominees have confirmed their participation yet. Gary will report back at the next meeting.

#### **Homeless Coordinator Monthly Report**

Theresa gave an overview of her monthly report including a reminder of the upcoming Shared Learning Event.

#### **HCAC Report**

Paul stated that with the main focus for HCAC on the funding priorities there is no additional report.

#### **Additional Public Comments/Announcements**

-Bob Ricks from the Housing Authority of Thurston County announced that the waiting list for Section 8 Housing will be opening up on February 27<sup>th</sup> for a two-week period. During the application period, applications can be done online or in person. There is no benefit to applying early because at the end of the 2 week period, 1000 applications will be drawn lottery-style and those 1000 names will be placed on the new waiting list that is expected to last another 3-4 years.

-Curt Andino mentioned HB 5655 which is the restoration of the Housing Trust Fund. He stated that Habitat for Humanity has met with several senators and congressmen and urges others who are interested in the funding to do the same.

-Virgil shared the news that the North Thurston School District received a \$1.2 million dollar grant from TOGETHER! which will be used over 5 years to provide lunch and activity programs during the summer for 3 elementary schools.

-Brett Radar invited members to spread the word about Out of the Woods' annual fundraiser "Books Beans and Brownies" which will take place on the 21<sup>st</sup> of February at the Unitarian Universalist Church on End Street in Olympia.

#### **NEXT MEETING**

**Monday, March 9, 2015 11:00 a.m. – 1p.m.**

**Thurston County Public Health**

**412 Lilly Road, Olympia 98506**

**Meeting Adjourned at 1:00 PM**