

Thurston County HOME Consortium
 MEETING MINUTES
 July 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	Dennis McVey	Rainier	X
Neil McClanahan (Chair)	Tumwater	X	Craig Lester	Tenino	X
Mike McGowan	Yelm	X	<i>Vacant</i>	<i>Bucoda</i>	
Other Attendees					
Curt Andino		Bob Ricks		Trudy Soucoup	
Danny Kadden		Anna Schlecht		Monica Peabody	
Diane Harris		Jill Severn		Commissioner Cathy Wolfe	
Paul Knox		Leslie Owen		Don Sloma	
Renee Noby		Andrew Oommen		Gary Aden	
Danille Kettel		Charles Shelan		Kathy Cooper	
Bonnie Hill		Theresa Slusher		Dan Schnabel	
Kellie Patton		Tammie Smith		Linda Abell *Minutes*	
Welcome and Introductions					
The meeting was called to order by Chairman McClanahan at 11:00 AM. Introductions followed.					
Public Comments/Announcements					
• None.					
Approval of Agenda for July 14, 2014					
• Correction to agenda: Approval of Minutes from June meeting. ACTION: A motion was made by Councilmember Clarkson and seconded by Commissioner Valenzuela to approve the agenda for July 14, 2014. Motion passed unanimously.					
Approval of Minutes for June 9, 2014					
• No changes ACTION: A motion was made by Councilmember Clarkson and seconded by Commissioner Valenzuela to approve the Meeting Minutes for June 9, 2014 as written. Motion passed unanimously.					
Review of Financial Report - Gary Aden					
Gary Aden reported that the revenue stream remains lower than expected due to the continued reduction in recording fees collected. With 60 days remaining the fund is 22% below the anticipated projection. Requests for contract extensions have been received from Community Youth Services and Family Support Center. The current contract year ends Aug 31, 2014.					
Review HOME Consortium Timeline Calendar - Gary Aden					
Gary Aden reported that the HUD Annual Plan 2014 is finalized and ready to be delivered to the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development. Planning continues for the HOME Tour and Retreat which will take place on August 11, 2014. Staff continue monitoring for contract compliance for federal programs throughout the month of July, August and September. <i>Disregard September calendar item: Retreat Planning/Selection of Date.</i>					
HOME CONSORTIUM TOUR OF PROJECTS DRAFT- Consortium					

The times and logistics of the August 11th Tour of Projects was discussed including the list of sites to be visited. Because of the limited time, the stops will be brief and we will move quickly. With regards to our lunch at Quixote Village, Councilmember McVey asked what members might provide as a donation to cover the costs. Jill Severn stated that toilet paper is always needed followed by personal hygiene items such as soaps and shampoo. Commissioner Valenzuela stated she would be making a cash donation to cover her lunch and suggested others consider doing the same. Staff will send out an email request for an RSVP to members along with a reminder that due to space constraints only one representative per agency can be accommodated.

HOME CONSORTIUM RETREAT AGENDA DRAFT - Consortium

The draft agenda for the retreat was reviewed by Commissioner Valenzuela and feedback was requested. The retreat will begin at Sequoia Landing at 2pm and end at 5pm. The purpose of the retreat is to discuss the HOME Consortiums 3-5 year priorities given the limited resources available. Commissioner Valenzuela stated the retreat discussion will be facilitated but was not certain who the facilitator would be.

UPDATE POINT-IN-TIME COUNT & HOMELESS CONNECT EVENT- Anna Schlecht, Consortium

Paul Knox introduced the topic by reminding members that at the request of the HOME Consortium, Ms. Schlecht met last month with the Home Citizens Advisory Committee (HCAC) and presented several proposals for the 2015 Thurston County Homeless Connect Event (HCE) to take place with the Annual Homeless Census. The proposals presented ranged from zero cost to \$17,000 and featured a variety of involvement by the City of Olympia staff. The discussion and decision by the HCAC was to maximize the \$6000 budget by using volunteers from faith communities, civic groups, members of HCAC, the county's Homeless Coordinator and others for donations of time, commodities and other in-kind services.

Ms. Schlecht presented the \$6000 option chosen by the HCAC. This proposal is a singular event to be held in the Urban Hub, at a no-cost location to be determined later by HCAC.

Councilmember McGowan requested confirmation that the proposal is for the Urban Hub only and excludes the rural communities. Ms. Schlecht confirmed and stated that the option chosen is for an urban event only and any Rural Hub events would need to be negotiated and paid directly to rural hub organizations such as Tenino churches and the Yelm Community Services Center.

All Councilmember's agreed that with revenues down we must be prudent with spending however, they felt strongly that the rural communities cannot be left out. Councilmember McGowan stated his concerns that the rural homeless and their needs are very different than those in the urban hub areas. He was recently approached by a constituent who benefited from last year's HCE event and was asked for better publicity for the next HCE event. He further stated that even with a minimal amount of spending the benefits for the homeless are huge and provide a great service. He also appreciates that this conversation is taking place so early. Councilmember Lester stated that through his connection with the Tenino Food Bank, he has access to plenty of volunteers. He and his volunteers are willing to help in any way to have an event in the Tenino area but he would need guidance and support.

Ms. Schlecht pointed out that statewide, the census is done in a variety of ways and reminded the group that the HCE is not critical to the mandated homeless census. The costs were then confirmed: \$25,000 for the census and \$6,000 for the HCE, for a total of \$31,000.

Councilmember Roe asked Paul Knox to explain the conversation that took place at the HCAC meeting about the various proposals from Ms. Schlecht. Knox explained that the HCAC members focused on the HCE event itself and not the combination with the census and is now wondering if there is a way to reduce the cost of the census.

Commissioner Valenzuela stated that under the circumstances the proposal chosen by the HCAC cannot be accepted and she is unwilling to spend any money that does not include the rural areas. She requested a new and improved proposal from the HCAC members. Ms. Schlecht reiterated that whatever decision this group agrees to, the City of Olympia is willing to offer assistance in the form of volunteers but cannot offer city staff time. Mr. Knox invited Ms. Schlecht to attend the next HCAC meeting to discuss a different proposal further.

SOUTH COUNTY NEEDS ASSESSMENT: PRESENTATION BY P.O.W.E.R.

A presentation of the South County Needs Assessment was made by Monica Peabody, Project Administrator, assisted by Jen Witherspoon and Sierra Brown, Project Leaders from Parents Organizing for Welfare and Economic Rights. The trio began their work in the south county communities on May 1, 2014. They conducted 126 surveys and 20 interviews with service providers, citizens and local officials. They encountered many people who felt intimidated by taking a survey but were happy to have a conversation from which a lot of valuable information was gathered. Additionally, the trio hosted an Ice Cream social and attended a Lions Club free dinner where easy conversation with the local community took place.

The report includes the top issues facing needy south county residents, and are listed in the report as recommendations: 1) Address transportation gaps, 2) Continue rural outreach, 3) Identify rural homeless liaisons, 4) Provide access to mobile or local health care, 5) Create community gathering spaces, 6) Implement countywide fast track for emergency construction, 6) Expand anti-poverty programs, and 7) Support programs that increase personal incomes.

They stated that many residents simply need assistance navigating the systems already in place, while others were unaware of systems available to them such as Para-Transit and the local Clothing Bank.

Commissioner Valenzuela pointed to the reference of the Tenino Food Bank building which was built in 2007 with HOME funds but due to a number of issues, was never utilized for its intended purpose. Councilmember Roe would like to see a tracking system on funded projects so that this does not happen again.

Commissioner Valenzuela stated that while some of the recommendations made such as poverty and transportation cannot be addressed by the HOME Consortium, we can coordinate with other service providers. She also agreed with Ms. Roe and we will follow-up on HOME funded projects in order to ensure that the community is getting what the HOME Consortium paid for on their behalf. Mr. Sloma thanked P.O.W.E.R. for their work and stated that county staff will follow up on all of the findings.

PEOPLES HOUSE UPDATE

Danny Kadden was in attendance and provided the following report today by way of a hand written note:

"No substantive or definitive update to share on People's House today. We are in motion on several fronts and will be able to share solid, final plans in the near future, but not today."

Homeless Coordinator Monthly Report - Theresa Slusher, Homeless Coordinator

Ms. Slusher provided an overview of the monthly report for June which includes ongoing work with Commerce staff regarding data quality related to HMIS. Work continues on a Coordinated Entry plan with the goal of completing the plan at the end of the year with a draft available in the next few months. Information will follow about the tool-kits offered by the National Alliance to End Homelessness. The Continuum of Affordable Housing will be provided at the retreat on August 11th.

Additional Public Comments/Announcements

No additional comments or announcements were made.

Next Meeting **Tour & Retreat**

Monday, AUGUST 11, 2014 –8:30 a.m. at Sequoia Landing, 7136 Littlerock Road, Olympia 98512

Meeting Agenda: Retreat / Tour Packet to be distributed at meeting.

Meeting Adjourned at 1:00 PM