

**Thurston County HOME Consortium  
MEETING MINUTES  
October 13, 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**

<b>In Attendance: Consortium Members</b>					
Karen Valenzuela	Thurston County	X	Jeannine Roe	Olympia	X
Virgil Clarkson	Lacey	X	Dennis McVey	Rainier	
Neil McClanahan (Chair)	Tumwater		Craig Lester	Tenino	
<i>Vacant</i>	Yelm		<i>Vacant</i>	<i>Bucoda</i>	
<b>Other Attendees</b>					
Paul Knox	Charles Shelan	Anna Schlecht			
Danny Kadden	Theresa Slusher	Commissioner Cathy Wolfe			
Danille Kettel	Tammie Smith	Gary Aden			
Kellie Patton	Schelli Slaughter	Dan Schnabel			
Jill Severn	Curt Andino	Linda Abell *Minutes*			
Raul Salazar	Rob Richards				
<b>Welcome and Introductions</b>					
<p>The meeting was called to order by Karen Valenzuela at 11:10 AM. Introductions followed.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Commissioner Karen Valenzuela pointed out that with today's absences of councilmember's McClanahan, McVey and Lester plus the board vacancies of members from both Yelm and Bucoda, the board does not have a quorum.</li> </ul>					
<b>Public Comments/Announcements</b>					
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>There were no public comments.</li> <li>Gary Aden announced a recent change in required documentation for CHG grants and has requested a brief meeting later in the week with Family Support Center, Housing Authority of Thurston County and Community Action Council.</li> <li>Commissioner Valenzuela shared Dr. Rachel Wood's monthly column in The Olympian about housing and health.</li> </ul>					
<b>Approval of Agenda for October 13, 2014</b>					
Theresa Slusher requested to add Youth Shelter to the Winter Shelter discussion.					
<b>Approval of Minutes for September 8, 2014</b>					
Due to the lack of a quorum, the September minutes will be approved at the November meeting.					
<b>Review of Financial Report - Gary Aden</b>					
<p>Gary Aden announced that the department has a new Fiscal Manager. Due to the timing of this change of staff, the Financial Report included in today's packet was not updated with the contracts that began on September 1<sup>st</sup>, 2014. All contracts that ended on August 31<sup>st</sup> (FY2013) will be closed out and the report will be updated for the next meeting.</p> <p>There has been no change in funding - we are still running with less and projections for the next funding round which includes 2160 / 2163 dollars will be similar to this year with no significant change. Gary stated that there will likely be a small under expenditure of less than \$20,000.</p>					

### **Review HOME Consortium Timeline Calendar - Gary Aden**

Gary Aden reviewed the timeline for the remainder of this year, and reminded members that audits for contract compliance continue. Desk audits, which are done behind the scene, are based on information submitted by providers. Those who will be having a site visit will be contacted to schedule an appointment before the end of the year.

### **COMMUNITY INVESTMENT PARTNERSHIP/THURSTON THRIVES – COMMISSIONER VALENZUELA**

Commissioner Karen Valenzuela explained the relationship between the goals of the Community Investment Partnership (CIP) and the goals of Thurston Thrives. The first year RFP for the CIP funds netted over 50 proposals totaling \$1 million dollars in requests though there was only \$593,000 in funding available. Of those funds, local jurisdictions contributed a total of \$193,000 and the remaining \$400,000 came from The United Way.

Paul Knox explained the review and ranking process which consisted of choosing reviewers for 3 different panels, each which focused on one of the three target areas. Panelists then read through each proposal, had at least one short interview with each applicant and then ranked the proposal. After all proposals were ranked, that information was presented to the CIP Steering Committee where final allocation decisions were made.

Members of the HOME Consortium, some who either submitted a proposal, serve on the CIP Steering Committee, or served on a Review Panel, were asked to share questions or comments. The following was heard:

- Charles Shelan (Proposal) reiterated some of his comments which he previously submitted to the committee in writing.
- Theresa Slusher (Review Panel) suggests more training for panelists including a reminder that funds cannot be divided equally.
- Anna Schlecht (Review Panel) noticed a difference in opinion of what shelter is and its purpose (survival vs. prevention) noting that some of her fellow panelists didn't want to fund shelter.
- Virgil Clarkson (Steering Committee) was disheartened to see that contributions from local jurisdictions were smaller than what has been previously offered. Mr. Clarkson stated that the Lacey City Manager gave permission to increase the percentage of their sales tax contribution. Virgil is hoping that the other cities and Thurston County will increase theirs as well.
- Jeannine Roe (Review Panel & Steering Committee) thought the process was good and fair. She would like to see more diversity on the Review Panels.

The CIP Steering Committee is currently reviewing the first year of the process. Commissioner Valenzuela requested that the HOME Consortium receive quarterly updates about CIP business.

### **INTERFAITH WORKS OVERNIGHT SHELTER PROGRAM UPDATE – DANNY KADDEN**

Danny reports that the Interfaith Overnight Shelter is scheduled to open on November 1<sup>st</sup> and will be operating in a limited capacity. Staff and volunteers are currently making preparations. The current permit, obtained by the Family Support Center who previously operated a women's shelter at the site, allows for 30 beds and will expire on January 12<sup>th</sup> 2015.

A Public Hearing is scheduled at City Hall for Monday, October 27<sup>th</sup> at 6:30pm. The Hearings Examiner will be present to listen to comments from the community and city staff. A determination will be made at a later date which could increase the number of beds to 42 effective on January 13, 2015. Jeannine Roe, a member of the Olympia City Council stated that a number of businesses in the area still have concerns.

Charles Shelan pointed out that the new site lacks bathing facilities and suggested applying for grant funds to add the facilities. Danny stated that bathing facilities were one of the limitations placed on the site by the First Christian Church and that even temporary bathing facilities will not be an option. Danny and his staff are exploring other sites in the community to offer day services including showers and laundry.

Danny offered thanks to everyone involved and praise to county staff "from top to bottom" for remaining professional throughout the process.

**WINTER SHELTER DISCUSSION – THERESA SLUSHER / SCHELLI SLAUGHTER / GARY ADEN**

Gary Aden was directed to contact the Salvation Army about once again operating the Emergency Winter Shelter beginning mid-November and running through April. The shelter will offer 25 beds for men and 4 for women and will be open when the temperature drops below 38 degrees. This item is set for the BOCC calendar for October 21<sup>st</sup>. Because there is not a quorum and with those dates soon approaching, Gary is looking for guidance from the Consortium. It was agreed by the members in attendance to move forward. This topic will be discussed next month when more members are available and an official vote will be taken retroactively.

Charles Shelan of Community Youth Services offered the addition 4 beds (total of 10) for the winter at Rosie’s Place which serves youth ages 18-24. Charles said young adults feel vulnerable in the larger shelters.

Theresa and Anna Schlecht shared the draft of the Homeless Shelter Utilization Report which shows the average shelter bed utilization by quarter for 2013-2014. Theresa stated that the last PIT count showed 263 people were left unsheltered despite the addition of emergency and cold weather shelters. To better plan for winter shelters, Theresa will do some investigation to determine the ages of those 263 unsheltered people. She also reported the closure of the three shelters: Interfaith (*single women*), Bread & Roses (*single women*) and the Housing Authority Emergency Shelter (*women & families*).

Schelli Slaughter, who has been involved with the cold weather response system for many years, expressed concern that shelter options for single women have dramatically decreased. Initially the cold weather response system was based on mainly single men and the system has basically stayed the same. She feels the system was not prepared for last year’s extreme cold snap and with the recent closures of three shelters which served women (aforementioned by Theresa Slusher) there is a shortage of shelter for single women and women with children. Even though there has been an increase in the overall number of shelter beds provided, fewer women are being served. She noted that the PIT counted 87 unsheltered women and that the system should be fair and equal in addressing the needs for shelter.

Schelli reports that today Pear Blossom Place, the only shelter option for women with children, is above capacity at 156%. For the first time ever, they have been operating beyond capacity during the summer which is new for our area. Schelli said there are currently an additional 11 families, which include 33 small children, who are waiting for housing. The Family Support Center operates 24 /7 to place those in need and was previously able to send overflow to Interfaith Shelter. However, with the design and permitting of the new Interfaith Overnight Shelter, sending women with children will not be an option. Schelli would like the Consortium to consider the allocation of resources to address this unmet need.

Commissioner Valenzuela acknowledged that we are under what we need for winter shelter and confirmed the availability of contingency funds with Gary. She asked Theresa to create a sub-committee within the HCAC to develop a proposal to address the needs Schelli described.

Councilmember Roe asked if area churches were still participating in homeless sheltering. Danny Kadden responded that churches are available in a pinch but there would need to be a coordinator to cover intake, staffing issues, building use, volunteers and the costs to the church.

Gary Aden reminded the Consortium that the McLane Building is an asset for emergency shelter. Commissioner Valenzuela agreed and said the site has been discussed among the BOCC and County Manager and could be made available.

**ESG CONTRACTS – GARY ADEN**

Gary reports the Emergency Solutions Grant (ESG) Federal Funding Award is higher than what was estimated last spring. The estimate was for \$183,069 but the actual award came in higher at \$219,234. Rather than go through an additional RFP process for the \$36,135 staff recommends to the Consortium to allocate those additional funds to the three existing awarded agencies on a pro-rata basis based on the original Consortium Award. The contract dates are January 1, 2015 through December 31, 2015. Due to the lack of quorum this will be discussed at the November meeting.

**HCAC UPDATE – PAUL KNOX**

The HCAC discussed the RFQ for mental health providers and finding partnerships with permanent supportive housing providers. The group talked about developing performance measures and Theresa will be working on accurate data to determine the number of affordable housing units. Further discussion took place about the housing forum tentatively planned for next year.

**Homeless Coordinator Monthly Report - Theresa Slusher, Homeless Coordinator**

Theresa provided an overview of her monthly report. Conversations continue with providers to find permanent supportive housing. In response to the RSN request for quotes, Theresa reached out to mental health providers Optum, BHR, Sea Mar and Capital Recovery Center to discuss the possibilities of combining mental health services within permanent supportive housing. She reports that only BHR has responded and they seemed interested.

Work continues on the Rural Connect Event. Tenino is fully involved with a meal planned, collection of donations and help from the Lions Club. Theresa has something prepared for ROOF in Rochester but is still having challenges with finding a site for the Yelm event.

Councilmember Roe saw the Housing Hotline flyer posted at Olympia City Hall and asked how it was working so far. Anna Schlecht, unaware that the flyer was a draft, distributed them to all city employees, meter readers, police, and staff that have contact with the public.

Theresa reports that the hotline was initially planned to launch on November 1<sup>st</sup> but now it looks like December 1<sup>st</sup>. She said there is some hesitancy to launch on the part of the Coordinated Entry Team because the partner agencies that will be providing housing have not been contacted yet.

Schelli said the software that is attached to the hotline will track each call, the options chosen by the caller and where the call is routed. This will provide a lot of very valuable information. The Housing Hotline number is 844-628-7343.

**Additional Public Comments/Announcements**

- Reach Out at the Well, a community event to share resources and recruit volunteers takes place October 17 at 2:30
- Staff from The United Way, Councilmember Roe, local business owners and other volunteers got together to clean up downtown Olympia recently.

**NEXT MEETING**

**Monday, November 10, 2014 11:00 a.m. – 1p.m.**

Thurston County Public Health  
412 Lilly Road, Olympia 98506

**Meeting Adjourned at 1:00 PM**