

**Thurston County HOME Consortium  
MEETING MINUTES  
December 8, 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	X
Neil McClanahan (Chair)	Tumwater	X	Craig Lester	Tenino	
<i>Vacant</i>	Yelm		<i>Vacant</i>	<i>Bucoda</i>	
<b>Other Attendees</b>					
Paul Knox	Theresa Slusher		Derek Harris		
Danille Kettel	Tammie Smith		Anna Schlecht		
Kellie Patton	Brett Rader		Kate Baber, WLIHA		
Jill Severn	Meg Martin		Larry Horn		
Amy Haller	Bob Ricks		Don Sloma		
Diane Harris	Phil Owen		Gary Aden		
Charles Shelan	Trudy Soucoup		Dan Schnabel		
			Linda Abell *Minutes*		
<b>Welcome and Introductions</b>					
<p>The meeting was called to order by Neil McClanahan at 11:00 AM. Introductions followed.</p> <p>Neil McClanahan and Anna Schlecht presented Karen Valenzuela with an award which was followed by a toast of sparkling cider. Consortium members and attendees took turns sharing their gratitude, fond memories and compliments for Karen's strength and support over the years she served as County Commissioner and especially during her time serving as a member of the HOME Consortium.</p>					
<b>Public Comments/Announcements</b>					
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Gary Aden requested the addition of an agenda item: Funding of vaccines for the Homeless Connect Events.</li> <li>• Charles Shelan would like the board to consider additional funding for the Young Adult Shelter operated by Community Youth Services. He shared that they will have depleted their funds at the end of December 2014 and will likely be forced to close in March. The facility has been operating at capacity since it opened and the closure will impact the safety and security of up to 15 high-risk homeless youth, aged 18-24. Charles would like the Consortium to treat requests for additional funding equally.</li> </ul>					
<b>Approval of Agenda for December 8, 2014</b>					
<p>Councilmember Clarkson made a motion to approve the agenda as amended. The motion to approve the agenda was seconded by Commissioner Valenzuela.</p>					
<b>Approval of Minutes for November 10, 2014</b>					
<p>Councilmember Clarkson make a motion to approve the meeting minutes from both the September and October meetings. The motion to approve the September and October minutes was seconded by Chairman McClanahan.</p>					

### Review of Financial Report - Gary Aden

Gary Aden reports that the financial report has been updated to include all current contracts with the exception of Interfaith Works Overnight Shelter. Gary is waiting for additional information from Danny Kaden regarding the end dates for the contract which begins January 12, 2015.

Commissioner Valenzuela asked for an update on the Interfaith Works Overnight Shelter which has been pending approval for 2015 with the City of Olympia Hearings Examiner. Gary stated that there were some terms and conditions that were not agreed to, but that as of today the shelter has been approved with conditions.

Commissioner Valenzuela asked Meg Martin about where the current approval stands and Meg clarified that the shelter is currently approved for 37 beds and not 42 as was requested. Councilmember Clarkson wondered if the increase in beds is granted before 2015, could it take effect immediately. Meg stated she could not answer that because she is unsure how the process moves forward.

### Review HOME Consortium Timeline Calendar - Gary Aden

Gary reports that the State recently sent out a notice that in 2015 matching funds will be required for both CHG and ESG recipients. Gary will have more information about this and the available budget in the next few months. In January the Review Committee will be selected, budget projections will be reviewed and the final RFP will be prepared. In February the selection of Consortium Chair and Vice Chair will be made for 2015.

Staff continue to process amendments, monitor for contract compliance and prepare the RFP's for the new year.

### Legislative Discussion

Theresa Slusher introduced Kate Baber from the Washington Low Income Housing Alliance (LIHA). Kate provided members with an overview of the alliance which is a non-profit, non-partisan coalition of approximately 85 formal members statewide. Their focus is primarily on issues at the state level, particularly with the development and expansion of affordable housing and homeless services. Kate encouraged everyone to read the handout titled "*Creating a Medicaid Supportive Housing Services Benefit*." The paper outlines the concept of a new Medicaid benefit to cover housing-based case management and tenancy support services provided in permanent supportive housing (PSH). Kate then explained the 2015 State Legislative Agenda which was developed over the summer by the public policy committee. Five of the "Lead Agenda" items will be led by LIHA by providing organization, support, mobilization and lobbying resources. Kate also explained the Housing Trust Fund and how they are seeking startup funding through the State Legislature. For those agencies who provide PSH and are not set up for Medicaid, there will be training for "limited scope billing" through a provider academy starting in 2015. Contact Kate for more information.

Don Sloma introduced Larry Horn as a resource for information on Medicaid billing.

### Proposed RFP Dates Discussion/Approval for 2015

Gary Aden reviewed the handout relating to the Proposed RFP schedule for 2015 for 2060, 2163, CHG, ESG, and HOME funding. The state is changing the funding, including requiring match funding for ESG and CHG. Contracts would generally start September 1, 2015 and ending August 31, 2016. Karen Valenzuela requested clarification on the CHG effective dates. Gary clarified that Commerce wants ESG and CHG funding is intended to start at the same time, and counties may receive one funding or another. Clarification has not yet happened, but more information is anticipated in January or February 2015.

### Homeless Connect Event – VACCINE REQUEST

Gary Aden pointed out that the cost of vaccines (\$10 each) was not included in the original funding request for the Homeless Connect Event. Anna Schlecht feels that 40 vaccines would be sufficient. Don Sloma confirmed that the Thurston County Medical Reserve Corp will be present at the event to administer the vaccines. Councilmember McVey offered a cash donation of \$100 to be used to purchase for the Yelm Homeless Connect Event.

Commissioner Valenzuela made a motion to approve \$400 for the Medical Reserve Corp for vaccines. Virgil Clarkson seconded the motion. Discussion followed. Motion was approved unanimously.

#### **SIDEWALK / Request for Additional Funding**

Phil Owen is requesting \$36,000 from the HOME contingency funds. SideWalk has fallen short in fundraising and is quickly running out of money. The next funding round will not start until September 2015. Gary Aden noted that after the \$400 request for Homeless Connect vaccines, the balance in the contingency funds is \$36,400. Karen Valenzuela requested that action be taken first on the request for \$400 for vaccines for the Homeless Connect Event, then address the request from SideWalk (see previous agenda item).

Karen Valenzuela noted that if the request from SideWalk were funded fully, that would leave \$100 in the contingency fund, which would not be renewed until September 1, 2015. Commissioner Valenzuela also stated that she is sympathetic to the other provider who requested funding (Community Youth Services), and therefore cannot support the full \$36,000 request. Virgil Clarkson wondered what the typical balance is at this time of year. Gary Aden stated it has been spent down for the last two (2) years he has been with the department, but that in previous years the contingency fund has been \$75,000. Councilmember McVey stated that while there is not enough funding to go around, he has been impressed by the quality of services provided by SideWalk and stated that the reason they are in need of additional funding is because they exceeded their stated goals, which is not a bad thing. Councilmember Roe asked about the process to request these funds. Karen Valenzuela answered that anyone can make a request in writing. Councilmember McVey noted his discomfort with approving "out of system" requests for funding and not leaving anything in reserve.

Karen Valenzuela made a motion to award \$15,000 from the contingency fund to SideWalk. Councilmember Clarkson seconded the motion. Discussion followed. Motion was passed with one (1) dissenting vote.

#### **Funding Priorities 2015**

The purpose of this discussion is to understand priorities stated in the past, and begin the discussion regarding the priorities for the next funding round in February. Current gaps need to be identified and addressed. Theresa Slusher reviewed the Gaps Analysis and retreat materials. According to the Gaps Analysis, which was published a year and a half ago, many gaps have been addressed including the addition of a youth shelter, low-barrier shelter program for adults, rapid re-housing for families, and permanent supportive housing for adults. Ms. Slusher reviewed the charts provided including which activities were funded in the last two years and the leverage chart. The Thurston Thrives Housing Action Team was discussed, and the number of families in Thurston County who expend more than or equal to fifty percent (50%) of their income on housing. Don Sloma discussed what the HOME Consortium dollars are spending now versus other funding organizations, and identifying a population of people who have to rely on public funding to maintain their housing. It was noted that because of the current gaps in funding, providers are coming to the Consortium for emergency funding requests. Paul Knox asked the Consortium members to identify the information needed to address the current gaps and come up with a list of priorities for funding. Chairman McClanahan suggested that this be done immediately after the new year.

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

Theresa Slusher started by opening up the monthly report to questions from the Consortium members. No questions were asked.

#### **HCAC Report**

Paul Knox reported that the HCAC has discussed adding more affordable housing goals and measures, and has provided suggestions for the Consortium to consider. These include decreasing the number of housing cost burdened households in the county, increase the number of permanent supportive housing units, and increase supportive housing available to chronically homeless populations. Ms. Slusher clarified that the "cost of housing" includes housing cost and utilities.

**Additional Public Comments/Announcements**

- Anna Schlecht announced the 2015 dates for the urban Point in Time Homeless Count (January 29) and the Homeless Connect Event (January 31) at the First Christian Church in downtown Olympia. Anna provided handouts and flyers to be distributed and is looking for additional volunteers.
- Charles Shelan praised the Housing Authority for project-based vouchers, which he feels are an understated resource community-wide.

**NEXT MEETING**

**Monday, January 12, 2015 11:00 a.m. – 1p.m.**  
Thurston County Public Health  
412 Lilly Road, Olympia 98506

**Meeting Adjourned at 1:00 PM**