



April 16, 2014 Meeting Minutes

Meeting called to order at 2:03 PM by Chair Julie Graves

Attendance: Julie Graves – Chair, Sarah VanCleve – Secretary, Chris Brunnel – Member at Large, Penny Lamping, Linda Hollingsworth, Sara Marez-Fields, Sheryl Piercy, Michael Toro, Ginny Duff, Eileen Brown, Kirsten Jewell, Clara Ann Ness, Patrick Steele, Jackie Brown, Sandra Paulino-Winborn, Brianna McNamara, Manny Cruz, Walt LeCouteur, Patrick Vasicek, Denise Solada, Beverly Kincaid, Patti Peterson, Raelenea Rodriguez, Shaylynn Houston, Christina Magdaleno, Cheri Olson, Becky Boughton, Andrea Hansen, Kate Baber, Terry Schroeder

Introductions were made around the table.

Agenda Review: No changes made.

Minutes: The minutes from the March 2014 meeting were **approved as written. Walt LeCouteur moved to approve and Manny Cruz seconded.**

Washington Low Income Housing Alliance – Kate Baber: Kate explained the Washington Low Income Housing Alliance is a state organization for homeless and housing advocacy. She distributed her business card and a postcard regarding the Conference on Ending Homelessness on May 21-22. The coalition is a state-wide organization primarily comprised primarily of non-profit and government agencies. Kate focuses primarily on state-wide issues.

One month ago the state legislature adjourned. During the interim, law makers are in their home town and most are starting the election season soon. Organizations are encouraged to meet with legislators while they are in town and provide some education and homeless issues in the community.

Kate went over some of the pieces of legislation that have the most effect on homelessness. The legislature did not pass a capital budget this year; it's the first time since 1996 that this has happened. This means there is no new affordable housing investments this year. There was a lot of political strife in the legislature this year. The House of Representatives did pass a version of a capital budget, but it did not move forward in the Senate. There also was no transportation budget this year.

The document recording fees was a very contentious issue this year. The bill was initially stalled and then resurrected after the official deadline. The calls and visits to legislators during this time really made a difference. There were several different versions. The one that finally passed extends the \$40 surcharge through June 2019. It mandates a 45% set aside of the state's portion to go to private landlords. With this funding, each county sends 40% of what is collected to the state and retains 60% for local use. This 45% to go to private landlords, which specifically excludes non-profit and government entities, was a compromise that was necessary to preserve

the funding. Department of Commerce is working to figure out how to minimize the damage to emergency shelters by shifting funding from other programs. It also requires the local governments who receive this funding to maintain and distribute an interested landlord list and to take reasonable efforts to require local providers to conduct quarterly outreach to private for-profit landlords about opportunities to rent to the homeless. It requires the Department of Commerce to convene a stakeholder group by 2017 to find a new funding source that does not include a surcharge on document recording fees, with a report by December 1, 2017. It requires an annual independent audit of the expenditure of document recording fee revenues. The Fair Tenant Screening Act, which would require landlords to not charge a tenant for a new report if they can supply them with a secure, current and comprehensive tenant screening report, passed the House but did not pass out of the Senate's Financial, Institutions, Housing and Insurance Committee.

The current level of Housing and Essential Needs (HEN) funding was preserved. There will be a session at the Conference about what is going on and what needs to be improved with HEN.

The ABD disability definition was changed, which resulted in \$850,000 savings, which was swept into the general fund. The Affordable Care Act is projected to create \$600,000 in incapacity exam savings, which were also swept to the general fund.

Other legislation related to homelessness includes \$5.8 million reinvested into TANF, including making the AREN assistance available once per year again instead of once per lifetime. Kinship care providers have expanded access to child only TANF assistance. A foster care bill allows youth to request extended foster care services if engaged in employment 80 or more hours per month. A Homeless Children Education Act improves data collection on the educational outcomes of homeless students, and provides staff with improved training to help identify and serve homeless students.

This interim time is a great time to meet with lawmakers. Washington Low Income Housing Alliance is willing to assist in setting up meetings with lawmakers. One item WLIHA hopes to address next year is adding those with chemical dependency as a primary incapacity to the eligibility for HEN.

Underserved Populations – Julie Graves: The Executive Committee is hoping to get some subcommittees going on three of the Underserved Populations. The three identified and the persons interested in those committees are:

- Homeless persons with no income: Chris Brunell, Walt LeCouteur, Patrick Steele, Jackie Brown
- Ex Offenders that are homeless: The Compass House and House of Hope Jail Ministry
- Homeless Persons exiting the hospital: Monica Bernhard

There also was a question as to who was Chair of the Outside Homeless Committee. Major Baker agreed to be Chair for that committee.

HHGP and AHGP Funding Priorities – Kirsten Jewell: Both the Homeless Housing and Affordable Housing Grant Program set priorities for funding. The process involves a stakeholder brainstorm, with those ideas going to the Housing Funding Leadership Group (HFLG), The HFLG molds the ideas into funding priorities, which come back to the CoCC for comment and then on to the KRCC Board. The priorities were 99% the same as last year. Under stabilization, the specific reference to Housing First was removed so that it doesn't have any specific references. There was also a typo that was corrected.

This year, it was decided to go through a different process for funding for the HSC. Last year, the KRCC Executive Board asked the Housing Advisory Committee, comprised of Mayor Lent (Bremerton), Mayor Erickson (Poulsbo), Mayor Matthes (Port Orchard), Councilperson Tollefson (Bainbridge Island) and Commissioner Garrido (Kitsap County), to evaluate and recommend any changes. The HSC made reports throughout the year, based on questions from the HAT. Based on those reports, it was recommended to fund the HSC at the same level as last year.

Kirsten stated there is an anticipation of approximately 30% decline in document recording fees, which is happening statewide. The thought is that it is happening because it is difficult to refinance and the market is slowing due to difficulty in obtaining mortgages. With the reduction, it is anticipated that the HHGP will have about \$800,000 and the AHGP about \$225,000 to distribute for 2015.

Some of the important dates:

- April 18 – NOFA released, with written public comment through May 20
- May 27 – 10 am – Public Hearing – Norm Dicks Government Center
- May 28 – Mandatory Technical Assistance Meeting – Norm Dicks Government Center
- July 1 – Noon – Application due
- September 3 to September 12 – Interviews

There will be some Consolidated Homeless Grant (CHG) money available competitively as well. This has historically funded emergency shelters. In the Stakeholders meeting held to discuss the distribution of this funding for 2015, Kitsap County decided to allow more programs to be eligible for grant funds, so 50% of the CHG will be distributed to the traditional agencies for emergency housing (KCR, CCS, YWCA, St. Vincent de Paul) and 50% will be distributed through the Coordinated Grant Application (about \$75,000).

The priorities for Affordable Housing are legislated and local communities can only determine the order of the priorities. In Kitsap, the Homeless Housing priorities are given equal priority. Traditionally, the Grant Recommendation Committee (GRC) will try to fund something in all of the priority areas. If you want to make comments, write a letter to the KRCC or to Kirsten. The public hearing for how funding is spent will be held in the fall, once the recommendations have been made by the GRC. There was discussion about the mandate to provide rental assistance to private landlords for 45% of the CHG. It is not sure how this will affect us, at this time, but information will be provided once it is known.

CoCC Coordination Application – Julie Graves: The current Coordinator stepped out of the room during discussion of the application

AGENCY UPDATES

Kitsap Rescue Mission – Walt LeCouteur: Walt announced there will be a Groundbreaking Ceremony at their new building at 810 - 6th Street, Bremerton at 2 pm on Thursday, April 17th. They recently purchased the building previously known as The Cary Place.

Georgia's House – Leann Weaver: It was announced that Georgia's House will hold their Birthday Party on April 27th.

The May meeting will be held on May 28 at noon, following the Mandatory Technical Assistance. It was initially scheduled to be held at Bremerton Housing, but has since been moved to the Norm Dicks Government Center.

The meeting adjourned at 4:05 pm.

Respectfully Submitted,

Sarah VanCleve, Secretary