

REGIONAL HOUSING COUNCIL

Wednesday July 28th, 2021 Meeting Minutes

ATTENDEES:

Lacey: Carolyn Cox, Lenny Greenstein, Rick Walk, Kelly Adams

Tumwater: Michael Althaus, Joan Cathey, John Doan, Brad Medrud

Olympia: Jim Cooper, Dani Madrone, Keith Stahley, Cary Retlin

Thurston County: Carolina Mejia, Ramiro Chavez, Tom Webster, Keylee Marineau, Jacinda Steltjes

South County: None

Public: Jeff Lawyer, James Madison

Meeting began at 4:00 pm.

Agenda Item 1: Agenda approved with Keylee's topic moved to top of agenda.

Agenda Item 2: Public Comment

Jeff Loyer: Jeff is from "Better than a Tent" group lead by United Churches of Olympia. Their goal is to build microshelters from plywood and lumber for people to have better shelter in the camps. They hope to build 50 more shelters this summer. They are asking for people to donate funds, materials, labor.

James Madison: Supports the work RHC is doing, interested in joining the Affordable Housing Team workgroup. Looking to find ways for more funding locally to get bigger projects and services funded.

Agenda Item 3: Minutes from June: Motion and second, all approved.

Agenda Item 4: Community Solutions

Keylee gave an update: following the RHC July meeting, the County received an agreement example from Community Solutions (CS). Providence is the fiscal sponsor, the fiscal signer will be Providence, Thurston County will be the signer for the duties in the Agreement. The agreement example has standard contract language. County met with Community Solutions to discuss details of the Scope of Work. There is an auto-renewal every year through 2025. CS is responsible for: 2 national learning sessions, 2 action cycles (activities include coaching, strategy development, TA), data capacity building. County obligation is to engage fully, with focus initially on Chronic or Veteran homelessness, and to pursue racial equity. Data requirements include obtaining quality data, data maintenance, Tableau training, sharing aggregate data. Teams: Improvement Team, Data Team, Senior Lead Team, Public/Private funding team, Emergency Response team, Stakeholder Team.

Are there examples of Communities where this approach has had an impact? Community Solutions website has the list of Communities for reference. Bakersfield, CA and San Diego have both achieved functional zero for the single adult population. Our cohort will begin in early November. RHC request to let CS know that the RHC will be having a retreat in October if there is anything they can work on at that time.

Agenda Item 5: Future Retreat Planning

Tom gave an update: the RHC talked about engaging with the HAT executive team to plan a retreat for this fall. The HAT executive team is happy to engage with the RHC. Next step is to set a date and find a facilitator, Jim and Carolina will work with the HAT team to set an agenda. Late September or early October would be a good time for a retreat. They have asked 2 consultants to provide an estimate for a facilitator. Retreat topics ideas: What is the relationship between RHC and HAT, how do they work together to make funding decisions, how to have their work address the immediate crisis/intervention as well as homeless prevention, and discuss the RHC workplan. Councilmember Madrone mentions that each jurisdiction will have their Housing Action Plans to provide guidance as well. Plan to invite the HAT executive team to the RHC executive team meeting.

Agenda Item 6: Technical Team working group updates

Tom gave an update: the Funding workgroup met, they spent time discussing new funding sources (1277 funds, HOME ARPA funding, 1406). They also talked about the Pipeline, would like to schedule an Affordable Housing Team and Funding group meeting to discuss the pipeline process.

The Siting workgroup met to discuss existing sites, their role with the PSH workgroup to make sure there is not duplication of efforts. Keith added that there is overlap between several teams. The Siting group initially had the specific task of identifying sites, which has been completed. May look at consolidating groups to avoid any redundant meetings. They do still need to find an alternative to Ensign Road, buses are now be routed off of Ensign. Olympia is buying the Quality Inn site, this may be a relocation site for the Mitigation site. The Mitigation site that started 3 years ago was intended to be temporary. However, this is not a final decision.

The PSH workgroup has been meeting every 2 weeks, the strategy will be presented to the RHC in September. PSH will give a proposal to the Funding Workgroup in August. The County and Lacey have also been meeting to discuss hotel acquisition.

Agenda Item 7: Communications Team Update

Meghan gave an update, they have redesigned and moved the website under the BoCC website. Thurston Talk has published an article on the RHC, and they have sent out 3 news releases. Donna Feliciano from the City of Lacey developed 2 logo options, one circular, one horizontal. Discussion follows regarding if the housing style could be modified to include different types of housing, the circle shape of circle is encompassing/inclusive, agreement that in the horizontal version it is easier to read the jurisdiction names. These suggestions will go back to the team for revisions to the logo ideas and bring them back to RHC.

Agenda Item 8: Future Meetings, In-Person, Virtual, or Hybrid

Chair Cooper asked the group if the RHC should go back to in-person meetings, or stay virtual? Several jurisdiction's Chambers are wired for hybrid meetings so that is an option as well. Discussion follows regarding the options, telecommuting benefits, current masking and Covid situation, vaccination rates. Consensus to stay remote for the next several months and during that time figure out how and where hybrid would work. Start with Lacey and County options as first choice for hybrid. Also, the RHC would

like to have the retreat be in-person, will need a large space, and good microphones. County building on Tilley Rd has sound and recording system.

Agenda Item 9: Good of the Order

Ramiro gave information on the pilot project LEAD (Law Enforcement Assisted Diversion) started forming a Community Advisory Board. Housing is one group that they want to include, and the RHC was mentioned, if there is anyone from the RHC that would like to participate on the Community Advisory Board. Meeting frequency is once a month for an hour, the 3rd Wednesday or the 4th. Contact Ramiro if you are interested.

Councilmember Cox has been approached to entertain a motion to urge Commissioners to move forward with a County Home Fund. The Commissioners would need to act by October 15th to start collections January 1. Ramiro adds that this will be discussed on August 13th, the Board will need to know all the different funding sources, and the Home Fund will be part of the discussion. October 15th may be too rushed for the Commissioners. The Lacey Mayor wants to ensure that large amounts of funding are going into PSH, there is no official City position on the Home Fund, and Lacey is looking to schedule a work session to discuss all the funds and options as well. Tumwater recognizes that resources are insufficient. Discussion follows regarding RHC making recommendations to BoCC with/without consensus from jurisdiction Councils. Discussion follows regarding what would be included in a motion to the BoCC. Chair Cooper adds that Olympia would likely be open to collaborating their Home Fund with any other Home Fund.

Councilmember Cox offers a motion: RHC recommends to BoCC to pursue every funding opportunity at its disposal up to and including a County-wide Home Fund in order to support permanent supportive housing and other housing needs. Second by Councilmember Althausser. Motion carries 3-0, Vice Chair Mejia abstained.

Can RHC members attend the planning session with BoCC on August 13th? The RHC can watch the live stream.

Councilmember Madrone adds information on the Transfer Development Rights Summit, September 17th 9am – 12pm. More information to follow via email.

Agenda Item 10: Upcoming Meetings

Meeting Adjourned: 5:25 pm

Next Meeting: August 25th, 2021, 4:00 pm