

# REGIONAL HOUSING COUNCIL

Wednesday September 14th, 2022 Meeting Minutes

## **ATTENDEES:**

Lacey: Carolyn Cox, Rick Walk, Scott Spence, Kelly Adams

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

Olympia: Jim Cooper, Dani Madrone, Darian Lightfoot, Rich Hoy

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

Yelm: None

Public: None

Meeting began at 4:00 pm.

**Agenda Item 1:** Agenda approved, motion and second

**Agenda Item 2:** Minutes from August 24th meeting, motion and second, approved.

### **Agenda Item 3: HEN, CHG, 1277 RFP Recommendations**

Keylee gave an overview, and presented funding recommendations for HEN and CHG Rapid Rehousing (RRH). Livestories and Catholic Community Services submitted HEN applications as well as RRH applications. Family Support Center also submitted a request for some HEN funds to support the Coordinated Entry system. CCS had a stronger application for both programs, and have been operating HEN in 2 other counties. CCS received higher scores from all reviewers.

- CCS recommended award for HEN: \$2.4M dependent on how much HEN funding is remaining after Thurston County completes final months of rent checks prior to transferring to CCS.
- CCS recommended award for RRH: \$200,000
- Family Support Center recommended award from HEN for CE: \$100,000

Part of the decision to not award the full CE request is because there is a set aside in the standard RFP each year for CE, as well as concern that they want to be sure to have enough HEN funds to pay rent through the end of June 2023. HEN funds have spent down very quickly in past few months, the estimate is they need \$210,000 a month in rent payments just to maintain current payments. In August they sent out \$290,000 in rent for current housed without any new intakes, due to paying rent arrears.

For the 1277 funds, these funds will become available to the community after expending new TRAP/ERAP funds. The review team is currently reviewing these applications and anticipate coming to RHC with 1277 funding recommendations at the next meeting.

Councilmember Althaus asked why there are so much in arrears for HEN? It predated the transfer of payments from CAC to the County, some tenants had not received payments for a few months prior to July when the County took over. Councilmember Althaus asked how can they make sure this does not happen with the new subcontractor in the future. Follow up question about a HEN waitlist? There is a current waitlist, DSHS has done over 900 intakes for HEN eligible clients in Thurston County.

Motion to approve HEN and RRH awards as presented, second. All in favor, approved.

#### **Agenda Item 4: RHC Governance**

Keylee gave a summary of the proposal. Staff is hoping for a vote on the organizational chart. The RHC gave direction at the last meeting and staff has made those revisions. Changes to the structure flowchart: there are 2 HAT representatives, as non-voting members. Keylee gave a brief overview of the Advisory Boards and the Lived Experience Steering Committee, as well as staffing overview. Tom added that the 2 HAT representatives came from the RHC Executive meeting recommendation. Keylee gave an overview of the RHC Policy process, including what entities are able to make policy proposals/ initiate policy discussion.

Councilmember Althaus asked if a member of the public proposed a policy item, how does that person navigate this process? This might be a topic for future development, detailing how public policy ideas are included. Councilmember Cox asked who from the HAT would be a member, how is that determined? This has yet to be determined, and Tom added that this detail would need to be added to the ILA. Councilmember Cox asked about how they would handle 2 revisions to the ILA, Tom added that this first process would be an interim structure with the advisory boards in place by April to help review RFP applications. The long term structure development will take possibly 2 – 4 years. Staff did bring the draft charters to the HAT and a noted concern from the HAT was being the subject matter expertise but without a voting membership. Discussion follows regarding what ILA amendments would be needed to add non-voting members and to make governance changes.

Councilmember Cooper added that the City/County ILA needs to be in place, what is the status? Manager Chavez indicated that the County is reviewing the final draft from the City. Where does HAT fit in the Org chart, that they have seats on the RHC? Possibly add the HAT to the org chart. Discussion follows regarding possibility of having stipends for those serving on the boards. Councilmember Cooper added that he does not see any reason to not have everyone on the RHC having a vote, and also would like to create a subcommittee as soon as possible for an RHC Executive Director. Manager Chavez agrees that the City/County ILA needs to be completed first, and that the RHC ILA needs to be amended to clarify how recommendations are put to the BoCC. Added that outreach for an Executive Director might be too soon, the County would need to develop that job which is connected to the long term governance structure. Discussion follows regarding how and when to add RHC staff.

Councilmember Madrone asked if there is agreement that the ILA needs to be amended, and would it be possible to create a timeline for all of these steps. Discussion follows regarding who should be voting members, and the electeds role to make recommendations on use of public funds, accountability to voters, inclusion of HAT reference/guidance at the Board level on the structure diagram.

Councilmember Mejia makes recommendation to continue this conversation at the next RHC meeting, they still have questions to be answered, agree that ILA needs to come first, agree with Councilmember Althaus regarding the voting.

Motion to continue discussion at next RHC meeting, second. All in favor. Request to recirculate the Retreat minutes regarding the role of the HAT. Tom added a request for the RHC to review the draft charter and email comments to the Tech Team.

#### **Agenda Item 5: Good of the Order**

None for time.

Meeting Adjourned: 5:01 pm

Next Meeting: August 24th, 4:00 pm