

REGIONAL HOUSING COUNCIL

Wednesday May 25th, 2022 Meeting Minutes

ATTENDEES:

Lacey: Carolyn Cox, Kelly Adams, Rick Walk

Tumwater: Joan Cathey, Brad Medrud, John Doan

Olympia: Jim Cooper, Dani Madrone, Keith Stahley

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

South County: None

Public: None

Meeting began at 4:00 pm.

Agenda Item 1: Agenda approved, motion and second

Agenda Item 2: Public Comment - none

Agenda Item 3: Minutes from May 11th meeting, motion and second, approved

Agenda Item 4: RHC and HAT retreat follow up

Chair Cox asked for each member to identify one big takeaway and one item for follow up/areas of opportunity from the retreat.

County Manager Chavez: Very good conversation with the HAT members, opportunities include discussion about Interlocal and Home Fund, including RHC structure.

Chair Cox: Appreciated the strong agreement regarding the need for clearer governance and staff support. Hoped to have more progress regarding the interlocal agreement.

Councilmember Madrone: Appreciated the in-person meeting, relationship building, and agree with the need for discussion regarding RHC interlocal agreement, and need to address short term inefficiencies.

Keith Stahley: Value of the RHC was clear regarding their ability to respond to the State request to utilize funds to assist in moving camps out of the I5 corridor, a good example of what the RHC can accomplish.

Councilmember Cooper: The words of the Interlocal agreement are the correct words and mission. Appreciated the conversation regarding forming a stand alone organization, the real challenge is the Interlocal agreement and advisory committee and how to figure out integrating the HAT structure. How do we have an organization delivering funds centered with people with lived experience, and experts helping to make decisions?

Councilmember Cathey: Joined the retreat via Zoom so was not able to gather as much information. Agreed with many of the previous comments.

Brad Medrud agreed with the positive comments, the primary concern is what are the next steps?

Commissioner Mejia: Hoping for more, almost needed a third retreat day to finalize ideas and next steps. Didn't get to finalize the role of the HAT with the RHC, there are still many questions. They have a goal, but did not get to clearly identify next steps.

Rick Walk: Agreed that being in-person was good, and appreciated the break out groups and sharing the group conversations. Did not get a chance to discuss if the King County model would work for RHC, balance of homeless and housing, and the ILA next steps, and how to make progress in the short term to keep retreat goals moving forward.

Tom Webster agreed with thoughts that others have already shared, positive vision for where they want to go but looking for greater clarity on steps going forward, staff capacity, and RHC and HAT relationship, including subject matter expertise.

Keylee Marineau added that having one more day would have allowed them to dig deeper, although acknowledge that would be difficult. Appreciated the effort to all invest together in moving this work forward. Agreed with the need for more clear direction. Encouraged to get more into the expertise and lived experience.

Jacinda Steltjes: Appreciated the ability to discuss and connect in person. Would have liked a high level summary, a bit more time with each break out to discuss tasks and develop a workplan. Good to hear that everyone seemed to have the same vision.

Question about how the experience was for the HAT members? They have not heard feedback.

Discussion follows regarding possibly adding a group (staff and members) to work on proposals for the next steps regarding the Home fund, structure and staffing. Possibility of 2 RHC members, 2 staff, and HAT representatives included in this group to develop structure and immediate next steps. The Home fund ordinance includes a mandate to develop the Interlocal agreement and to amend the RHC interlocal agreement to create an executive arm to guide the RHC in the use of the Home fund. Next steps should include the executive structure, amending the RHC ILA, as the revenues will be coming in soon and structure needs to be in place prior to revenue coming in. There are also a variety of projects currently being worked on, the Tech Team could develop a project schedule, prioritizing projects, as well as the retreat follow up tasks. Discussion follows regarding who will join the new group for structure development, to include Commissioner Mejia, County staff, Lacey staff, possibly Councilmember Cooper, and Keylee will reach out to HAT for participants. Discussion follows regarding ensuring that people involved in this group are equally representative of stakeholders, balanced with efficiency.

Agenda Item 5: RHC Interlocal Agreement

Tom pointed out that this item was discussed under the previous agenda item, and poses the question of how/next steps to move forward on amending the RHC ILA. Ramiro added that this should include an organizational chart, decision making process, structure. Timeline: Olympia should be providing feedback to the County shortly.

Agenda Item 6: Technical Team Working Group updates

Department of Commerce has reached out to Thurston County for use of funds to move people living in State Rights of Way. Funding is expected to help find housing options for people. The State is looking at immediate solutions (June) and medium timeframe (fall) and longer term over the next few years. There

is a draft MOU from the State that is under review. Discussion follows regarding where people might be moved to.

Scattered Site update, the pilot project is wrapping up, they are continuing to support established camps but the funding is winding down. There will be a final report available that summarizes the impact to clients who received services.

Built for Zero update, Chicago conference was attended by many local agencies and jurisdictions. Significant progress was made in terms of understanding how to achieve a by name list, including gathering and sharing data. Discussion included goals, data, current tasks. Discussion also included implications of end of scattered site program and how this service might continue.

Agenda Item 7: Good of the Order

Councilmember Madrone gave an update on the rental housing code for Olympia. Changes include increased noticing for rental increases, moving costs (fees and deposits) to be no more than 1 month's rent.

The County 5-year Consolidated Plan is ending, and will need to do a new plan for HUD compliance. Prior to the Consolidated Plan, they will need to be doing a fair housing assessment, this will be led by City of Olympia and Thurston County.

Lacey is working on an energy efficiency audit and retrofit program. They will be starting outreach to property managers.

Meeting Adjourned: 5:11 pm

Next Meeting: May 11th, 4:00 pm