

REGIONAL HOUSING COUNCIL

Wednesday July 13th, 2022 Meeting Minutes

ATTENDEES:

Lacey: Carolyn Cox, Kelly Adams, Andy Ryder, Scott Spence

Tumwater: Michael Althaus, Joan Cathey, Brad Medrud

Olympia: Jim Cooper, Darian Lightfoot

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 June 22nd meeting, motion and second, approved.

Agenda Item 3: Right of Way RFP Recommendations

Tom gave an overview, there are two sets of recommendations from the Tech team for consideration, one for the additional CHG funds, \$340K, and one for the ROW funds. Rather than issuing a new RFP for the CHG funds the tech team looked at proposals received from the CHG applications from April. The CHG recommendations from the Tech Team are to fund 4 organizations, 3 of which received awards in May and will receive additional funds, and 1 new organization that did not receive an award in May:

- Family Support Center \$58,000
- Catholic Community Services \$40,000
- Quixote Village Panza \$35,000

New project for CHG funding:

- OlyMAP Scattered Site \$207,588

The ROW funding recommendations are for outreach and DV survivor hoteling. They received one hoteling application, from Safeplace, and the Tech Team recommended funding for Safeplace (\$200,000). They received two outreach applications, recommendation from Tech Team is to award \$300K to OlyMAP, for each year for 3 years (total \$900K award).

Councilmember Althaus asked about OlyMAP: They get \$500,000 for the first year between CHG and ROW, is this approximately the same amount of funding they have been operating with? Will this make them able to maintain the services they have been providing? The Scattered site program has shifted over time as a result of camp closures, the mobile outreach is growing rather than outreach to specific camps, so the Scope has changed. Councilmember Cooper asked is this is now not a pilot and will funds be able to be used in wider area? Staff will be discussing with OlyMAP the Scope of Work details, generally will not be the same original pilot sites.

Motion and second to forward recommendations as presented to the BoCC. All approved.

Agenda Item 4: ROW Proposal Update

Keylee, Jacinda and Darian gave an overview. At the end of May they were approached by the State asking the County to respond to an urgent request to clear right of way camps. Acknowledge that it has been an extreme ask of staff and service providers to pivot priorities and programs to respond to this State request. In some ways this response circumvents some of the planning policies that they have been working on for the HCRP system. Keylee gave an overview of the ROW goals and objectives.

Jacinda gave an overview of the funding. Initial communication was \$135M to be distributed between 5 regions. Thurston County was originally told \$19M would be routed to Thurston County. However, staff has been instructed by the state to submit a full proposal for all the County would be able to do including a full cost estimate. Therefore, the ROW proposal will be for more than the \$19M. There is a rapid acquisition competitive process that is running simultaneously to the ROW process. These funds can help with one-time capital improvements/acquisition as well as ongoing operational needs.

ROW proposed activities: Shelter at Unity Commons, Outreach, hoteling for DV victims, and Franz Anderson tiny home development. MOUs and contracts for Unity Commons as well as Franz Anderson are underway.

Additional ROW activities: the community agrees there is a need for permanent housing. The RFP states that not more than 50% of beds being offered are short term temporary beds. They have included 2 options for hotel purchases in the proposal. Both hotels are in the \$15 – 20M acquisition range and need rehabilitation to operate as an enhanced shelter, with intent to convert to permanent housing in year 3. The proposal to the State includes initial acquisition cost, rehabilitation costs, and operational costs, to capture the full amount to create permanent units.

Next Steps: The proposal is due July 21st, then they will enter a negotiation process with Commerce regarding funding amounts and the final project. This information was also presented to the HAT this morning. Comments from HAT included: concern about a communication plan, urgency of initiative is circumventing the best practices of the HCRP, there is a significant need for wraparound services with hotel stays, gap in mental health staff, the system is experiencing significant deficit in staff capacity.

Councilmember Althaus asked if there is language about moving people when there is not capacity yet for permanent housing units, especially in regards to Boise v Martin. The proposal does not specify that any removal of people from ROW is being done by jurisdictions. State does not seem concerned about the Boise ruling, they look at ROW as not being applicable to Boise v Martin. Also, the language states that there must be an offer for improved the living situation.

Councilmember Cooper asked if the by name list will track people who do not take an offer to relocate? They will still be on the list for offers at a later time. What happens if there are no hotels to buy? The proposal has caveat language that the County does not have control over this transaction and seller's willingness.

Agenda Item 5: Good of the Order

Tom gave an update with HEN and Coordinated Entry. CAC declined to renew their contracts for HEN, Rapid Rehousing and Coordinated Entry. The County is working on a plan moving forward to ensure rent

and utility payments re made and support for approved HEN clients who are seeking housing. The County is going to issue August rent payments. The County has sent out a request to local providers to identify interest of providers to pick up all or a portion of the Hen services. The biggest challenge is the Case Management. Family Support Center is picking up the CE workload for single adults.

Councilmember Cox asked if there is a way to assess gaps and how to establish safety nets. Keylee acknowledged that there will be gaps, they are communicating as best they can to maintain services.

Darian added that there are several jurisdictions that may not provide a proposal and the State has given them commendation for being able to work together and collaborate on a proposal. The RHC Tech Team relationship has really helped them be able to pull this proposal together. Darian added that the FSC permanent supportive housing project will close tomorrow to create 62 units of PSH for occupancy in 2023. Trish Gregory shared appreciation for all the hard work from all the jurisdictions and 12 different funding sources to start the project.

Meeting Adjourned: 5:01 pm

Next Meeting: July 27th, 4:00 pm