

REGIONAL HOUSING COUNCIL

Wednesday July 27th, 2022 Meeting Minutes

ATTENDEES:

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

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

Olympia: Dani Madrone, Jim Cooper, Darian Lightfoot, Keith Stahley

Thurston County: Carolina Mejia, Keylee Marineau, Tom Webster, Jacinda Steltjes, Robin Campbell, Meghan Porter

Yelm: 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 July 13th meeting, motion and second, approved

Agenda Item 4: Thurston Thrives New Director

Keylee introduced Josefina Magana. Josefina has met with the different action teams, currently focusing on health equity, and engaging communities that have not historically been involved. Carolina asked if Josefina is briefed about the relationship between RHC and HAT and if she has any thoughts. Josefina is currently learning about the different groups and partnerships. Thurston Chamber Foundation and the County are current funders, and part of the job is to find other funders.

Agenda Item 5: DEI Consultant Presentation

Keylee gave some background. In 2021 The RHC approved funds for a DEI consultant and contracted with Confluence Consulting. Faith Addicott, Ava McGee, Joanne Lee, and Janice Jackson-Haley from Confluence Consulting presented. They facilitated the design of a steering committee comprised of people with lived experience as well as underrepresented communities. Purpose of the Steering Committee is to move/change the conversations and decisions regarding the homeless response system by including voices of those with lived experience who are racially or ethnically overrepresented in the homeless population. Accomplishments include best practice research, stakeholder interviews, stakeholder systems map, and public meetings. Discussion follows regarding best practices and what they have heard from Stakeholders including safety, support, communication, bias, and expectations. They gave an overview of Steering Committee (SC) Roles and Partner Roles, and steps to complete.

Discussion follows to identify how a Lived Experience Steering Committee (LESC) can connect with the RHC, and how to include the SC in decision making. Build lived experience into the process early, during recommendation discussion at early stages of each decision. Helpful to have the Tech Team and LESG work together, and include LESG in RHC meetings. Identify and address unintended consequences. Also need to consider staffing needs to help the LESG, stipends for participants, and how to address the

ongoing sense of urgency. Timeline includes nominations for Steering Committee in next few weeks, formation of LESC in early fall, and a public community meeting on August 16th. Discussion follows regarding timing of nominations and formation of steering committee, and ensuring that this work connects with the Tech Team governance planning.

Agenda Item 6: RHC and HAT retreat next steps

Tom gave an update on the development of the governance structure including incorporating the DEI Steering Committee will be included. Next steps include reaching out to the City and County managers to discuss the draft governance structure. Hope to set a meeting with jurisdiction leaders before the next RHC meeting, so that draft governance structure can be brought to the RHC.

Agenda Item 7: ROW Update

Jacinda gave some background, in June the state asked the County to partner to relocate individuals in 8 rights of way identified by the State. July 21 was the deadline to submit their proposal to outline what they are asking for funding and activities to complete the relocation, total request was roughly \$55M including outreach, shelter, hotel vouchers, tiny home village, and 2 hotel acquisitions with operating costs, plus a gap in funding for 2828 Martin Way. Some activities were funded as sole source prior to the completed proposal, via MOUs with the state. The Commerce initial response to the proposal includes full funding for outreach, shelter, vouchers, 2828 Martin Way gap, and the tiny home village. Commerce has proposed \$15M for acquisition, \$5M for rehab and \$2M for 2 years for operating, for one hotel, to be converted to permanent supportive housing. The \$2M a year operating costs needed initially is higher than the operating costs needed once it converts to supportive housing. Commerce has indicated they anticipate additional operating costs being available in future years. What is the gap for the hotel? The initial request was \$15M for acquisition and \$5M for rehabilitation, only \$15M is proposed by Commerce. (Note: following the RHC meeting, staff clarified that Commerce will provide \$5M for rehabilitation costs, so there should not be any funding gap for the hotel acquisition, rehab and operations.)

Jacinda gave an overview of a separate RFP for the competitive Capital Acquisition RFP. The cap for this RFP per project is \$7.9M. This is being looked at as an option for the second hotel that was not funded by the ROW funds. This application is due August 11th, with a second round possible later in the fall. Decision for the RHC is whether to pursue the funding for the second hotel, with commitment of ARPA funds from jurisdictions. The purchase and sale agreement timeframe closes in November, which leaves little time from when they anticipate an award from the State. This project would also need operating funds. Staff is asking if there is political will/commitment to make this happen in a short time frame. Jurisdictions would need to provide letters of commitment of ARPA funds. Need \$10 - \$12M commitment right away, and ongoing \$1M for operations. County had set aside \$9M of ARPA and spent \$1M of that, and \$2M is designated for Franz Anderson. Olympia has spent their ARPA funds. Tumwater has \$550K available for this. Discussion follows regarding funding options for this second hotel. Staff will send out the proposed funding summary for this second hotel. Staff emphasizes this opportunity and acknowledges there is a risk but the need is great and the cost per unit is comparatively small.

Agenda Item 8: Technical Team update

Natalie Skovran from Family Support Center gave an update on Coordinated Entry. There is a gap for single adults at the moment. FSC has the lead contract for CE and subcontracts with CYS and CAC, and the CAC contract has not been renewed. They have paused single adult intakes at the moment, they are using the time to train on their new assessment tool and intake. FSC is being very thoughtful and intentional on how they proceed. Placements and exits from CE are still happening. They are keeping a list of contacts for new single adults to reach out and finish their intake when they establish a new process.

Keylee gave an update for HEN. County staff have been working to ensure current HEN clients receive August rent and utilities. The County has contracted with PIPE to provide case management that County staff are not able to provide. The County will be issuing an RFP for the HEN program, and Rapid Rehousing. They are looking to contract with Livestories just for a few months to issue payments until new HEN contracts are in place.

Agenda Item 9: Good of the Order

None

Meeting Adjourned: 6:05 pm

Next Meeting: August 10th, 4:00 pm