



Homes for All Leadership Group

“Providing innovative leadership toward ending homelessness”

Tuesday, October 9, 2018, 9:00 am

Meeting Notes Revised 11/15/2018

Welcome & Introductions

Commissioner Garrido opened the meeting asking for any meeting note revisions. No revisions were noted from members. Attendees introduced themselves.

Reports/Updates

i. Kitsap Housing and Homelessness Coalition

Sheryl Piercy of the Salvation Army is the new chair of the Kitsap Housing and Homelessness Coalition, formerly known as the Kitsap Continuum of Care Coalition. The coalition is working on several projects. One of their projects is raising awareness about Hunger and Homelessness week, November 10th-18. Please send any information about projects your groups or organization may be doing so that it can be included on the schedule. Projects on the schedule may include events like movies, marches, and the blessing of the hats and scarves.

The Coalition is also working on planning the Project Connect resource fairs which coincide with the Point In Time Count at the end of January.

The Coalition meets the 3rd Wednesday of the month at either Agape Unlimited or the Salvation Army. Last month it was held at the Salvation Army. Contact Sheryl to be added to the Coalition mailing list.

ii. Severe Weather Shelter Program

Kirsten Jewell, Kitsap County Housing and Homelessness Division (KCHHD), discussed some of the changes around the administration of the Kitsap County Severe Weather Shelter Program. The Severe Weather Shelters provide safe and warm shelter during severe weather events at locations in Port Orchard, Poulsbo, Kingston, and Silverdale. These shelters are staffed by volunteers who facilitate the operation of the shelter when the weather meets criteria for activation. The Kitsap County Department of Emergency Management (KCDDEM) stepped back from some of the duties they were covering in the past, and those have been picked up by the Housing and Homelessness Division.

KCDDEM will continue to process applications and perform background checks for applicants applying for the State Emergency Worker cards required to work at the severe weather shelters.

The KCHHD is taking on oversight of the program volunteers in partnership with the managers at each site. A new software platform will be used to help volunteers schedule shifts to staff the shelters during an activation. Cory has done a fantastic job setting up the use of this software and providing training.

There will be two trainings for new volunteers, the site managers, and for volunteers seeking a refresher. These trainings will be held Oct 18th, 6pm-9pm at Port Orchard United Methodist Church, and Oct 23rd, 6pm-9pm at Gateway Fellowship Church in Poulsbo. Current volunteers do not need to attend, but new volunteers must be trained prior to working a shift at a shelter. Kirsten Jewell will be providing the training along with Cory, Michele Moen, and Kelly Schwab from the Crisis Clinic.

Tim Blair noted that the program has regularly had 50-60 volunteers in the past, but the challenge is that only about 20% sign up to participate. Kirsten noted that we will be working to pare down the list of inactive volunteers.

iii. Housing Navigation Center and Permanent Support Housing

Monica Bernhard of Kitsap Mental Health announced to the group that the Navigation Center did not get funded by the 1/10th of 1% for Mental Health funds. The Permanent Supportive Housing project will continue to move forward.

iv. Kitsap Regional Coordinating Council – Affordable Housing Committee

Commissioner Garrido is the chair of the Kitsap Regional Coordinating Council, which meets monthly and is made up of participants from cities, tribes, and the Navy. The jurisdictions need a unified plan for affordable housing, and it makes sense going forward to do so at a policy level. KRCC formed an ad-hoc affordable housing committee which will meet once in 2018 and quarterly in 2019. This group will be responsible for putting together policy and recommendations. It will also be reaching out to state and local agencies.

Elected officials in our community have talked passionately about issues in our region including growth management and gentrification. We need to work to make sure that the needs are met for appropriate housing for people working in the area. There is an areawide push for advocating a Puget Sound Regional Vision 2050 Plan to create more equitable living conditions through state funding allocations.

Commissioner Garrido noted that this is a great opportunity for the County. We are doing something that hasn't happened in the three other counties. If the group can come up with recommendations, they can be incorporated into the Puget Sound Regional Coordinating Council discussions.

Stacy Smith from Kitsap County Aging and Long-Term Care noted that it is important to advocate for aging and disabled adults with disabilities that are living on a fixed income. This is an important piece when planning for the future.

v. Section 8 Waitlist

Kurt Wiest, Executive Director of the Bremerton Housing Authority, announced to the group that the Section 8 waitlist is now open for applications. The housing authority is trying to communicate this as widely as possible. The list opened yesterday and will close this Friday at 4pm. The application is a simple to complete electronic form and takes about 5 minutes to fill out, It is expected that there will be approximately 3000-4000 applicants, and a lottery will be set up to select up to 300 to place on the waitlist. The Housing Authority anticipates being able to house these applicants in the next 12-18 months. The list will not reopen again for the next 12-18 months.

Local agencies such as the Kitsap Rescue Mission and KCR Housing Solutions Center have computer available for clients to apply.

vi. Housing Kitsap Apartments Change

Commissioner Garrido noted that there has been information this last week about Housing Kitsap not renewing their HUD contract for some of their apartment buildings.

Kurt Wiest from Bremerton Housing Authority provided some additional information. The Department of Housing and Urban Development allocates funding based on long-term private and public contracts. Housing Kitsap decided to opt-out to end that contract. The tenants in these units have a deeply affordable subsidy. These tenants will get a “tenant protection voucher” which can be used at their current apartment or take with them to use at another unit. This will cause the loss of 130 units of deeply affordable housing to the community, but the tenants will be protected. Future tenants will not have the same opportunity for the protections or subsidy.

Lived Experience Presentations

Renee Kimball-Rouse, a member of the Resident Action Project, spoke about the experience of living homeless, and described some of the factors in her losing housing.

Through these experiences, Renee got involved with the Resident Action Project (RAP), a group of people with lived experience of homelessness working to change state policy through storytelling, organizing, and civic action. She went to Olympia and testified about the Housing and Essential Needs (HEN) program to open availability to clients on the Aged, Blind, Disabled (ABD) program. The RAP project also did great work in the last legislative session, including working on the source of income discrimination legislation that ultimately passed. Renee feels that what makes the difference is the stories, having policy makers see the effects of legislation and having a powerful story to connect with the impact of the laws.

In July Renee went to Washington DC to meet with other advocates to see what other issues states are dealing with. She noted that in many places states are starting to realize the importance of having people with lived experience on committees that are recommending policy. Other states are having similar issues with Tiny Village projects. We need to start telling people that housed people are not homeless. We need an ad campaign like MADD and Op-eds to help get this point out to the community.

What can organizations do? When someone first becomes homeless it is important to provide a resource guide. The guide will not solve homelessness, but it contains information that can help people connect with resources.

Kirsten noted that through some of the legislation that there will be some increase in funds from recording fees. The change for HEN will have a big impact, expanding the program to a larger group of people, but funding was not increased. Increasing the funding for the HEN program is likely to be a big priority in the next session.

Jayne Stuntz from Kitsap Connect shared a story of one of their clients.

Commissioner Garrido noted that it is important for the members of this group to hear these stories of the people we are trying to help. To help us to understand the nuances of living homeless and to make sure that we are providing safe and secure housing.

Village Updates

i. Human Services

a. Services

Peninsula Community Health Services (PCHS) will be using a mobile medical unit on site. PCHS bought a mobile medical unit with a combination of federal funding and own funding recently. PCHS will also be purchasing a behavioral health unit with funds from the 1/10th of 1% grants for behavioral health and it will be available in the next 60 days. The plan is to bring the mobile clinic to the tiny village. Having on-site medical will be one less barrier for clients to have to navigate in their lives. A schedule still needs to be determined. They will be able to see PCHS clients on site, as well as clients who are not assign to PCHS for medical. Mobile clinics are often hard to sustain due to the costs of operating the clinic. The goal is to develop relationships with partners and the school districts to have a regular schedule for the mobile clinic. There are plans underway to work on getting a mobile dental clinic as well.

b.Carolynn Zimmers is recruiting volunteer veterinarians to have a mobile pet clinic on site.

ii. Communications Team

- a. Tim Blair and Sue Hughes discussed the 4 community meetings which were held across the county and included a panel of experts to answer questions. The facilitators set the ground rules. There were varying degrees of interest from the groups. There was some hostility, but the meetings were mostly civil and respectful. A short overview of the plan was provided and most of the time was allotted to Q&A.

The next meeting will be held at the Port Orchard Church of Christ November 15th, directly with the neighbors within 1/3 of a mile of the site. Flyers are going out soon.

Bev Kincaid mentioned that she had attended the Port Orchard meeting. She said that some people did not seem open but that the panel did a fantastic job. She noted how interesting that if someone has not been homeless how difficult it is to understand the issue. It was great having people with lived experience share their stories; she felt that it moved the needle.

Dr. Turner also mentioned how well the meetings went. One of the neighbors came to the meeting and reflected on the Port Orchard meeting. It is clear as a group we may not have been getting the word out about the residents that would be living in the village. The neighbor kept referring to “the criminals you see on television”. The neighbor was clear about what they wanted to be reassured about. We need to make sure to address this issue before the next meeting. We have safeguards in place but the neighbors in the area don’t seem to know about these protections. Perhaps we need to elevate this point.

Commissioner Garrido stated that the stories were helpful for the audience and if there are people who can come and share their stories they really help.

Lisa Bratcher is putting together a neighborhood Facebook page. She noted that we need to keep repeating the same points consistently to help alleviate concerns. People are afraid.

Carolyn mentioned a question from the audience about property values, and how do we answer this question. Lisa mentioned that in the Seattle area where there is a village that follows a similar model there has been no denigration in property values. This church has hosted a high-needs high-risk group and the property values have not been affected. The Port Orchard Church of Christ church has a 2-year commitment with no long-term commitment beyond that. Doug mentioned that the Assessors have checked similar areas and have not noted decreased property values and do not anticipate decreases in property values here due to the tiny village.

iii. Physical Site

a. **Common Spaces**

Jim Bolger from Kitsap County Department of Community Development announced that there are a few revisions to the plans for the common spaces. Rather than a gazebo there are discussions to replace with a covered structure with flaps that can be enclosed. The walkways will be covered with crushed gravel which is ADA appropriate for strollers and walkers.

b. **Utilities**

Public Health will need to review the design of the utilities.

c. **Cabins**

The cabins built to date are only the structures, and not all 14 have been constructed yet. Olympic Education Service District is building the 12th unit, and South Kitsap High School will be building another unit. Reg Campbell says that the last two can be built by Keiser. He suggested constructing the last two on-site so that they do not have to be moved. Jeff Rimack is putting together the internal floor plans. He thinks the expectation will be that the units will have a built-in bed.

d. **Community Facilities**

Tim Blair gave an update on the trailer conversion for the bathroom and kitchen units. The remodel has been slowed down due to rot. One of the trailers will need a wall rebuilt. A challenge is that we cannot bring a 3rd trailer onto the site unless we can get a dumpster to clean up debris. The bathroom trailer will not be able to meet ADA requirements, so another cabin will need to be constructed for this purpose. Grace Episcopal Church may be able to construct this unit; Tim will get confirmation.

Commissioner Garrido discussed the possibility of getting portables from the Central Kitsap School District to use for facilities.

e. **Site Development**

Kirsten noted a large change is that Kitsap Community Resources will now be the Site Manager rather than Housing Kitsap. This will be pending legal review and contract negotiation.

Under this contract KCR will own the housing units. Kitsap Rescue Mission put together the village management plan, and it is a complicated process to ensure that all documents and changes to the plans are consistent and comply with other documents. An attorney will be reviewing the documents. The MOU will be ready this week and the contract will go to KCR for review as soon as possible.

f. **Permit Application**

The permit application is pending completion of an MOU which is under review. A few details need to be determined such as tax status. Since KCR accepted

ownership, the Department of Revenue will need to review.

Announcements

Carolynn Zimmers announced that Kitsap Aware is holding a forum at the Salvation Army on November 4th. The purpose of the forum is to communicate that pets are not a luxury for people living homeless. On the panel will be 2 non-profits, Their Voice and another group from Seattle. The experts will talk about living homeless with pets, and why there are so few homeless shelters like the Salvation Army that will allow pets. Perhaps 10% of women's shelters allow pets, vs support animals. Many people living homeless will not go to shelters if it means they cannot bring their pets with them. Emma Newton will be in attendance to speak as an expert about the human animal bond. Please advertise the event and attend so that we can acknowledge experts in the audience. After the panel a pizza party will be held.

In August a pet fair was held at the Salvation Army with Kimmy Siebens of Their Voice. They saw 42 pets with exams given, flea products administered, and ear cleanings performed. Vaccines were not given, but they hope to be able to offer these in the future. Another pet fair is planned for January, possibly in conjunction with Project Connect. Carolynn will talk with the cities to see if they would be willing to donate free animal licenses.

Closing Comments

Commissioner Garrido offered a special thank you to the organizations involved in this project for their participation in these efforts, to the members of this group, and for the recording of the minutes.

Summary of follow-up items:

- *If you would like to be included on the Kitsap Housing and Homelessness Coalition or participate in Hunger and Homelessness week, contact Sheryl Piercy*
Sheryl.Piercy@usw.salvationarmy.org
- *If you are helping someone who is homeless offer them resources such as the Sally's Resource Guide and Free Meals Sites available at*
<https://spf.kitsapgov.com/hs/Pages/HH-Resources.aspx> or refer them to call 2-1-1.
- *Tim Blair will follow-up with Grace Episcopal Church to see if they can construct the 15th unit to be used as an ADA accessible bathroom.*
- *Commissioner Garrido will look into getting portables from the Central Kitsap School District.*

Next Meetings: 9 a.m. at the Salvation Army

November 13
December 11
January 8

Meeting Participants

Commissioner Charlotte Garrido	Kitsap County
Angie Silva	Kitsap County Commissioner's Office
Beverly Kincaid	Citizen
Bridget Glasspoole	KCR Housing Solutions Center
Carl Borg	United Way of Kitsap County
Carolynn Zimmers	League of Women Voters
Connie Syapin	League of Women Voters
Cory Derenburger	Kitsap County Human Services
Jayne Stuntz	Kitsap Connect
Jennifer Kreidler-Moss	Peninsula Community Health Services
Jim Bolger	Kitsap County Department of Community Development
Judy-Rae Karlsen	Kitsap County
Kirsten Jewell	Kitsap County Human Services
Kody Russell	Kitsap Strong
Kurt Wiest	Bremerton Housing Authority
Lisa Bratcher	Port Orchard Church of Christ
Lisa Nickel	Kitsap County Prosecutor's Office
Monica Bernhard	Kitsap Mental Health Services
Nancy Olsten	Kitsap Rescue Mission
Randy Spitzer	Citizen
Renee Kimball	Resident Action Project
Sheryl Piercy	Salvation Army
Stacey Smith	Kitsap County Aging and Long-Term Care
Dr. Susan Turner	Kitsap Public Health District
Suzanne Hughes	League of Women Voters
Tim Blair	Project Share
Tom Pinkham	Developer / Builder

