



Homes for All Leadership Group

“Providing innovative leadership toward ending homelessness”

Tuesday, September 12th, 2017, 9:00 am

Meeting Notes

Welcome & Introductions

Commissioner Garrido opened the meeting and thanked the Salvation Army for hosting the group each month. Attendees introduced themselves. No comments or changes were noted for the previous August 8th meeting materials or meeting notes.

Reports/Updates

i. **August Meeting: Nutrition for Unsheltered Households**

Commissioner Garrido noted that materials were put together by Fran Miller, Suquamish Tribe, for the Unsheltered Nutrition training. Most items were purchased at the Dollar Store for foods that require no cooking. The recipes were included in the meeting materials email.

ii. **Kitsap Cottages in the community**

Randy Spitzer and Tim Blair have been recruiting sponsor organizations and churches to fund and build tiny cottages. Sponsoring organizations have committed to building a cottage or supporting the project. 10 Cottages have been constructed at this time; 18 have been sponsored or committed to.

The constructed cottages are on display at locations throughout the county. One was on display at the Kitsap County Fair and was damaged when the door was kicked in. All interiors are unfinished, and electrical work will be completed once the units are placed. The goal is to complete 12 in South Kitsap, then proceed to North and Central Kitsap.

iii. **Kitsap Continuum of Care Coalition**

Sarah van Cleve, Chair of the Kitsap Continuum of Care Coalition (KCoCC), gave an overview of the work of that group. The KCoCC worked with Kitsap County to update the Kitsap Homeless Housing Plan for 2016. Its work focuses on implementing strategies identified in the Plan and providing networking opportunities for members to ensure better coordination of efforts.

Current work is focusing on working with people re-entering society with criminal backgrounds. Many become homeless because they do not qualify for many types of assistance. The group is working on processes to help “screen people in rather than screen them out.” The statewide “Ban the Box” initiative is aimed at persuading

employers to remove from their hiring applications the check box that asks if applicants have a criminal record.

The KCoCC is active throughout the year to help support efforts including Project Connect and the Point in Time Count. The group will also be working to get the word out about Homelessness and Hunger Awareness Week, November 12th-20th, and sponsoring some activities during that time. [HTTP://HHWEEK.ORG/](http://hhweek.org/).

iv. Encampment Project

Walt LeCouter, Executive Director of the Kitsap Rescue Mission (KRM), updated the group on the status of the encampment site off Almira Drive. Stuart Grogan, Executive Director of Housing Kitsap, met with social service agencies about using the property to transition an existing illegal encampment to a permitted Transitory Accommodation site before multi-family affordable housing is constructed on the site in several years. This idea is awaiting final approval for use of the site from the Housing Kitsap Board. Kitsap Rescue Mission and other groups have been involved in helping to clean up the site, working with people who are currently living there. Fred Meyer is supportive and is offering a location for a dumpster.

KRM envisions starting with a small encampment of up to 10 tents and 25 people on the 8 acres of land. The hope is to transition the tents to cottages over time. Residents will form a council under guidance by KRM, and residents will take ownership for the process and be involved in self-monitoring, clean-up, and governance. Several site improvements will be needed, including a road for emergency vehicle access, fencing, running water, Port-a-Pottys, and electricity. KRM will make their mobile shower unit available to residents at the location until a more permanent shower facility can be constructed.

Commissioner Wolfe is interested in the project – it is in his district -- and will be meeting with the Illahee Preserve community, service clubs, and area churches.

➤ *Carl Borg of United Way Kitsap said Kitsap County United Way would finance the cost of a dumpster, and that there has been discussion about having a permanent dumpster at the location.*

v. League of Women Voters event

Connie Syapin announced that the League of Women Voters is looking to host an education forum in November to help educate County residents about homelessness issues. The League is looking for guidance on how to plan the event. One of the important messages is that people that have no home didn't get there due to big mistakes; it is a societal problem coupled with increasing rents and less opportunity. The League is working with Charlotte Sanders, a Teaching Assistant for the homeless at University of Washington. Renee' Kimble-Rouse would be a good connection, she is an advocate that has experience with homelessness and is being honored by

Washington Low Income Housing Alliance as Advocate of the Year. Bremerton Housing Authority has been collecting stories from their housing residents from a variety of backgrounds about the importance of affordable housing.

- *Group members can provide guidance on event planning to the League of Women Voters.*
- *Kurt Wiest will send BHA resident stories to Kirsten Jewell to distribute to the group.*

2017 Progress on Small Cottage Communities

Homes for All Cottages – SK Pilot

i. Site Development/Permitting/Management

Commissioner Garrido reiterated that the term used for these projects is “small cottages”; the term “tiny homes” is used by real estate and the construction industry for homes with different intended purposes.

Commissioner Garrido summarized the Kitsap Homes For All: Small Cottages Communities document that was part of the meeting materials. The Kitsap Cottages project includes site selection, neighborhood outreach, and will work to address concerns and issues with neighbors before site construction begins. Participants are selected by the Housing Solutions Center for suitability for living within a cottage community. Participants are transitional and working towards self-sufficiency. Most importantly, case management is provided.

Commissioner Garrido has been working with a church on a possible location in South Kitsap, but is awaiting approval from the church group. If approved, information will be sent out to the group.

BKAT could be used to put together a video from encampments in Seattle to give a first-hand look at these sites to citizens in Kitsap. The Kitsap Sun will be doing an article on the LIHI program in Seattle.

- *Carl Borg, Tim Blair, and Angie Silva will follow-up with BKAT on videos or stories.*
- *Leadership Group members are encouraged to contact Kirsten Jewell, Angie Silva, or Commissioner Garrido with input.*

ii. Care Coordination

The Housing Solutions Center (HSC) has developed a good model for case management. Kody Russell commented that it is important to use a trauma-informed approach and to respect the reasons and choices that are involved for people that are homeless. Utilize Voice, Choice, and Collaboration, to help participants feel safe and allow for self-governance.

- *Kody Russell will provide articles or educational materials on self-governance and*

ground rules.

iii. **Web Presence/Messaging/Communications**

A Homes for All FaceBook pages has been created by Fred Change, Port Orchard City Council Member. The online presence now includes:

FaceBook page: <https://facebook.com/HomesforallKitsap/>

Leadership Group webpage: <http://www.kitsapgov.com/hs/housing/hcc.htm>

Homes for All Kitsap Cottages

webpage: https://spf.kitsapgov.com/BOC_p/Pages/HomesForAll.aspx

iv. **Financing (for bath, kitchen, utilities)**

Not much progress has happened yet on the finance front. Funds need to be raised for bathrooms, kitchens, fencing, other facilities, and for sources in the long-term.

Tim Blair stated that they are working on coordinating with churches to collect/donate for the costs of projects in the October/November timeframe – perhaps in coordination with Hunger & Homelessness Awareness Week.

United Way is taking donations for Homes for All projects, and charging no overhead expenses. Carl Board will work with Lowes to get even deeper discounts on materials.

The group touched on the use of portables for community spaces, and plans to revisit plans for community spaces at a later time.

➤ *Tim Blair, Carl Borg, and others who are interested or have capacity please volunteer to help put together finance action plans.*

Developing a 3-5 Year Plan for Affordable Housing

i. **Discussion of next steps**

Amazing work has been done since the June 2016 Homelessness Workshop. The current focus is to get some housing on the ground before winter weather begins.

The group discussed current examples of villages such as LIHI in Seattle, and Eugene's Opportunity Village and Emerald Village.

The group discussed a visit to observe communities in action, such as Quixote Village. Kurt Wiest suggested visiting Catholic Housing Service Drexel House. Many meeting participants expressed interest in a field trip to these sites.

➤ *Plan for a 3-5 Year Plan workshop at the next meeting.*

➤ *Kirsten Jewell will follow up with contacts regarding a tour of Drexel House and Quixote Village.*

Closing Comments

Go forth and do good!

Next Meeting

9am at the Salvation Army

October 10th

November 14th

December 12th

Meeting Participants

Commissioner Charlotte Garrido	Kitsap County
Angie Silva	Kitsap County Commissioner's Office
Carl Borg	United Way of Kitsap County
Sarah Van Cleve	Bremerton Housing Authority
Kurt Wiest	Bremerton Housing Authority
Walt LeCouteur	Kitsap Rescue Mission
Connie Syapin	League of Women Voters
Kody Russell	Kitsap Strong
Doug Washburn	Kitsap County, Human Services
Kirsten Jewell	Kitsap County, Human Services
Cory Derenburger	Kitsap County, Human Services
Tim Blair	Project Share
Bob Holtz	Port Orchard Methodist Church
Redge Campbell	Kaiser Permanente Washington
Sean Raybell	Department of Corrections
Susan Turner	Kitsap Public Health District
Scott Diener	Kitsap County, Department of Community Development