



## Homes for All Leadership Group

**“Providing innovative leadership toward ending homelessness”**

*Tuesday, September 11, 2018, 9:00 am*

### Meeting Notes

#### Welcome & Introductions

Commissioner Garrido opened the meeting and asked for any meeting note revisions. No revisions were noted from members. The Commissioner thanked the anonymous person or persons for the lovely flowers and note.

#### Reports/Updates

**i. Permanent Supportive Housing Project**

Monica Bernhard of Kitsap Mental Health Services gave an update on the supportive housing project. Monica introduced Tim Williams of Community Frameworks.

Tim Williams gave an overview of Community Frameworks, which is a non-profit housing organization which helps other non-profits to develop housing projects. In addition to their work on the feasibility study for the permanent supportive housing project, Community Frameworks has other housing projects under development in Spokane and Kennewick. Community Frameworks worked with local partners to develop the feasibility study and examined similar programs in Seattle (DESC – Downtown Emergency Services Center) and Catholic Charities in Spokane to learn best practices and pitfalls for developing these types of projects. The expected process for this project is for the site plans and applications for funding to be developed in 2018-2019, for construction to begin in 2020, and for the site to be opened in 2021. The next steps in the process are to perform an environmental review and suitability review which can take up to 6 months to complete. Site control will need to be obtained to have funding available in the spring of next year. The feasibility study is presumed to be available to the public as it has been submitted to the 1/10<sup>th</sup> of 1% for Mental Health Committee.

#### Movie Screening – Under the Bridge

**i. Group Discussion / Take-aways from the movie**

Commissioner Garrido wanted to show this movie to help crystalize why we meet to help the people that are living without a permanent housing situation. The Tiny Village project is just one option, but we have a lot more work to do to put the pieces together. The Commissioner expressed her appreciation for all the partners involved and the progress which has been made to date.

After the movie, the Commissioner asked a few questions about the members take-aways from the movie and points of discussion

Tom Pinkham noted that in the movie Maurice was right that people have a constitutional right to be where they are. It seems that in many cities the solution is to move people out of a location, have them relocate elsewhere and move them again when there are complaints. These are not solutions to the problem.

There was a mention that there are complaints about an encampment near Retsil regarding garbage. If the County will bring a dumpster to clean out the encampment, why not just provide a dumpster for the campers to throw away their garbage and work with them instead?

Gary Chasteen from the Port Orchard Church of Christ noted that people staying out of doors can't just go away, they must be somewhere, herding homeless people around doesn't solve the problem and communities are starting to understand this concept. A lot will depend on how we as a community measure success. Being homeless is a full-time job to survive. Some people will just need a hand up, but there are others that will be with us that will always need help. When Gary volunteered at the Winter Shelter at the Salvation Army what struck him was that people would come in, eat, and then go straight to sleep by 7 or 8pm. People don't normally do that, but people staying out of doors are exhausted and having a safe and warm place to stay makes all the difference.

Kimmy Siebens from Their Voice said that it would be nice to get nurses to do outreach to camps. People staying in the camps often need health care but are not receiving any treatment. We need to help to educate people, get social media involvement, and get the community to meet people living homeless.

Dr. Turner from the Kitsap Public Health District noted that as a community we have been working on solutions. Have we asked ourselves if we had all the resources we need to solve the problem, what would these solutions look like? In the past the Housing Solutions Center was developed to help address some of the shelter/housing issues, but what would help today? Has this group of experts asked if we had all the resources necessary, what would those resources be and what would the solutions look like for our community? What would it take to say that we have solved the problem of homelessness in Kitsap County?

Roland Arper of Port Orchard United Methodist Church stated that he isn't convinced that the word is getting out to front line people. At the Severe Weather Shelter the training doesn't include and training on community resources. One of his takeaways from the movie was the myth that people are coming from elsewhere to use services. This causes people to see homeless persons as outsiders and therefore the community doesn't have to take any responsibility.

Carl Borg, Executive Director at United Way of Kitsap, announced that the UW finished a video on homelessness. They went to several homeless encampments, and talked with experts such as Kurt Wiest, Monica Bernhard, and Mike O'Shaughnessy. The video starts

out stark black and white talking to homeless persons who state that they were paying \$400 per month for two people a few years ago and now the cost is \$900 and not affordable. They need temporary housing to be able to prepare to get back into society. The video will be available on September 21<sup>st</sup> for breakfast at Seefilm. Kody will come and speak about Kitsap Strong. The UW is looking for business relationship. Visit UWkitsap.org or call (360) 377-8505 for tickets.

Judith Richerzhagen stated that the movie helped to clarify for her that this is not an easy fix. Public service groups such as Rotary and Grange have had diminishing numbers, everyone is too busy. Judith wants to talk to her groups and take the film on the road so that they can see and have conversations with the organizations about the issue. We need to change people's attitudes. Seniors staying in senior housing pay \$1,000 for rent, which is half of their income. In Seattle, Share Wheel churches host people. They provide an address, a place to bathe, clothing, laundry, and kitchen. The City has been supporting this program for some time and is now looking to end support for the program. Perhaps we can do a similar program in Kitsap County.

Kirsten Jewell of Kitsap County Human Services stated that she was upset when reflecting on how the city in the film dealt with the homelessness issue in their community. For the most part our community is already a couple steps ahead in compassion. Our social service providers understand the housing first approach, low barrier shelters, and the proposed projects to create permanent supportive housing. We are already doing the things that we need to do, and we have good leadership from our elected officials who champion our collaborative work. She was struck by the elected officials in the movie not taking responsibility and for being critical of other groups who try to help. The root of the problem is it is a difficult issue that feels insurmountable and no one in the movie wanted to take any responsibility.

## **Village Updates**

### **i. Physical Site**

Gary stated that the church is in negotiations with the County regarding a MOU between the parties for the village. An application for the permit has not yet been submitted. Once it is submitted, then there will be a 30-day waiting period. The church will be reaching out to local homeowners in the area, especially those most affected on Carr Lane. Until there is something in writing and an agreement in place there is nothing to discuss. The church decided that it had to do something, doing nothing is not an option. Lisa has done a great job communicating with the neighbors.

## **Commitments and Closing Comments**

Commissioner Garrido closed the open discussion and thanked everyone for being here and sharing their thoughts. We each have a lot of work to do and we each have a role.

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

October 9  
November 13  
December 11

**Meeting Participants**

Commissioner Charlotte Garrido	Kitsap County
Angie Silva	Kitsap County Commissioner's Office
Carl Borg	United Way of Kitsap County
Clive Stewart	Kitsap County Veterans Advisory Board
Corrinne Criss	First Lutheran Community Church
Cory Derenburger	Kitsap County Human Services
Gary Chasteen	Port Orchard Church of Christ
Joe Roszak	Kitsap Mental Health Services
Judy-Rae Karlsen	Kitsap County
Kim Siebens	Their Voice
Kirsten Jewell	Kitsap County Human Services
Lisa Nickel	Kitsap County Prosecutor's Office
Monica Bernhard	Kitsap Mental Health Services
Roland Arper	Port Orchard United Methodist Church/Project Share
Susan Turner	Kitsap Public Health District
Tim Williams	Community Frameworks
Tom Pinkham	Developer / Builder
Wayne Hammock	Port Orchard Church of Christ