



Homes for All Leadership Group

“Providing innovative leadership toward ending homelessness”

Tuesday, June 12, 2018, 9:00 am

Meeting Notes

Welcome & Introductions

Commissioner Garrido opened the meeting and asked attendees to review the meeting notes from the prior meeting. No revisions were noted from members. Commissioner Garrido noted that she would make some edits. The meeting continued with members announcing their name and organization.

Reports/Updates

i. Kitsap Housing and Homelessness Coalition

Sarah van Cleve from the Kitsap Housing and Homelessness Coalition gave an overview of the goals of the coalition. The coalition is meeting regularly and is currently in the process of educating members in Trauma-Informed Care (TIC). Members will be expected to take what they learn back to their organization and train other staff (train the trainer model).

The coalition is also working on putting together a calendar of events for Hunger and Homelessness week, November 10th-18th, 2018.

- *If you are interested in hosting an event or participating in Hunger and Homelessness Awareness Week, please reach out to Sarah Van Cleve or Kirsten Jewell.*

ii. Permanent Supportive Housing Project

Monica Bernhard from Kitsap Mental Health Services noted that the Permanent Supportive Housing project has been in the planning stages for some time, and she will be providing standing updates at the Homes for All meetings. The feasibility study by Community Frameworks has been completed. The study has found that the project is feasible and has identified various possible funding sources for the project including Housing Trust Funds and tax credits. KMHS has identified itself as the project sponsor and will be working with Kitsap Community Resources and the Bremerton Housing Authority. The project is looking at developing 60-80 units of permanent supportive housing focused on serving individuals who are chronically homeless and/or have high barriers to stable housing.

iii. Low-Barrier Shelter (Navigation Center)

Monica Bernhard gave an update on the progress on developing a low-barrier shelter project. This project will be called a “Navigation Center.” The Navigation Center will be open 24/7 year-round and will host several health and human service programs including onsite access to Housing Solutions Center services, employment and training programs, and primary care. This location will include places for people to stay who don’t otherwise access shelter. It is presumed that some individuals will stay at the center for longer periods of time until they can be housed. These services will be aligned through partnership with the Salvation Army; it will not be possible for this Navigation Center to open by winter, so the plan is for the Salvation Army to open its Winter Shelter again this year. KMHS is moving forward with the grant application process.

iv. Homeless Housing Plan Update: HFA Action Items & Next Steps

Kirsten Jewell from Kitsap County Housing and Homelessness Division gave a presentation on the Kitsap County Crisis Response and Housing Plan. The Plan name specifically makes the distinction that the plan is about the immediate crisis response to homelessness; the Plan does not attempt to outline all of the actions needed to develop the affordable housing that is also needed. The Plan coordinates the efforts of numerous separate organizations to work together as a system to provide collective impact on the problem. The Plan includes specific work items for the Homes for All group.

The centerpiece of Kitsap’s homeless crisis response system is the coordinated entry (CE) system, called the Housing Solutions Center (HSC). The HSC is a one-stop housing assistance center for intake, vulnerability assessment, screening, and referrals. The HSC helps the system to work as a funnel, visualized by the Kitsap County Crisis Response System graphic in the materials handout. People entering the homeless system will all move through to different resources and housing depending on their individual needs and barriers. Upon entering the HSC, clients are diverted or prevented from losing housing if possible, helping people avoid entering the homeless system. These options are the best, as they are the least expensive and have the best outcomes. If diversion or prevention is not possible, the HSC helps to place people into immediate temporary housing, such as emergency shelters, transitional housing, respite care, and in the future Tiny Cabins. This helps people to become stabilized as they also get connected to resources, obtain benefits, or gain employment.

A household’s next step will depend on their level of need and the barriers to housing stability. Households with high barriers may have mental health issues, substance use, or physical disabilities which make it difficult to maintain housing. For them, the best solution is permanent supportive housing, coupled with tenancy support and supportive services to address their barriers. This type of unit is limited in our County and there is a dramatic need for more of these services. For households with moderate needs and a trajectory for eventual self-sustained permanent housing are offered a graduated subsidy for 3 - 12 months called rapid re-housing. The third category of households have low barriers but are on limited or fixed incomes; these households need housing that is affordable on their incomes, but this is very difficult to obtain.

Kirsten had an opportunity to speak recently at the statewide conference of Aging and Long-Term Care agencies, and they discussed the how many older adults and people with disabilities are struggling on a fixed income such as disability, social security, or a pension.

The Homeless Crisis Response and Housing plan was developed with input from elected officials, community members, social service providers, housing providers, and from people experiencing homelessness. The plan was approved May 23rd and was made available in the past week. The plan has 5 broad goals, to make homelessness 1) Rare, 2) Brief, 3) One-time, and to 4) continuously improve the crisis response system, and to 5) expand community engagement. The format includes a summary which outlines the focus areas of the Plan to prioritize unsheltered homeless and the most vulnerable, expand housing options, improve discharge planning, encourage development of affordable housing, and improve tenancy supports. Step-by-step each goal includes an assessment of needs and gaps, and strategies to fill those gaps.

The Homes for All group was identified to contribute to Goal 1 to help develop toolkits for alternative housing, and Goal 5 to expand community engagement, by helping create a coordinated communication and outreach plan and advocating for additional funding.

The work of implementing the plan is a collective effort of all groups involved with addressing homelessness. Most organizations that participate in the plan are represented at the Kitsap Housing and Homelessness Coalition meetings which are open to any organization that wants to participate in addressing homelessness. At the state level, the Washington State Department of Commerce oversees the requirement that each county government has a homeless housing plan, and provides technical assistance and guidance as needed.

The Plan does not include specific strategies for affordable housing; this topic is large and complex enough to justify the need for a stand-alone plan. The Plan also calls for an affordable housing task force and a study to assess affordable housing stock and project the community needs for affordable housing in the future.

It was mentioned by group members the Kitsap Regional Coordinating Council is having similar discussions about affordable housing. It would be beneficial to align these groups working on affordable housing issues.

Anyone with specific questions about the Kitsap Homeless Crisis Response and Housing Plan should contact Kirsten Jewell.

Discussions for Today

i. Physical Site: Update

Commissioner Garrido gave a short physical site update for the group. Levi Holmes has been volunteering time to draft the village layout. Commissioner Garrido has asked for the layout of cabins to be placed closer together; the Low Income Housing Institute

spaces units 4-6 feet apart. A soil test has been performed at the Church of Christ site and the soil is good for septic.

Tim Blair of Project Share now has 5 construction office trailers available from Stuart Johnson in Silverdale. We can have the trailers, but we need to have someone take the title, preferably as soon as possible. The title is needed so that the trailers can be moved, and the entity taking the title must assume responsibility and liability. There is no set drop-dead date for the offer, but it would be better to accept the trailers sooner than later. The First Lutheran Church has given permission to place one of the trailers on their property for work to be completed turning the trailer into bathroom facilities.

- *Stuart Grogan and Commissioner Garrido will take lead on the title issue for the trailers.*

The Church of Christ has put together a handout for their members, which displays an impressive job of understanding the framework presented for the task they are exploring. The handout was not meant to be public but has been spread within the community. There has been significant community pushback. Commissioner Garrido has offered to hold a public meeting with the neighbors. Help is needed from the Communications Team to help frame ideas for a presentation. We need to help listen to concerns, provide information, and help communicate the idea that housing people without a home is important in Kitsap County to help move people toward self-sufficiency.

ii. Human Services

Doug Washburn from Kitsap Human Services gave an update on progress for the human services component of a tiny cabin village. Kitsap Rescue Mission and Kitsap Community Resources will be providing case management services, and a contract has been discussed. Aging and Long-Term care services, North Kitsap Fishline, Veterans Services, and WorkSource have also stepped forward to participate.

A lot of planning has been undertaken to prepare the human services partners to provide services depending on the type of village and governance structured offered. If the village is hosted on a church property, the church will also have a say in how the village functions.

Kitsap Mental Health Services has many dwellings for clients throughout the community, and neighbors were concerned and had fears about clients living nearby. What seemed key to allaying concerns from neighbors was to have a go-to person onsite to contact and address issues. This practice has been successful and may help with a tiny cabin village. It was suggested to help identify an organization/person for this role early in the process.

Becky Ericksen, Mayor of Poulsbo, stated that many documents have been developed and substantial work on the rules, management, and governance that it would be helpful to have a document repository.

iii. Communications Team

Randy Spitzer, chair of the Communication Team, discussed progress from their team meeting. The League of Women Voters has agreed to set up and schedule meetings for the community. The plan is to offer two monthly meetings across the county over the next three months. The goal is to communicate the story of homelessness in Kitsap County, what a Tiny Cabin Village is, and what it is not. The team is working to produce written materials and is considering making a blog but needs a writer. The blog could be a place to get connected to the current progress, host articles, and connect to other similar projects in other communities. The Kitsap Sun has written several front-page articles about people that are homeless and how the community is working to address these issues.

It would be beneficial to have a meeting with neighbors very soon to present accurate information and to dispel rumors that will crop up before the project becomes official. The materials should be simple, and include counts of people that are homeless, stories from people that are homeless, how security will be addressed, the vetting process, and communicate that the people that would be living in the village would be low risk adults who simple need housing to get back on their feet.

Commissioner Garrido mentioned that she is not sure how well known this group is in the community, or if it is known how much effort this group has committed to help address housing issues. She suggested a list of membership and synopsis or each organization.

- *Commissioner Garrido will set up a public forum at the Eagles nearby in Port Orchard.*

iv. Other Business and Announcements

Carl Borg from the United Way shared that June 22nd is the United Way Day of Caring. They will have a team of youth building a tiny cabin. The cabin will be built and placed on property by the Olympic Education Service District parking lot. There are many projects and more volunteers are needed. Volunteer at volunteerkitsap.org.

The United Ways of the Pacific Northwest have also released their ALICE Report. ALICE is an acronym for Asset Limited, Income Constrained, Employed. These individuals and families are employed, but their income is not enough to cover essentials, and are unable to save or deal with an unexpected expense. Kitsap County scored relatively well, at 39% compared with a state average of 43%.

Commitments and Closing Comments

Commissioner Garrido thanked the Salvation Army for hosting these meetings.

Summary of follow-up items:

- *If you are interested in participating in planning or hosting events during Hunger and Homelessness Week Nov 11th-17 please reach out to Sarah Van Cleve or Kirsten Jewell.*
- *Any organizations wanting to add their names to specific new action steps in the 2018 Homeless Housing Plan should contact Kirsten Jewell.*
- *Stuart Grogan and Commissioner Garrido will take lead on the title issue for the trailers.*
- *Commissioner Garrido will set up a public forum at the Eagles nearby in Port Orchard.*

Next Meetings: 9 a.m. at the Salvation Army
 July 10
 August 14
 September 11

Meeting Participants

Commissioner Charlotte Garrido	Kitsap County
Mayor Becky Erickson	City of Poulsbo
Mayor Greg Wheeler	City of Bremerton
Angie Silva	Kitsap County Commissioner’s Office
Arthur Speight	Taking it to the Streets Ministries
Carl Borg	United Way of Kitsap County
Corrinne Criss	First Lutheran Community Church - Port Orchard
Cory Derenburger	Kitsap County Human Services
Dave Rasmussen	Department of Emergency Management
Doug Washburn	Kitsap County Human Services
Elizabeth Klute	Department of Emergency Management
Gary Chasteen	Port Orchard Church of Christ
Joe Roszak	Kitsap Mental Health Services
John Keiss	Kitsap Public Health
Judith Richerzhagen	Citizen
Kirsten Jewell	Kitsap County Human Services
Kurt Weist	Bremerton Housing Authority
Larry Keller	Citizen
Lisa Bratcher	Port Orchard Church of Christ
Mariaina Simmons	Kitsap Strong
Mark Hughes	Kitsap Regional Library
Monica Bernhard	Kitsap Mental Health Services
Nancy Olsten	Kitsap Rescue Mission
Pat Longstroth	Brownsville United Methodist Church
Randy Spitzer	Citizen
Roland Arper	Port Orchard United Methodist Church/Project Share

Sarah van Cleve	Kitsap Housing and Homeless Coalition / Bremerton Housing Authority
Sean Raybell	Department of Corrections
Sheryl Piercy	Salvation Army
Stacy Smith	Kitsap County Aging and Long-term Care
Stuart Grogan	Housing Kitsap
Suzanne Hughes	League of Women Voters
Tim Blair	Project Share – Ekklesia Church