

MINUTES

Clallam County Homelessness Task Force
Clallam County Courthouse
Virtual and In Person
BOCC Meeting Room 160
December 6, 2022
2:30 pm-4:00 pm

Members Present: Cheri Tinker, Leonard Hitz, Johnny Ankrom, John DeBoer, Sharon Maggard, Jenny Oppelt, Sam Schroeder, Sarah Woodward, Debbi Tesch, Ann Simpson, Loni Greninger, Paul Cunningham, and Christy Smith

Absent: Sandra Allen, Mark Hodgson, Kathy Morgan, Susan Sullivan, Rachel Anderson, Lisa Haugh, Navarra Carr and Tim Fletcher

General Attendance: Commissioner Randy Johnson, Christine Dunn, Dana Ward, Charisse Deschenes, Cherish Cronmiller, Beverly Lee, Vicky Lowe, Jamie Spinelli, Tom McCullough, and Nancy Jacobson

1. WELCOME AND INTRODUCTIONS

- The meeting was called to order at 2:36pm.

2. AGENDA

- Majority approved the agenda as presented.

3. MINUTES – November 1, 2022

- Majority approved the minutes as presented.

4. OLD BUSINESS

- **Funding Priorities 2023 – 2025** *See attached slide presentation.
 - Christine Dunn relayed that the sub-committee had a chance to meet and have identified 4 priorities that they are recommending to the group. They are shelters, housing, support services and safe parking.
 - Discussion followed. Consensus was that shelter and housing have been conversations for well over a year, with none of it happening without support services. Safe parking/safe camping was identified as a need in Clallam County. There are over 1676 people who are unstably housed in Clallam County. Increasing available housing is a need within the county. There is a large population of aging people that are homeless with health and mobility issues that

need health care. Home sharing is being discussed in Sequim. Also, looking at what services would be affected if funds were reallocated elsewhere, what the impacts would be. Suggestion of a list being sent out with the current funding and beds with individuals served to be sent out to everyone before the next meeting, Jenny and Christine will distribute that information. Christine reviewed the RFP timeline. Jenny will be communicating Housing Solutions Committee regarding their timelines, to see where everything is going and the limits and allocations. Majority approved the motion for the funding priorities to be:

- 1. Shelters**
- 2. Housing**
- 3. Support Services**
- 4. Safe Parking/Camping**

5. NEW BUSINESS

- Safe Parking discussion – Ms. Spinelli from Vancouver * See attached slide presentation.
 - Discussion followed. No complaints have been received since this site was set up, no issues either and has been staffed by a temp agency. No electrical at the site, so people must use generators. There are no other safe parking areas nearby and Ms. Spinelli does get regular calls from other cities and counties wanting to send folks to their safe parking site. We have requirements that people be consistently working to move on more to long term/permanent placement and that process is different for everyone.
- Anchor Community Initiative presentation – Sam Schroeder * See attached slide presentation.
 - Discussion followed. If anyone would like to get involved or be a member, please reach out to Sam.

6. FUTURE MEETING AGENDA ITEMS

- Respite Care Center – Jenny Oppelt & Viola Ware
- Election of Officer
 - Chair/Vice Chair
- Continue the Safe parking discussion.

7. PUBLIC COMMENT

8. ANNOUNCEMENTS

- Cheri Tinker - reported that their non-profit went together with the Sequim VFW, the Sequim American Legion and the Carlsberg VFW and purchased the VFW Hall in Forks and we are thrilled to move our second hand stored into a larger location. We will be able to employ Vets there and it will also have a kitchen there.

- Ann Simpson – currently at a workshop, with agencies from 22 states participating, with experiences during the pandemic. Will be participating in a panel discussion in a meeting with the Department of Commerce and then an interesting presentation about middle housing.
- Christy Smith - We had a really productive Housing Solutions meeting so that we can work on our priorities for 2023, very exciting work is going to be done.
- Debbie Tesch - we are pulling from our Section 8 waiting list as some vacancies finally are opening up and hopefully more people are going to find rentals. Our last two buildings are going to be completely renovated by the end of December.
- Vicki Lowe - we have heard from many of the manufactured home park residents worried about becoming homeless. We are looking at ways to address this and really looking at what the legislature can do to help us to keep them from getting priced out of their home.
- Loni Greninger - Jamestown is currently looking in elder housing and also workforce housing. We tried to do a project through HUD and that did not work out very well.
- Sharon Maggard - Bill is working with the Red Cross to help people do their claims for FEMA, he is helping with the translation for them. We just got a memo from Commerce about a program that will provide accounting support for small businesses. The Respite Center started at the shelter on November 1st that are discharged from Olympic Medical Center under the care of Olympic Peninsula Community Clinic. One of the things we have looked at over the years is aging, over 55, homeless, that seems to be up 22% from 2019.
- Jenny Oppelt - shared that respiratory illnesses are surging right now, RSV, flu and Covid are surging across the county and across the State. If you are sick, please stay home.
- Christine Dunn - shared that we had one resignation on the task force, Susan Sullivan has had a career change, so that leaves us with the at-large position open. We still have DSHS position, the Faith Community open, Homeless or formally Homeless, Lower Elwha, Quileute and Makah Tribe position open.

9. ADJOURN: Meeting adjourned at 4:04pm

Next meeting: March 7, 2023
Clallam County BOCC Meeting Room

Members of the Homelessness Task Force

Cheri Tinker, Sarah Woodward, Paul Cunningham, Johnny Ankrom, Sam Schroeder, John DeBoer, Mark Hodgson, Sandra Allen, Kathy Morgan, Debbi Tesch, Navarra Carr, Rachel Anderson, Tim Fletcher, Jenny Oppelt, Sharon Maggard, Leonard Hitz, Ann Simpson, Christy Smith, Lisa Haugh and Loni Greninger

NOTE: These meeting notes are not verbatim