

MINUTES

Clallam County Homelessness Task Force
Clallam County Courthouse
Virtual and In Person
BOCC Meeting Room 160
September 7, 2021
2:30 pm-4:00 pm

Members Present: Joseph Cress, John DeBoer, Jaymie Doane, Michael French, Mark Hodgson, Rebecca Korby, Corrie Matlock-Hightower, Sharon Maggard, Jenny Oppelt, Christy Smith, Debbi Tesch, Cheri Tinker, Kathy Morgan, Ann Simpson, Rachel Anderson, and Jim Weatherly

Absent: Tom Steffan, Lori Sweet, Lisa Haugh, Paul Cunningham

General Attendance: Commissioner Randy Johnson, Kevin LoPiccolo, Jennifer Pelikan, Christine Dunn, Olaf Baumann, G'Nell Ashley, Bob Dunlap, Amy Miller, Eli Owens, Jessica Guthrie, Cherish Cronmiller, and Rebekah Miller

1. WELCOME AND INTRODUCTIONS

The meeting was called to order at 2:35

2. AGENDA

Agenda approved

3. MINUTES - Approval from July 6, 2021 meeting

Minutes approved

4. NEW BUSINESS

- Presentation:

- **Serenity House Update – Sharon Maggard**

Sharon presented on updates from Serenity House. It was shared that the Forks Housing Resource Center is now open five days per week. It was estimated the Sequim Housing Resource Center will be opening five days per week within the next several weeks. It was also shared that the youth drop in center on 7th and Laurel is open from 9am-5pm on the week days, serves about 170 individuals with a variety of services like assistance with job

readiness, and training, diversion program, and reconnection with stable housing. (see attached PDF for presentation shared).

- **Encampment Cleanup Funds – Eli Owens, Clallam County Environmental Health**

Department of Ecology is providing a grant of \$60,000 for homeless encampment cleanup. Funds can be applied towards: contracts & services, supplies, personal protective equipment, employee/contractor time, transportation and disposal fees. To be eligible the cleanup must be on publicly owned land, privately owned land is not eligible. When more aspects for the grant are finalized they will be shared with the task force. Though the funding is not yet accessible due to waiting finalization contact for this is through Eli Owens at eowens@co.clallam.wa.us regarding access to this funding in the future.

- **Discussion: Crisis response for homeless, shelter, and at PSH housing**

Concerns were discussed over the discharge of people with medical needs who are also homeless to shelters when their health issues are beyond what can be handled by the facility. It was commented that currently there is no solution for this. Many voiced their concerns and similar experiences. It was noted that often shelter providers find people in this scenario do not qualify for skilled nursing or admittance to the hospital but are beyond the scope of what shelters can provide but have nowhere else to go. First responders are often involved in these instances which put a strain on multiple systems of care. It was suggested that housing specific for these purposes with skilled staff like caregivers would be a solution. It was also suggested crisis stabilization be included as key goals for the workgroup but that coordinated entry be prioritized first.

5. OLD BUSINESS

- Gaps & Needs Results Workgroup Update
 - Reviewed and discussed draft letter regarding coordinated entry.
Sharon Maggard will provide a written response to the letter at a later date. Commissioner Johnson requested the workgroup work collaboratively toward improving coordinated entry.
A subcommittee group including task force members Kathy Morgan, Cheri Tinker, Sharon Maggard, Becca Korby, Ann Simpson, Jaymie Doane, and facilitated by Christy Smith was formed to help Serenity House address the concerns regarding coordinated entry outlined in the gaps and needs analysis and letter.

6. FUTURE MEETING SCHEDULE

- December 7th, 2021

7. PUBLIC COMMENT

None

8. ANNOUNCEMENTS

Cheri Tinker: Concrete is being poured for the Hobucket House.

9. ADJOURN: Meeting adjourned at 4:12

Next meeting: December 7, 2021

Virtual

Clallam County BOCC Meeting Room

Members of the Homelessness Task Force:

Joseph Cress, John DeBoer, Jaymie Doane, Michael French, Lisa Haugh, Mark Hodgson, Rebecca Korby, Corrie Matlock-Hightower, Sharon Maggard, Kathy Morgan, Jenny Oppelt, Ann Simpson, Christy Smith, Tom Steffan, Lori Sweet, Debbi Tesch, and Cheri Tinker