



Whatcom County Housing Advisory Committee Meeting Minutes

Meeting Date/Time/Location: February 13, 2020 8:30 AM to 10:00 AM – WECU Education Center, 511 E Holly Street, Bellingham

WCHAC Members Present: Karen Burke, Regina Delahunt, Samya Lutz, Emily O'Connor, Debbie Paton, Paul Schissler, Michael Parker

WCHAC Members Absent: Brien Thane, Kyle Christensen

Whatcom Co. Health Dept. Staff/Guests: Ann Beck, Human Services Supervisor; Barbara Johnson-Vinna, Human Services Housing Specialist; Chris D'Onofrio, Human Services Housing Specialist; Samantha Murdoch, Coordinator
Guests: Hadrian Starr, Helen Campbell, Melissa Bird, John Campbell, Jennifer Moon, Tony Casale, Michael Jones, Cathy Halka

Agenda Item	Discussion	Action/Who
A. Call to order, introductions	Introductions commenced and quorum present.	Karen Burke
B. Agenda Review	Add to the agenda: December and January minutes approval. Edit to the agenda: Under Reports/Discussion, move item C and D to the end.	Karen
C. Public Comment	No public comment.	Karen
D. New Business	Emily moved that the minutes from the December meeting be approved as presented. Debbie seconded the motion. The committee voted and the motion passed. Samya moved that the minutes from the January Special meeting be approved as presented. Regina seconded the motion. The committee voted and the motion passed.	Ayes: 7 Abstain: 0 Motion Passed
A. <i>December 2019 and January 2020 Minutes Approval</i>		Ayes: 7 Abstain: 0 Motion Passed
B. <i>Elect new chair and vice chair for 2020</i>	Samya nominated Debbie for chair. Paul seconded the nomination. The committee voted and the nomination passed. Mike nominated Brien as vice chair. Emily seconded the nomination. The committee voted and the nomination passed.	Ayes: 7 Abstain: 0 Motion Passed
E. Reports/Discussion	The plan was presented to the Health Board on February 4 th , 2020 and passed. This included adapting and affirming commitment to the first steps of the plan, creating a new good idea task force to advise the board on the entirety of the plan. In 2020 there will be a fiscal analysis of new or under-utilized funds and finding new revenue sources. The executive's office for the county will conduct an analysis of the structure of the county to determine	Emily
A. <i>Children and Family Action Plan</i>		



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<p>B. <i>County Update</i></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. <i>Severe Weather Shelters</i> 2. 3. <i>Point-In-Time Count</i> 4. <i>SHB 1406 Funds</i> <p>C. <i>Review Bylaws and Membership</i></p>	<p>the best way to implement and add a child and family wellbeing office. The goal is to have an ordinance go before the next Health Board meeting to establish the task force. These are just the first steps, there is a lot of work ahead.</p> <p>The contracts end on February 29th for the severe weather shelters. According to the forecast there is no plan to open them before that time. The City of Bellingham’s Women’s Shelter is also closing on February 29th. The success of this process is greatly due to the community partnerships.</p> <p>On January 23rd, a survey was conducted at several places in Whatcom County to gather data on homelessness in our county. There were some challenges with count associated to the drop in center, and although they could offer some data it will be useable in report to Commerce, which will decrease official numbers. There are ideas being considered for more accurately capturing data at the drop in center for next year.</p> <p>Whatcom County Health Department is meeting with the cities that are part of the interlocal agreement associated with SHB 1406 funds. The goal is to get a plan together and take it to council in April that will outline ways to use the funds.</p> <p>We are considering a four phase plan in 5 year increments, starting out heavily weighted towards rental assistance and then tapering it off. By saving up funding over a few years it will allow an opportunity to work on capital projects in each phase. Some things that need to be considered are types of housing, populations, housing projects, and areas of focus. It has been determined that informing developers about projects and opportunities would be helpful for this process, and that some one page documents on the various topics and audiences would be appreciated. This will allow for consistent messaging.</p> <p>A motion was made by Emily to have a special meeting for the sole purpose of discussing these funds. Mike seconded the motion. The committee voted and the motion passed.</p> <p>The bylaws have not been edited since 2010 and will need to be amended. Currently the bylaws allow for a maximum of 15 members on this committee. This includes four designated positions, but the interlocal agreement for SHB 1406 funds will increase this to seven designated positions. Council reviewed applications and recommended more housing industry representation. The executive has decided Marc Walker will be the addition to the committee to represent the housing industry, from the applicants pool.</p>	<p>Ann B</p> <p>Chris</p> <p>Ann B</p> <p>Ayes: 7 Abstain: 0 Motion Passed</p> <p>Chris</p>



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<p>D. <i>WCHAC Relationship with Other Housing Groups</i></p> <p>F. <i>City of Bellingham Update</i></p> <p>G. <i>WHSC Update</i></p>	<p>The amendments are required to be distributed to the committee at least 30 days prior to action. The goal is to have this distributed and action taken at the April meeting.</p> <p>This next special meeting on a housing topic will be the 71st planned housing meeting that housing program has on their schedule to discuss housing in 2020. There is concern with all the conversations that there may be redundancy and coordination challenges. Although reporting out is not the most efficient option, being mindful of others that could attend and share with you some take always to be efficient with time spent. Each meeting has a different mission and each person has different lens to offer, but if you do find some things are overlapping lets share that with one another.</p> <p>The NWYS and Women’s Winter Shelter has been a huge success this year. The City of Bellingham has a Notice of Funding Availability that was due on Friday, currently going through applications and should have a decision before April.</p> <p>Teri Bryant will be the new director of Homeless Service Center and will resume this position in the near future on the committee.</p> <p>Current data: Households awaiting housing: 472; Families with children make up 51 of those households; 63 of the 472 are aged 60 or above which keeps increasing; 43 are youth; 38 are fleeing domestic violence situations. House Bill 1590 would allow a much larger fund source for housing. Currently in legislature. For the next meeting a compilation on who is getting housing will be presented, and an electronic housing pool will get sent out regularly.</p>	<p>Chris</p> <p>Samya</p> <p>Mike</p>
<p>H. ADJOURN</p>	<p>10:00am</p>	<p>Brien</p>
<p><i>NEXT MEETING</i></p>	<p>Next regular meeting April 9th , 2020, 8:30 – 10:00 a.m.</p> <p><u>NEW LOCATION</u></p> <p>WECU Education Center</p> <p>511 E Holly St</p> <p>Bellingham, Washington</p>	