



Whatcom County Housing Advisory Committee
MEETING MINUTES

Meeting Date/Time/Location: August 11, 2022 8:30 AM to 10:00 AM – Hybrid: Garden Level Conference Room & Zoom

WCHAC Members Present: Ashley Thomasson, Bruce Bosch, Dean Fearing, Kayla Schott-Bresler, Samya Lutz, Teri Bryant, Tara Sundin

WCHAC Members Absent: Ann Beck, Brien Thane, Dawna Morse, Deanna Wildermuth, Diana Phair, Hadrian Starr

Whatcom Co. Health Dept. Staff/Guests: Amanda Burnett, Ashley Geleynse, Barbara Johnson-Vinna, Chris D’Onofrio / Helen Campbell, Von E.O.

AGENDA ITEM	DISCUSSION	ACTION/WHO
A. Call to order, introductions	Introductions commenced and quorum present. Samya chaired the meeting due to Ann and Brien not being able to attend.	Samya
B. Agenda Review	There were no proposed additions to the agenda.	Samya
C. Minutes Approval	Bruce moved that the minutes from the June meeting be approved. Ashley Thomasson seconded the motion. The committee voted and the motion passed.	Ayes: 7 Abstain: Nays: Motion Passed
D. Reports/Discussion	Kayla Schott-Bresler introduced herself as the new Strategic Initiatives Manager in the Executive’s Office. One area that Kayla is focusing on is affordable housing, and she will be the Executive Office’s representative on this committee going forward.	
1. 2022 Point-In-Time Count Report	Chris gave a report on the 2022 Point-In-Time Count conducted in late February, about a month later than usual due to COVID. A full copy of the report as well as a one-page infographic can be found on the Health Department’s website.	Chris
2. RFP Update		Barbara

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3. Severe Weather Shelter	<p>Four RFPs were released for housing services, including Emergency Shelter and Transitional Housing, Community Leasing, Severe Weather Shelter, and Access ID. All are now closed except for Access ID.</p> <p>No applications were received for the Severe Weather Shelter RFP, so the Health Department reached out to an agency that was expected to apply and they have since expressed interest. Contract details are still being worked out. A subgroup of the Coalition to End Homelessness put together a resource guide to help smaller agencies that may not have as much experience put together a successful application. Additionally, the subgroup suggested that severe weather shelter be a function of emergency services rather than the homeless service system. The intent is for this recommendation to be brought to County Council.</p>	<p>Amanda</p> <p>Teri</p>
4. 2023 Budget Preview	<p>We are looking at a few challenges related to COVID-related funding (ESG-CV and CHG) that will be expiring at different points next year. Additional challenges include an anticipated reduction (currently about 40%) in document recording fees, which is one of the most flexible funding sources for homeless housing. Chris gave an overview of the 1590 and 1406 funds eligible uses, past uses, and potential future uses. Chris introduced a Mercy Housing Northwest's Trailview project. The COB, which helped to fund the project, required that 10% of units (8) be set asides for families exiting homelessness. Mercy Housing agreed to set aside 20% (16) of units under the condition that they receive funding for a case manager to support housing stability for those families. This case manager would also support families at their upcoming Millworks project of 15 units. Chris entertained a motion to provide Mercy Housing Northwest with funding for a case manager to serve households at their new development, Trailview, and upcoming Millworks project. Tara Sundin made a motion to support Mercy Housing's request for funding and leave the final dollar amount up to County staff. Bruce Bosch seconded the motion. The committee discussed the motion, voted, and the motion passed.</p>	<p>Chris</p> <p>Ayes: 7 Abstain: Nays: Motion Passed</p>
5. Health Department Housing Program Updates	<p>Chris shared the following updates:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Health Department is being audited by HUD for the ESG-CV grant. • The housing team has relocated to the Civic Building from Girard St. <p>Kayla shared that County Council approved a contract with Kulshan Community Land Trust to acquire property on Thornton Rd in Ferndale. The property is on eight acres and currently zoned residential and commercial, so there is potential for a childcare facility and rentals, as well as homeownership.</p>	<p>Chris</p> <p>Kayla/Dean</p>

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<p>6. City of Bellingham Update</p> <p>7. Whatcom Homeless Service Center Update</p>	<p>Samya requested a spreadsheet outlining the budget and Chris agreed to provide this information at the October or December meeting; Tara requested a recap of motions made regarding affordable housing funds. Chris agreed to provide this information at the next meeting so the committee can discuss and reassess.</p> <p>Samya provided the following updates:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The COB is working on its assessment of fair housing done every five years. The new assessment will be rolled out as a draft in October which forms the foundation for the consolidated plan. • The COB's action plan year started July 1st, so a lot of new contracts went out. <p>Teri provided the following updates:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The WHSC will be moving to the upstairs of 1111 Cornwall due to growing so quickly during the pandemic. It's Teri's hope that with the lobby space upstairs, a Housing Navigator will be able to staff the lobby area during hours open to the public. • The Landlord Liaison position has been filled, the Homeless Outreach Team will be expanding, and a Family Shelter Specialist (Motel Coordinator) has been hired 	<p>Samya</p> <p>Teri</p>
<p>E. Public Comment</p>	<p>Von shared an idea for creating a part time AmeriCorps crew that would be prepared to deploy in the event of an emergency inside or outside of Bellingham. Teri agreed to help connect Von to someone with experience with AmeriCorps so this idea could be explored further.</p>	<p>Von E.O.</p>
<p>F. ADJOURN</p>	<p>Meeting was adjourned at 9:30 am.</p>	<p>Samya</p>
<p><i>NEXT MEETING</i></p>	<p style="text-align: center;">Next regular meeting October 13, 2022 8:30 – 10:00 a.m. <u>In-Person and Virtual</u></p>	