

# Homeless Strategies Workgroup

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January 18, 2018 Meeting 3 Agenda

3:00 p.m. - 5:00 pm

**Location Change:** Whatcom County Courthouse - Conference Room on 5<sup>th</sup> Floor  
311 Grand Avenue, Bellingham

## 1. Review Homeless Strategies Workgroup Scope and Information Resources

Chair and Facilitator review HSW tasks, resources, and additional information requested by HSW members.

## 2. Continue Ranking of Identified Potential Sites and Initial Pros and Cons

Facilitated by Mary Dumas

2.1 Sites E and F from the City of Bellingham's Initial Analysis.

*HSW members will shared completed Meeting 3 Worksheets and address questions.*

- a. Site E - Pros, Cons and Hidden Impacts
- b. Site F - Pros, Cons and Hidden Impacts

Related Information:

- May 30, 2017 City of Bellingham Emergency Easy Access Shelter Proposal  
<https://www.cob.org/services/housing/Pages/emergency-night-shelter-proposal.aspx>
- Homeless Strategies Workgroup December 19, 2017 [Meeting 2 Presentation 1](#).
- HSW Meeting 3 Worksheet distributed via email with the Meeting 3 agenda.

2.2 Sites A-D from the City of Bellingham's Initial Analysis.

- a. Did we miss anything?

2.3 Other properties within the City of Bellingham's Initial Criteria Analysis Area

Facilitated by Mary Dumas

- a. Review new sites suggested by HSW members
- b. Initial Pros, Cons and Hidden Impacts

Related Information:

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-- HSW Meeting 3 Worksheet distributed via email with the Meeting 3 agenda. See page 4 with prompts for brief property description of additional sites. Include location, size of lot, current use and potential for use as shelter site or multi-use facility.

### **3. Initial Rankings on Potential Sites within the COB-LMM Study Area**

Facilitated by Mary Dumas

- a. Rank Sites A-F identified within the COB-LMM study area
- b. Rank additional sites (other public/private properties) within COB-LMM study area
- c. Identify highest ranked sites within COB-LMM study area (public & private)

Related Information:

-- HSW Meeting 3 Ranking Worksheet distributed via email with the Meeting 3 agenda. HSW members share individual rankings at Meeting 3 as we collate results.

### **4. Next Steps for HSW Site Recommendation**

Facilitated by Mary Dumas

- a. Highest Ranked Sites - Considerations and Questions
- b. Next Steps for Recommendation Development

### **5. Alternative Strategies for Those Sleeping Outside in Whatcom County**

Facilitated by Mary Dumas

- a. Review Compilation of Alternative Solutions from HSW discussions and plans
- b. Add to list of alternative strategies

Related Information:

-- Page 4 of this Agenda provides a summary of Alternative Strategies identified by HSW members, attending public and recent strategic planning by the Community Solutions Workgroup: Continuum of Housing Options. Bring additional ideas to Meeting 3.

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---

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**5. Public Comment (10 minutes)**

Facilitated by Mary Dumas

Time will be divided equally among speakers with 3 minutes minimum per person;

Written input can also be submitted. Use index cards. Give to staff or tape onto the Impacts & Effort Matrix of ideas. *Thank you for helping to end homelessness in Whatcom County.*

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Alternative Solutions for those sleeping outside in Whatcom County will be identified as part of the HSW's work. Suggestions below were identified during HSW Meetings 1 & 2. Ideas will be added to this list at HSW meetings and discussed in Meetings 4 and 5.

- Stop the "sweeps" of homeless peoples belongings at camps and RV parking areas.
  - *City of Bellingham clarified that the City conducts planned clean ups for public safety purposes. The City will conduct 6 scheduled clean ups, then stop for 2 weeks until after the new year.*
- Establish a permitted camping area.
- Shower facility with 24 hour access for those who work shifts.
- Bathroom facilities with 24 hour access for those who work shifts
- Lockers for storages of valuables with 24 hour access.
- Laundry facilities.

Other strategies proposed by groups working with the Community Solutions Workgroup: Continuum of Housing Options include the ideas listed below.

**Inventory Improvements:** Acquire, preserve and improve existing affordable apartment blocks in the city (purchase units in gentrifying areas); Construction of new units; Change zoning to support more diversity of housing products in the market; Create new staff position with levy funds to leverage resources, funding and development deals more strategically and proactively; utilize innovative new funding models which are already being implemented elsewhere to build new housing; Create rental rehab program that makes funding available to landlords who rent to low-income tenants for upgrades required to pass inspections.

**Cultural:** Create an insurance or damage mitigation fund to minimize the risks to landlords renting to tenants with no/poor rental history; Housing equity audit by neighborhood; Increase programs that enable and empower tenants receiving subsidized housing to transition out and become integrated within the community.

**Collaboration:** Regular check-ins between local funders and service providers to adapt to changing needs and trends.

**Services:** Access and provide more funding for expanded case managers/ landlord liaisons; General transportation services (study options and decide if appropriate to integrate into other strategies or keep as standalone strategy; Expand mobile health services; Develop a community liaison or trained peer health worker to help keep people in housing and integrate with the broader community (with support from Opportunity Council, Whatcom Alliance for Healthcare Access, PeaceHealth & NWACH); Coordinate among services and programs to promote social inclusion and community building; Light-touch case management services available for those with lower vulnerability scores to get them housed quickly; Assess existing workforce development programs, and cultivate relationships with employers and/or develop linkages among programs to better serve homeless and formerly homeless, if necessary; Community-wide training about how to connect with and include homeless population.

**HSW members - Do you have additional strategies to add to this list? Bring ideas to Meeting 3.**