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WHATCOM COUNTY COUNCIL

Homeless Strategies Workgroup

MEMO

Date: July 3, 2020
To: Homeless Strategies Workgroup (HSW) Members
From: Councilmember Barry Buchanan
RE: Homelessness Activities during COVID-19 Emergency

The following regular update to Homeless Strategies Workgroup (HSW) members is also available on the [Meeting Information page](#). Please email any feedback or questions to Cathy Halka at chalka@co.whatcom.wa.us.

Resuming HSW Meetings (Virtually)

The Homeless Strategies Workgroup will begin virtual meetings once a month starting on Friday, July 17th from 10:30 a.m. to 12:00 p.m. using Zoom Webinar. More information on how to join the meeting will be available soon. HSW members will receive an email with meeting join information. Members of the public will be able to join via phone or computer/device and information will be available on the HSW Meeting Information page at <https://whatcomcounty.us/2748/Homeless-Strategies-Workgroup-Meeting-Info>.

Temporary Homeless Shelter

Lighthouse Mission Ministries (LMM) reports the highest number of people staying the night while at Bellingham High School (BHS) in the last two weeks was approximately 177 people, and the average nightly occupancy was 161 people.

The exact date of the move to from Bellingham High School to the new shelter location at 1530 Cornwall Avenue is still to be determined and is dependent on construction being completed. The targeted timeframe for the move is the week of July 13th.

Member Vacancies on Homeless Strategies Workgroup

Current vacancies on the HSW include 1 Homeless Advocate, 1 Special populations (representing domestic violence, behavioral health, and/or elder care and medically fragile), 1 representative of homeless children and families, and 1 representative of Schools.

The Council Office received four applications for vacancies (1 Homeless Advocate, 2 homeless children and families, and 1 representative of schools). Whatcom County Council will consider appointments to the HSW at the July 7th meeting.

Applications for remaining membership vacancies will be received on a rolling basis and scheduled for Council consideration at future meetings.

For more information on how to apply, please visit <https://www.whatcomcounty.us/1584/How-to-Apply> or call the County Council office at 360-778-5010.

Byron Avenue Quarantine & Isolation Facility

The Byron Avenue Isolation and Quarantine facility served a total of 55 individuals as of July 1, 2020. There are currently two guests, two occupied rooms, and 11 rooms ready for additional guests.