

CLERK OF THE COUNCIL
Dana Brown-Davis, C.M.C.

COUNTY COURTHOUSE
311 Grand Avenue, Suite #105
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Rud Browne
Barry Buchanan
Tyler Byrd
Todd Donovan
Carol Frazey
Satpal Sidhu

WHATCOM COUNTY COUNCIL

Homeless Strategies Workgroup

Friday, September 6, 2019 Meeting #11 Summary

Time: 8:30 – 10:00 a.m.

Location: Whatcom County Civic Center Annex,
322 N. Commercial, Garden Room

Attendance:

Members

Ann Beck, Whatcom County Health Department
Barry Buchanan (HSW Chair), Whatcom County Councilmember
Karen Burke, Whatcom County Housing Advisory Committee/DVSAS
Hans Erchinger-Davis, Lighthouse Mission
Mike Hilley, Whatcom County EMS
Michael Lilliquist, City of Bellingham Council Member
Kelli Linville, City of Bellingham Mayor
Guy Occhiogrosso, Bellingham Regional Chamber of Commerce
Mike Parker, Opportunity Council
Michael Shepard, Port of Bellingham Commissioner
Deputy Chief Florence Simon, Bellingham Police
Markis D. Stidham, Homeless Advocate
Riley Sweeney, City of Ferndale
Emerson McCuin (for Emilio Vela, Jr.), Northwest Youth Services

Guests:

Lynette Allen, HomesNow
Steven Bass, Opportunity Council, Homeless Outreach Team
Liz Coogan, City of Bellingham, Executive Assistant to the Mayor
Helen Campbell, citizen
John Campbell, citizen
Chris Donaldson, Hand Crank Films
Tanya Framer, Northwest Youth Services
Mark Gardner, City of Bellingham, Legislative Analyst
Carmen Gilmore, Basics PNW
Hollie Huthman
Heather Katahdin, volunteer, citizen
Shari Lapof, HomesNow volunteer
Rick Qualls, Fountain Community Church
Sybil Sanchez, Bellingham Technical College
Ryan Simonis, Whatcom Community College
Tara Sundin, City of Bellingham, Community and Economic Development Manager

Meeting Summary Prepared By: Cathy B. Halka, AICP, Legislative Analyst, Whatcom County Council

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1. **Welcome and Introductions**, HSW Chair, Whatcom County Councilmember Barry Buchanan

Councilmember and Chair of the HSW, Barry Buchanan, welcomed the group and reviewed the purpose of the HSW as per Resolution 2019-034.

The group approved the August 23rd meeting minutes.

2. **Develop HSW Action Items**

Ann Beck provided an update on the Severe Weather Shelter outreach for partners. Reposted the call for partners to county website and others. Ann mentioned other efforts under way including a 50 person shelter and a 10-20-person family shelter. Both locations are in need of staff and volunteers to run the shelters. Ann is working with Mike at the Opportunity Council to identify potential volunteers. She is meeting this afternoon with WTA to discuss transportation opportunities to get people to shelters.

Ann provided further information on communications efforts underway. A communications team including County (Melissa) and the City of Bellingham (Vanessa) officials has met and is creating a plan for disseminating information about what shelters are open and have space. Markis asked about condensing the information into one app. Ann responded that it is not something there is capacity to address for this winter but could be something considered for the future. Mayor Linville asked that a regional approach is taken in that resources in small cities are included as part of the information available.

Rick Qualls, Fountain Community Church, stated he is prepared to shelter 60 people, with no restrictions on who is allowed. They are not asking for additional support and will run the shelter independently. Mayor Linville mentioned relief that 60 beds will be available in town through Fountain Community Church.

Councilmember Lilliquist asked what elements are needed for a severe weather shelter. Ann clarified that it only requires a warm place and a bathroom. A port-a-potty is also an option for bathroom services.

Karen Burke mentioned that a lot of people in the east County area are living without insulation, and when severe weather arrives there are challenges. Mayor Linville asked if the East Whatcom Regional Resource Center (EWRRC) provides resources. Ann Beck indicated that staff are able to open up the space. Karen Burke asked that the EWRRC be included in

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communications for shelter space available. Jeff Markowitz is a good contact with the EWRRC. Councilmember Lilliquist asked if the EWRRC would need additional support if they needed to be open to the community for a week, for example, during a severe weather event. Karen Burke indicated that EWRRC would likely need support from others to do that. Markis Stidham mentioned the Nooksack Casino is another location that could be an opportunity.

Mayor Linville and Tara Sundin provided an update on the City's winter shelter at Civic Field. There is a locker room built for Western's football team program before it closed. There are showers and restrooms, and it will house 35-40 women and be staffed by the Opportunity Council. The City is working to order materials such as cots. Markis Stidham asked about the budget and what is included. Tara Sundin responded that she will share a detailed budget when it is available. Costs are mostly staffing. There will be laundry and janitorial services. Check-in processes are underway. Mike Parker indicated Opportunity Council staff would be at the Lighthouse Mission drop in center (maintaining one central location for drop in) and then transport people to the Civic Field shelter. Markis Stidham mentioned some people may not want to go to the Lighthouse Mission, so a drop in location in a nearby building could be better. Karen Burke asked about additional locker rooms under the bleachers, and Tara Sundin mentioned they are too small to use them now without renovations. The hours of the shelter will be 7am-7pm. People will be brought back at mealtime to the mission. Mike Parker thanked organizations and partners for their willingness to share their knowledge and collaborate.

Markis Stidham discussed waiting for partners is inappropriate because it is the government's job to shelter people in need. He further discussed the importance of oversight and security as well as identifying locations for shelters that are outside of tsunami zones – lots of shelters are located in areas vulnerable to flooding. Overall everyone should feel welcomed to be sheltered and feel safe in that shelter. Sweeps are costly and it's much cheaper to address the issue. Music at Marine Heritage Park chases people away. We could have compassion and let the people's parks be a place where you can stand still for 8 hours.

Ann Beck indicated her team is working on this issue and trying to house as many people as possible. They are pumping funds into the community to house people in need. Emergency services are taking care of people who are experiencing homelessness. It is an incredible problem and many people are working to fix it.

Riley Sweeney identified a community laundry program, which will offer 1,000 vouchers for a new community laundromat located in Pioneer Marketplace in Ferndale.

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Communications:

Councilmember Lilliquist asked that a communications effort include details on who can be accommodated at what sites (e.g. partners, dogs, etc). He asked about facilities in Skagit, which might be just as easy to get to. Mike Parker clarified that there is Friendship House (not a low barrier shelter and requires participation), and Skagit County has been unable to identify other providers.

Markis Stidham asked that an app be available online to reserve a shelter bed, as well as a database for those willing to sign up (keep their info, make it easier to register)

Mike Parker – Spokane Housing allows for online applications

Karen Burke mentioned that we should be relieving suffering now and assisting people and bridging them to permanency. It would be good to have a group communications effort, ambassadors with a coordinated message.

Mayor Linville said the City supports the HOT team and they go out to encampments to try to get people connected to services.

Councilmember Buchanan indicated that the County also needs a communications strategy to the broader community so they know what is being done (not just communications to the homeless population about what services are available) Ann Beck added that we need to communicate to people who don't know homelessness is an issue, don't know what's being done to address it, and clarify the costs to the community.

The Lighthouse Mission communicated with 2,800 people last year. On average, they communicate to 400 homeless people a day. They can help communicate, get a message out.

Riley Sweeney said that conversations with the broader public are different with the small cities than it is in Bellingham. The North Whatcom Poverty Task Force is working on communications about what homelessness looks like in Ferndale. People aren't sleeping under bridges but there are homeless people out there. Mayor Linville said a lot of people would prefer to stay in their own cities but can't because there aren't services for them there. It's important to coordinate a messaging strategy for other areas of the county. Councilmember Buchanan agreed and offered to follow up to discuss the message.

Mike Hilley reported there will be 2 medics in Bellingham and 1 in Ferndale. Their priority is familiar faces, chronic medical issues. The GRACE team is on the street 10 hours a day engaging with people.

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Karen Burke mentioned that as housing prices rise in lower priced areas in the County, people move to Bellingham where services are available. Mike Parker indicated that the Point-In-Time count includes information on zip codes and there is data to support the idea of migration from other areas in the County to Bellingham. People are migrating from Sumas and Blaine. It's harder to be homeless in other cities than it is in Bellingham.

Safe Parking:

Councilmember Lilliquist asked about the status of safe parking. Mayor Linville clarified that Bellingham Police said that parking is allowed on-street anywhere during the night. Additionally, they considered using one of the City parking lots, such as Lottie Street. They need a partner or church or volunteers to help facilitate it, since the City is focusing their energy on camping and tiny homes. The City is looking for a space for safe parking. Safe parking for RVs was not part of the City's strategy because of concerns with monitoring what is happening inside an RV. Markis Stidham suggested Civic Field as an opportunity location for safe parking, in coordination with shelter operations. There is some confusion about parking hours. Councilmember Lilliquist clarified the 72-hour rule applies to parking a car, which is different than a car with someone in it.

Mayor Linville recalled consolidated parking at Cornwall Park – there weren't services, just a dumpster and a place where you wouldn't get moved in the middle of the night. There were some problems with what happened around and inside campers and with vehicles not moving. Simon mentioned that police doesn't have an issue with parked vehicle and typically just responds to complaints when there's an issue.

Lilliquist identified two levels of safe parking: parking on a street and parking in a designated safe area with standards for behavior and some potential services such as a trash, bathrooms. He identified a preference for identifying parking lots and hosts for those – including an operator.

Markis Stidham hopes that safe parking is something that the HSW could handle. There's plenty of money being spent on homelessness; we need to reallocate funds to make safe parking happen.

Karen Burke identified First Baptist Church downtown, which is working on homelessness issues. They have a parking lot downtown, and they could be a partner. She offered to reach out to bring them into the conversation and learn about what they are working on.

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Hans Erichinger-Davis said car camping and safe parking is good, especially if there is a social worker involved. Otherwise it's creating a band aide of sorts, but having a social worker present gets people engaged in services and moving forward.

Rest Stop:

Councilmember Lilliquist asked for an update on the UnityCare Rest Stop and what we can do if they don't receive their grant. Councilmember Buchanan offered to research the status.

Mayor Linville discussed the rest stop in Ballard, which was not full service. There was a covered area, bathrooms, showers, laundry. It was really functional for immediate needs, but did not include other services.

Markis Stidham said that UnityCare has a good plan; it's a good thing to shoot for. Mayor Kelli said we need a solution, and to be willing to do something that isn't perfect to get something out there now. Markis further clarified a desire to aim high for these efforts.

Markis previously asked WTA for a bus to serve as a warming station or if they could open the lobby. There weren't available buses and there wasn't staff available to open the bus station. Ann Beck offered to bring this up at an upcoming meeting with WTA. Michael Lilliquist also offered to follow up with WTA.

Reunification:

Karen Burke discussed a strategy to offer services to transport people home and reunify them with family or friends. Some people are on their way to Alaska – to good paying jobs – and get stuck here. Mike Hilley indicated their team worked on 5-6 cases to reunify people with their families or transport them to other locations where they have family/friend support systems. It includes work on healing relationships. It is extremely time consuming.

Michael Shepard said the Port struggles when an issue isn't in the mission and maybe WTA has the same issue. Both organizations can provide space, but don't have it in our charter to do other things. We can think about employment gap solutions. It's a challenge for people to build up their resumes after gaps in employment. He is interested in solutions surrounding economic development and job training, getting people back to productive engagement in the community.

Markis Stidham supports reunification and thinks it is worth the investment.

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White Board Notes:

Action Items

- Communications
 - Near term needs
 - Long term services (towards permanency)
 - Broader community
 - Education
 - Engagement
 - Coordinated messaging
 - Bellingham
 - Small Cities
- Safe Parking
- Rest Stop
- Reunification

3. Public Comment

John Campbell thanked the group, and said there are a lot of reasons people don't or will not go to a shelter. He suggested sheltering in place as an option – warm clothing, food. People may have issue with schizophrenia and have had problems in shelters before.

Lynette Allen, a HomesNow volunteer, said there are so many that donate skills and equipment to HomesNow. It's a community that has developed. There are experienced volunteers, and I wish there was a way for people to have a title or a job. She mentioned she goes to the Washington Low Income Advocate meetings, and she would like more information about HB1406, which she will be writing about and asking for interviews.

Tara Sundin clarified that the cities have agreed to pool the HB1406 funds with the County. The City will have a resolution to that end at the City Council meeting on Monday. On Tuesday, Whatcom County will have a resolution, and in October will bring forward an Ordinance. Ann Beck said the resolution of intent will be done first, there will be discussions on how to use the money before bringing forward the ordinance. Once the ordinance is passed, the Department of Revenue needs 30 days to figure out how much money will go to the community, and then they start it at the first of the month. Even if the money starts coming in Dec 1st they account for the prior months so there is not any loss of funds. Ann further described they are moving quickly and all partners are working really well together to make it happen. She is awaiting clarification

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on when the 30 day clock begins: at the resolution or with the ordinance. Funds are for affordable housing in the community (e.g. build new, renovate, or rental assistance) – for 60% area median income (AMI).

Chris Donaldson asked what are the next steps since he doesn't hear a lot about who is doing what. Councilmember Buchanan suggested that the HSW establish 4 subcommittees (communications, operations – short term, operations – long term, and funding). Councilmember Lilliquist indicated that many members are policy makers, but staff are the ones that do the implementation. Chris said he is making a documentary about how to solve the homeless crisis. He interviewed the Exec. Director of Housing Connector run by the Seattle Metro Chamber of Commerce. The purpose of the organization is to facilitate the conversation between landlords and the homeless. Mike Parker asked that he reach out the landlord liaison at the Opportunity Council who does just that.

Markis Stidham read a comment submitted from Dena Jensen, Birch Bay. She cheered on the efforts of the HSW. She said it will take everyone supporting each other to create sheltering options to meet the needs of all of the homeless. She said that with clients checking in at the Lighthouse Mission. It's vital that there are secular shelters. [Please see full comments attached]

Shari Lapof, a volunteer with HomesNow, discussed the ribbon cutting at HomesNow Unity Village on Sept. 14th at 12:30pm and invited all to attend.

Carmen Gilmore, BasicsPNW, provided a written statement to the HSW [see attached]. She would like to see 200 secular shelter spaces as well as places for high security people to go if they are not allowed in available shelters (e.g. the jail building). Consider opening shelters November – March. Consider extended hours at Civic Field expanding the number of people served there. [Please see full comments attached]

Markis Stidham asked about a new drop in center, which Hans Erchinger-Davis discussed on KGMI. Hans Erchinger-Davis said the Mission is not commenting on that yet.

4. Discussion of Next Steps

The next meeting is September 20, 2019.

List of Alternative Strategies & Responses

Updated for 09/20/19 HSW Meeting

\$ = Less than 100k

\$\$ = 100k – 300k

\$\$\$ = 300k – 1m

\$\$\$\$ = 1m +

◆ This strategy is already listed among the priority strategies in the City's 2018-2022 Consolidated Plan and/or Assessment of Fair Housing.

* Strategy suggested by Community Solutions Workgroup in fall 2017.

Humane responses to address public health and safety impacts associated with homelessness crisis

Response	Description	Sanitation & hygiene	Personal safety/security	Public safety	Environmental health	Level of funding needed	Underway or Planned	Partner Agencies Working on Response Potential Partners	Lead agency?	Status	Ranking?
Rest Stop	Create an Urban Rest Stop (mobile or fixed location) with showers, laundry, check-in medical screening (proposed by Whatcom County Public Health Crisis Oversight Committee). Or, laundry facilities.	X	X	X	X	\$\$, \$\$\$	X	Proposed by Whatcom County Public Health Crisis Oversight Committee. NWYS operates a Day Center from 10-2 at First Congregational Church, Serves 24 and younger. Respite Care (Peace Health) Rest Stop (Unity Care)	Peace Health, Unity Care, NWYS	Unity Care applied for a grant (pending) for a mobile shower, laundry restroom facility with behavioral health and medical services. \$400,000 annually is the unfunded portion. Unity Care will implement Rest Stop if grant funding not received.	
Barge	Operate a floating barge with beds and showers.	X	X					HSW agree this is a challenge to implement.			
Laundry Program	Laundry Love - former program is closed. The program may need multiple, small locations that do not	X				\$ (if partnered with faith-based or agency with	X	NWYS working with First Congregational on Day Center, which will serve 24 and younger. Open		Ferndale has a new community laundromat in	

Response	Description	Sanitation & hygiene	Personal safety/security	Public safety	Environmental health	Level of funding needed	Underway or Planned	Partner Agencies Working on Response Potential Partners	Lead agency?	Status	Ranking?
	rely on one facility or one set of benefactors.					shared mission to allow use of facility)		from 10am-2pm. Provides laundry service Light House mission does linen laundry daily, not enough capacity for personal laundry. Interested in a laundry trailer service City of Bellingham considering a laundry voucher service		Pioneer Marketplace – Ferndale will offer 1,000 vouchers.	
Camping	Permitted camping area. Establish Safe Camps for under 15 people (smaller sizes) and distributed locations are better than one large site.		X	X	X	\$\$, \$\$\$	X	Requires on-site management, restrooms and facilities. Partners required. City of Bellingham has a camping area behind the 911 center on James St. HomesNow creating Unity Village (Post Point location) – Construction begins Aug 1 2019. City of Bellingham will assist with Unity Village Operations for 9 months	HomesNow, City of Bellingham		High
Restrooms	Bathroom facilities with 24 hour access for those who work shifts. Explore multiple locations.	X	X		X	\$, \$\$, \$\$\$	X	City of Bellingham is completing 24 hour access restroom at MHP. Porta-potties have been located in 3 additional areas. Whatcom County considering Rest Stop, which could also help with this	City of Bellingham, City of Ferndale, Lighthouse Mission		High

Response	Description	Sanitation & hygiene	Personal safety/security	Public safety	Environmental health	Level of funding needed	Underway or Planned	Partner Agencies Working on Response Potential Partners	Lead agency?	Status	Ranking?
								<p>need. 24-hour access would be very expensive.</p> <p>NWYS working with First Congregational on Day Center, which serves ages 24 and younger from 10am-2pm.</p> <p>Lighthouse Mission has 3 outhouses at drop in center</p> <p>City of Ferndale has a 24-hr bathroom at Star Park.</p>			
Showers	Shower facility with 24 hour access for those who work shifts.	X				\$\$, \$\$\$	X	<p>Lighthouse Mission has a shower trailer - serves 16-18 showers per setting. Moves to 4 locations a week and recently served their 1,000th shower</p> <p>LMM will include shower facilities in new permanent shelter facility.</p> <p>NWYS working with First Congregational on Day Center, serves 24 and younger.</p> <p>YMCA offers a limited number of shower passes – they are at capacity.</p> <p>HomesNow has a shower truck for tiny home residents. Once a month takes shower trailer to Maritime Heritage Park for a summit. Offers</p>	Lighthouse Mission, HomesNow		

Response	Description	Sanitation & hygiene	Personal safety/security	Public safety	Environmental health	Level of funding needed	Underway or Planned	Partner Agencies Working on Response Potential Partners	Lead agency?	Status	Ranking?
								1,500 showers per year. 24-hour access VERY challenging.			
Lockers	Lockers for storage of valuables (24 hour access). Locked Storage - a location has been identified, additional locations are needed that can accommodate a 120 square foot unit that can placed on to site.		X			\$	X	Basics PNW (Safe Storage PNW) Non-profit to lead effort with support from COB and other agencies City of Bellingham identified a location near the police station and poured a concrete pad. City agreed to purchase lockers. Operational models need to be in place. Whatcom County has been working with Safe Storage PNW to identify location for lockers on County property. County has budgeted \$20,000 to assist in this effort. Additional partners needed.	City of Bellingham Basics PNW. Whatcom County	BasicsPNW ran a locker truck every Saturday into May at MHP. On pause now to focus on the permanent lockers Basics PNW is working on an agreement with COB to install lockers. Basics PNW can set up the system but is not interested in running the program long term. Whatcom county will need to do a budget transfer for the \$20k to roll over into 2020.	
Car/RV Parking	Establish Safe Parking designated for those who have "some level of shelter" with rules to mitigate		X	X		\$\$, \$\$\$		Requires on-site management, restrooms and facilities. Partners required.	City of Bellingham, City of	COB is looking for a space for safe parking. Meanwhile	

Response	Description	Sanitation & hygiene	Personal safety/security	Public safety	Environmental health	Level of funding needed	Underway or Planned	Partner Agencies Working on Response Potential Partners	Lead agency?	Status	Ranking?
	impacts, amenities nearby with signage with parking time duration limits. Spread out parking across the community. Lighting and security are a concern, and if COB can help with these, some organizations and entities might be able to offer parking sites.							City of Bellingham allows for 8hour parking on-street, unless otherwise marked. City of Ferndale acknowledged many park overnight in parking lots at parks.	Ferndale	COB Police is not bothering people parked on the street – unless there is a specific complaint. Karen Burke reaching out to First Baptist	
Camping	Use campgrounds in the off season, this community resource already exists.	X		X	X	\$\$, \$\$\$		Requires on-site management, restrooms and facilities. Partners required.			
Garbage Collection	Dumpsters for homeless community to discard their belongings when needed				X	\$	X	The City has provided dumpsters in several locations around the City for this purpose			

Strategies to End Homelessness – even IF temporary or temporary for the individual

Strategy	Description	Funding Level	Underway or Planned	Partner(s) Agency or Agencies Working on Strategy	Lead?	Status	Ranking?
◆ Case Management	Identify available beds that could be available if sufficient case worker support were provided; then triage these available beds to match levels of service needs with case workers and/or funding for case workers	\$\$, \$\$\$	X Room for expansion	Opportunity Council’s Homeless Services Center / Landlord Liaison program. Lydia Place – City entered into an expanded case management program. NWYS, CCS, and above agencies could expand further.			
Triage Facility	Triage Facility for mental health will be ready by next fall.	\$\$\$\$	X	Whatcom County is Lead – Project is funded and underway.	WC	Whatcom County Council (8/7/2019 Meeting) supports the Executive’s decision to award the bid for the construction of the Crisis Stabilization Facility, with the understanding that the Council intent will be supportive of the concept of a future budget supplemental of \$1 million to be transferred to the project based budget to provide the needed contingency funds for the project.	
Private Mental Health Facility	Private mental health and potential partner for site by hospital, which would be bigger than current triage facility.	\$\$\$\$		Would require a private partner.			
Purchase Hotel	Buy a hotel and house people temporarily until they move into housing.	\$\$\$\$		Would require a partner agency to manage hotel / provide case management.			

Strategy	Description	Funding Level	Underway or Planned	Partner(s) Agency or Agencies Working on Strategy	Lead?	Status	Ranking?
Temporary Winter (cold weather) Shelter	temporary shelter during cold weather, typically open for 3 months	\$\$		Opportunity Council	OC, WC	OC is working on a shelter, but needs assistance with volunteer staff - See Volunteer Training strategy below WC identifying budget needs and potential general funds for Council budget approval (Tyler S, Ann Beck) City of Bellingham is hosting a 35-40 person women's shelter at Civic Field. Check in will be at Mission, transport to site and back. Hours are 7am-7pm.	
Severe Weather (Emergency) Shelter Satellite Shelters	Site county satellite shelters for severe weather (winter shelter closed Feb. 28, 2018). Temporary shelter during extreme cold weather events, typically open for days or weeks	\$\$ per year		WC, COB, COF Suggestion to coordination with East Whatcom Regional Resource Center as potential shelter site Could WTA be a partner – offer a warming station (e.g. downtown bus station) – need staff for it.	CO, WC, OC,	WC identifying budget for winter shelter, possible general funds available for Council budget approval. Fountain Community Church will host 60 people with no restrictions. They will provide space, materials, and staff/volunteers.	
Additional Specialized Shelters	Specialized shelters with staff to support special populations (e.g., dual diagnosis of mental health and substance abuse; medical recovery).	\$\$\$		(Note: NWYS PAD program, DVSAS, YWCA, Sun Community Services and Interfaith/Family Promise operate shelter beds today)			
Additional Small	Smaller scale shelters, e.g., four bedroom duplexes, which are easier to find. And	\$\$\$, \$\$\$\$					

Strategy	Description	Funding Level	Underway or Planned	Partner(s) Agency or Agencies Working on Strategy	Lead?	Status	Ranking?
Shelters	signing leases and supporting people in them, e.g., like the NWYS approach that uses a master lease.						
Shelter for elderly and medically fragile							
Additional year-round shelter space	Specific interest from Lighthouse Mission for added shelter space Others?				Lighthouse Mission		
Drug Court housing	Speed up Drug Court housing.		X				
◆ Rental Assistance	Expand resources for rental assistance vouchers		X				
Landlord Liaison	Find willing landowners who can be matched with houseless person to offer appropriate shelter within zoning that currently exists.			(Note: Landlord Liaison program is operational, works with landlords who have existing units. Both the City and County are funding this position through the OC. BHA also has a similar position specific to their voucher programs.)			
* Landlord Incentives	Landlord incentives can help to get people into housing more quickly.		X	OC will convene a small group of local experts to examine the feasibility of using existing programs for this recommendation			
◆ Supportive Shared Housing	Optimize current market rental with shared housing strategies (use HUD resources we already have.			This is similar to the “Additional Smaller Shelters” item above – a strategy in which nonprofits would operate small group-style homes with supports, and fewer rental assistance resources needed (with lower cost of shared			

Strategy	Description	Funding Level	Underway or Planned	Partner(s) Agency or Agencies Working on Strategy	Lead?	Status	Ranking?
				housing).			
Tiny Homes	Per Whatcom County Council 2018 action Identify additional tiny home village locations			HomesNow is creating tiny home communities. Identify volunteer agencies that can help build tiny homes	HomesNow, Whatcom County	HomesNow is completing Unity Village at Post Point HomesNow is looking for more potential future sites	
Re-entry	Expansion of re-entry options (e.g., Dept. of Corrections half-way house, sober houses)						
Smaller shelters	Expand number of "family home shelters" for a smaller scale and less intense setting than a 200 bed shelter setting.						
Volunteer training	Prepare a group of volunteers to be available for temporary shelters and severe weather shelters		X		WC	County is working on a program to train volunteers to mobilize when needed at temporary and emergency shelters	
Centralized communications system	Create a centralized resource for available shelters and services that is updated daily. Offer information on bed counts available and locations			Communications to people in need (connect them to services) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> (Lighthouse mission can help distribute info- they talk with 400 people a day) GRACE team can also distribute info to clients. Communications to the general public (issues and what's being done) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Communications to Bellingham Communications to Small Cities 	WC, COB, Lighthouse mission	WCHD is working with County & City Communications staff to plan for disseminating information about what shelters are open and have space. (limited to shelters- doesn't include info on other services)	
Coordinate with Small Cities Partnership	Attend small cities meeting to discuss models and activities with potential in other			Identify organizations and services to offer at St. Peters Church in Deming (Lighthouse Mission, others?) in			

Strategy	Description	Funding Level	Underway or Planned	Partner(s) Agency or Agencies Working on Strategy	Lead?	Status	Ranking?
(POB)	communities (Buchanan, Sweeney)			coordination with their weekly food services			
Affordable Housing	Support affordable housing projects, access to housing						
Homeless Services Tool Kit	Develop an asset map, resources list, and models for sheltering the homeless	\$		Opportunity Council, Whatcom County, Bellingham, Ferndale and other small cities	WC		
Reunification	Offering transportation to final destination, if a client is stuck here on their way somewhere else. Reunify the client with a family member or friend that can care for them.			WC EMS – (Mike Hilley) worked on 5-6 cases – extremely time consuming.			
<i>The Strategies listed below were not suggested by the HSW, but were prioritized by the City's Community Solutions Workgroup.</i>							
* Community Liaison/Health Worker	Develop a community liaison or trained peer health worker program to help keep people in housing and integrate within the broader community		X	Chuckanut Health Foundation and PeaceHealth have funded the Whatcom Alliance for Health Advancement to explore and establish a Community Health Worker model			
* Social inclusion	Coordinate among services and programs to promote social inclusion and community building among formerly homeless population		X	Lighthouse Mission Ministries started Street Connect early intervention relationship program in Feb 2018. Starting mentorship aftercare program in fall 2018.			
◆ Light-touch case management	Light-touch case management services available for those with lower vulnerability, more social/job skills to get them on their feet and housed quickly		X	Opportunity Council pursued and received a capacity building foundation grant to pay for 0.5 FTE of light touch services. The City is considering additional funding for light touch services.			

Strategy	Description	Funding Level	Underway or Planned	Partner(s) Agency or Agencies Working on Strategy	Lead?	Status	Ranking?
* Supported employment programs	Assess existing workforce development programs, cultivate relationships with employers and/or develop linkages among programs to better serve clients who are homeless and formerly homeless			<p>Opportunity Council is in the process of two related initiatives:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Expanding employment services in a new dedicated space at 625 Cornwall Ave. 2. Exploring the feasibility of adding a new Supported Employment program as part of the WA State Healthcare Authority's Medicaid Transformation initiative. 			
* Insurance for landlords	Create an insurance or damage mitigation fund to minimize the risks to landlords renting to tenants with no/poor rental history			Opportunity Council is investigating the feasibility of establishing such a fund in Bellingham, and will draft a set of recommendations early this year.			