



## Whatcom County Housing Advisory Committee Meeting Minutes

**Meeting Date/Time/Location:** February 12, 2009 – 8:35-10:08 a.m. – Whatcom County Health Department, 509 Girard Street, Bellingham

**WCHAC Members Present:** David Cahill, Laura DeRose, Dave Finet, John Harmon, Nancy Larsen, Steve Powers, Gary Tomsic

**WCHAC Members Absent:** Regina Delahunt, Rebecca Johnson, Sue Parrott, Paul Schissler, Gary Williams

**Whatcom County Health Depart Staff/Guests:** Gail de Hoog, Health Department Housing Specialist; Vicki McClure, Health Department Human Services Clerk

Agenda Item	Discussion	Action/Who
<b>Call to order and Introductions</b>	The meeting was called to order at 8:35 a.m. by Gail de Hoog and introductions were conducted.	
<b>1. Review January 8, 2009 minutes.</b>	The January 8, 2009 minutes were reviewed and approved unanimously with the following correction: page 4, action item for “Phase IV Planning,” amend meeting date to “March 12, 2009.”.	
<b>2. Old Business</b>	<p><b>Capital RFP process:</b> Gail reported that the process is to be done in two phases: phase I was a letter of interest, due February 24, 2009; successful applicants from phase I will be invited to continue on with phase II proposals. A Review Committee will meet between February 25 and March 4 to review phase I proposals. Paul Schissler Associates is the consultant for phase II application process.</p> <p><b>HSC Quarterly Report:</b> In Greg’s absence, Gail presented the HSC report. 266 Households were housed or prevented from becoming homeless in the first six months of the Homeless Service Center. HSC met its goal for service to the primary population, exceeded in secondary, and met their goal in the tertiary population. There is a requirement by CTED to provide follow up to the serviced population one year later to check on</p>	

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<p><b>2. Old Business (continued)</b></p>	<p><b>HSC Quarterly Report (con't):</b> their housing status. Average rent subsidy for primary was \$709 versus \$600 projected; average subsidy for secondary close to target with \$1216 actual versus \$1200 projected. More case management is needed for the tertiary population, and that group has the highest waiting list. Gail reports that Low Income Housing Energy Assistance Program (LIHEAP) funds are being used for rental assistance in this project which frees up funding for more case management support. Opportunity Council is becoming a sponsor for 20 Shelter Plus Care units which will be used by HSC clients.</p> <p><b>Other:</b> Plan is that 1/10<sup>th</sup> of one percent Hargrove funding will go to contract effective January 1, 2010.</p> <p><b>Project Homeless Connect/PIT:</b> PIT/Project Homeless Connect was held simultaneously on January 29, 2009. Number of people served should be available in March with a formal report in April. An increase in number of homeless seen may be due to outreach and not truly an increase in the number of homeless. This coordinated event, with participants from profit and non-profit, as well as volunteers, was very successful. It is estimated that 600 guests were served. Guests were treated with dignity and kindness, and volunteers reported taking much from the event.</p> <p><b>Related:</b> Discussion occurred regarding concern that homeless tents/sites are being dismantled. It was reported that this only happens in cases of complaints of trespass, and after notice is given. Is it the responsibility of police to remove homeless belongings? Catholic has volunteered to store belongings. Further discussion will take place with Todd Ramsey.</p>	
<p><b>3. Shelter Plus Care Awards</b></p>	<p>Recommendation was made to make the following awards: \$40,823.20 to Whatcom Counseling &amp; Psychiatric Clinic for case management support around finding housing; \$31,763.00 to Opportunity Council to pay for a leasing specialist; and \$21,573.80 to Lake Whatcom Center to pay for a housing specialist. John Harmon reports there are now 180 participants in Shelter Plus Care, a funding source that provides housing subsidies for the homeless mentally ill. Funding is through 12/31/09. The intention is that this will go on, but no future funding is guaranteed in the current economic environment.</p>	<p><b>Action:</b> That the following agencies be awarded the amounts listed. These are recommendations of the Shelter Plus Care Implementation Services Application Committee: \$40,823.20 to Whatcom Counseling &amp; Psychiatric Clinic; \$31,763.00 to Opportunity Council; and \$21,573.80 to Lake Whatcom Center. <b>Yea 7; Nay 0; Abstain 0; Absent Regina Delahunt, Rebecca Johnson, Sue Parrott, Paul Schissler, Gary Williams</b></p>

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<p><b>4. 2163/1359 Revenue Projection</b></p>	<p>Terry Hinz provided a handout and explanation of 2163/1359 revenue projections. Terry last presented projections in August. The Board will need to review allocation for 2010 due to the current economic climate. It was explained that the Interlocal Agreement requires a 40% (O&amp;M)/30% (Housing Retention)/30% (Capital Acquisition) split. It was asked if the committee would consider changing the mix. Under the Interlocal Agreement, funding can be waived in one area to provide additional funding in another area, but that “borrowed” money would have to be repaid, which would further jeopardize funding available to contract. An estimated 10% drop in revenue is anticipated. Current projections indicate a deficit of approximately \$5,000 on 1/1/11 in the 2060 Housing Fund. Projections that revenues to this fund, which come from document filing fees, may decrease by 10% this year, but the picture may be clearer in a couple months.</p>	<p><b>Action:</b> Plan to revisit 2163/1359 and 2060 revenue projections in a couple months.</p>
<p><b>5. Phase IV Planning</b></p>	<p><b>Planning members:</b> John Harmon, Dave Cahill, Dave Finet, Dan Hammill, Gail DeHoog, Paul Schissler, Greg Winter, Gary Williams, Gary Tomsic, Steve Powers, Samya Lutz, Riannon Bardsley and Debbie Paton comprise the Phase IV Planning sub-committee.</p> <p><b>Key focus areas:</b> Gail distributed a handout regarding the components for the Phase IV Plan. Their task will be to identify how the community will develop units and what type(s) of units to develop. They hope to plan a funders’ round table and determine funding goals. The county currently lacks capacity for immediate housing, and no housing is available to the medically fragile. Quality of housing will need to be addressed, with the possibility of developing a “Housing standard.” Sub-standard housing is addressed in the census, but we may need to refine/add questions regarding sub-standard housing. Community principles and priorities for housing will be identified in this plan. Expansion of the continuum of housing services to include affordable housing will be part of this plan with a goal developing language for the housing chapters of the small cities/county and comprehensive plans. The group will bring their recommendations to the April HAC and Homeless Coalition meetings.</p>	

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<p><b>6. On the Horizon (con't)</b></p>	<p><b>Road show:</b> It was suggested by Dewey Desler that the presentation given to the Executive's office be taken on the road. Efforts will be made to get TV coverage. The volunteer list from Project Homeless Connect may be a good resource for contacts for scheduling presentations.</p> <p><b>Stimulus funds:</b> Funds will include increased HUD emergency shelter grants. We will be ready when funds are released due to having stipulated services/parameters available through HSC. The group will explore using some of the funding to bank 2163 dollars due to the deficit and possible supplantation issues.</p> <p><b>Pathways to employment project:</b> A grant has been applied for, and the community will receive free technical assistance for the development of employment and training opportunities for the homeless and populations with higher barriers to employment.</p> <p><b>CTED Homeless Assistance:</b> Gail provided a CTED handout outlining the homeless demographic.</p>	
<p><b>7. Other</b></p>	<p><b>Resignation:</b> Michelle Hall resigned</p> <p><b>Meeting schedule:</b> Due to budget reductions, meetings will be held less frequently. Next meeting will be in April, which will be used as a planning session, followed by June, September and November. Gail will send out "virtual meeting" information on months when the group doesn't meet.</p>	
<p><b>Adjourn</b></p>	<p>The meeting was adjourned at 10:08 AM</p>	
<p><b>Next Meeting</b></p>	<p style="text-align: center;"><b>April 9, 2009</b>  <b>8:30 – 10:30 a.m.</b>  <b>Whatcom County Health Department</b>  <b>Administrative Conference Room</b>  <b>509 Girard Street,</b></p>	