



Whatcom County Housing Advisory Committee Meeting Minutes

Meeting Date/Time/Location: July 10, 2008 - 9:00-10:30 AM – Whatcom County Health Department, 509 Girard Street, Bellingham

WCHAC Members Present: Ronald Buchinski, David Cahill, Regina Delahunt, Dave Finet, Rebecca Johnson, Sue Parrott, Paul Schissler, Gary Tomsic

WCHAC Members Absent: Laura DeRose, Dave Finet, Michele Hall, John Harmon, Nancy Larsen

Whatcom County Health Depart Staff/Guests: Gail DeHoog, Health Department Housing Specialist; Vicki McClure, Health Department Clerk; Bill Henkel, Whatcom Homeless Service Center; Steve Powers, AHA; Danae Armstrong, Opportunity Council

Agenda Item	Discussion	Action/Who
1. Review June 12, 2008 minutes.	The meeting was called to order at 9:02 AM. The April 10, 2008 minutes were approved unanimously as presented.	
2. Update on HGAP I & II Projects	<p>Homeless Service Center Update</p> <p>Bill Henkel presented Whatcom Homeless Service Center Update. Bill began by congratulating Gail on her new position as WCHD Housing Specialist. He states that he's received an e-mail stating that HUD will be funding a rapid re-housing program, and he'd like to see Whatcom County move forward on this. Deadline for application was not posted. Gail believes this will be part of Continuum of Care. HSC Update and Purpose and Mission Overview were distributed. Primary homeless population is being served through Opportunity Council; secondary population rent/deposit assistance goal \$1200/month average. Tertiary population (chronic homeless) rental subsidy support is almost all coming from Shelter Plus Care funds. Bill states that Shelter plus Care for the Tertiary population currently lacks case management support due to lack of sponsors, and there are capacity issues due</p>	

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3. Review of process and timeline for Repair & Retention RFP (con't)	to go out probably in September, with a committee from WCHAC to review. If interested in serving on review board, please let Gail know. Gary Tomsic and Paul Schissler have volunteered to be on review board. Reviews should take place in October/November for contracts to be in place 1/1/09.	
4. Budget Projections for 2008 and '09-'10	Terry still working on numbers. Clarification of issues for Terry to address: (a) questions regarding reserve. Balance appears to reflect excessive funds in account. Committee would like rationale for balance and/or reevaluation of reserve fund requirements allowing additional funding of programs, as it is desired to have as much funding as can be made available for programs. (b) What are CTED commitment amounts? 2160 and 2163 Fund balances will both be examined. Report to be provided at August meeting. Discussion regarding projections of future HSC funding needs to take place as well	ACTION: Strategic reserve amounts to be discussed at next meeting.
5. WCHD Staffing Update	Gail welcomed as WCHD HS Housing Specialist, representative to Committee. WCHD administration working with county administration regarding Gary's position. Hoping to have position reclassified as Manager position. Regina states that it is hoped to have county administrative approval soon, at which time position can be advertised.	
6. WCHAC Vacancies to Fill	Two Committee vacancies currently need to be filled due to Carole Wells' departure from the committee and Gail's move to WCHD staff. Charter allows a minimum of 9; maximum of 15 on the board. While the Bylaws don't define make-up of board, the HAC Charter makes recommendations of representation from certain community stakeholders. Gary Williams has applied for one vacancy, and Gail would like the Board to support his appointment. If Carole made a recommendation for her possible	

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6. WCHAC Vacancy (con't)	replacement, that individual has not yet made application. Additional board vacancies could be filled by representatives of small business (construction/development), property management, and homeless or previously homeless.	ACTION: Gail to notify County Executive's office of existence of vacancies and of Board's support for Gary Williams' application
7. CHAT(Countywide Housing Affordability Taskforce) Update	The CHAT Group will meet next Friday, July 18, 2008, to review the draft report, and this may be their last meeting. Paul stated that there needs to be a local revenue source for funding, and asks if WCHAC can act as the fund distribution committee for a local housing trust fund. The idea is to create a trust fund bucket, with hopes for a ballot measure perhaps in two years for additional funding. Other CHAT recommendations going to City and County Councils were thought to be rather broad in scope; some members advocating for incentive zoning ordinance, for example. Group discussed the creation of CHAT II, which would act in an advocacy role.	
8. Other Business	<p>CTED: Communities are to submit CTED applications electronically in August. Gail to work with Bill and Steve regarding application for funds. In the past, the city contracted with John Epler, and Gail will see if John is available. Support is also apparently available in Everett. There are three SHP projects: two Opportunity Council and one Sun. Shelter Plus Care is a separate process.</p> <p>Lydia Place: Gail shared a letter with before and after photos received from Lydia Place of improvements made as a result of 2060 funds.</p> <p>Hargrove Initiative: Funds generated by the Hargrove Initiative would be in addition to local funding. The ordinance is available online. A presentation will be made to County Council on July 22, and the packet for the presentation will be made available to those interested, which includes a list of the types of programs which could be funded if the initiative is passed. Greg Winter of Cornerstone Strategies has been preparing a Comprehensive Behavioral Health Plan, which is currently in draft form.</p>	<p>ACTION: Vicki to e-mail Comprehensive Behavioral Health Plan to Board members when it is finalized.</p>
Adjourn	The meeting was adjourned at 10:20 AM	
Next Meeting	9:00-10:30 AM - 2nd Thursday – August 14, 2008 Whatcom County Health Department	

**509 Girard Street,
Administrative Conference Room**

