



Whatcom County Housing Advisory Committee Meeting Minutes

Meeting Date/Time/Location: February 11, 2010 – 8:40-9:56 a.m. – Whatcom County Health Department, 509 Girard Street, Bellingham

WCHAC Members Present: David Cahill, Dave Finet, Laura DeRose Harker, Sue Parrott, Steve Powers, Paul Schissler, Gary Tomsic

WCHAC Members Absent: Andrew Accimus, Regina Delahunt, John Harmon, Rebecca Johnson, Nancy Larsen, Kathleen McNaughton, Gary Williams

Whatcom County Health Depart Staff/Guests: Alex Cleanthous, Planning Development Services, Anne Deacon, Health Department Human Services Manager; Gail de Hoog, Health Department Housing Specialist; Vicki McClure, Health Department Human Services Clerk

Agenda Item	Discussion	Action/Who
Call to order	The meeting was called to order at 8:40 a.m. by Paul Schissler. Quorum was not present. Alex Cleanthous was present from the county Planning and Development Services, and introductions were conducted.	
1. Review January 14, 2010 minutes.	No action was taken on the minutes of January 14, 2010 as a quorum was not present.	
2. Old Business: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • PIT count update 	The Point In Time Count was held on January 28, but most of the week was used to count, with volunteer representatives from local agencies. The first report, the unsheltered count, is due tomorrow, February 12, for Advocacy Day. There were 13 families with children, 153 households without children for a total of 206 individuals unsheltered on January 28. The full report will be available at the end of March or beginning of April. Greg Winter of	

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<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li data-bbox="277 169 562 233">• PIT count update (con't) <li data-bbox="277 628 562 660">• HSC Brief Update <li data-bbox="277 1358 533 1422">• Recording fee revenue review 	<p data-bbox="600 169 1444 595">The Homeless Service Center is expecting the same or fewer homeless than last year, leading us to think that what we're doing regarding "housing first" is making a difference. Gail stated that the Coalition volunteers did a wonderful job, and she shared anecdotal comments. During the count it was learned that many housed individuals are utilizing community meal programs, and that the network of meal and clothing programs is strong. "Doubled up" individuals are counted in Whatcom County, but not by HUD, though those numbers are "shadow tracked." Some are homeless due to significant mental health issues, felony convictions, multiple evictions, and difficulty obtaining employment due to the economy. The need for more permanent supportive housing is apparent.</p> <p data-bbox="600 633 1444 1321">A Power Point handout was provided to attendees illustrating accomplishments of the first 18 months of the Homeless Service Center. Goals have been met or exceeded with regard to number of households housed or prevented from becoming homeless (with the exception of "high barrier" individuals, where actual was 8% less than goal). Housing retention outcome goals were met or exceeded, with the most dramatic outcome being seen among the high barrier group. A chart of the funding source outlook was included, with indicators for those funding sources it is hoped will continue. Shelter Plus Care funding has been fully utilized. The HSC and partner agencies have a waiting list, with perhaps 150 to 200 on the secondary and tertiary wait lists each. Veterans' funding has been underutilized. Anne reported that the Veterans Advisory Committee is encouraging the County Executive to transfer administration of the Veterans' Relief Fund to Human Services, which would allow for additional blended funding, as existing Human Services programs are already assisting veterans. Whatcom County has the highest percentage of veterans in the state, possibly due to law enforcement related jobs and the fact that Birch Bay had a radar air base (Blaine Air Force Station) from 1951 through 1979.</p> <p data-bbox="600 1358 1444 1445">Gail provided a handout with summaries of expected revenues from local recording fees, as well as expenditures. The \$420,000 Pioneer Human Services grant, which comes from Commerce and</p>	

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	<p>ends in 2012, is not included. With Dept. of Commerce's proposed Consolidated Housing Program, we may end up with additional "bonus" funding due to incentives, but not enough to cover the HGAP grants. The Consolidated Housing Grant program will begin July, 2011. 2060 funding was reviewed and projected funds discussed. The sudden increase in 2163 revenue indicates when additional fees began being collected in July. In 2013 the fee will return to \$10 from the current \$30. The Ten Year Plan will provide guidance on the use of funds, and revised WCHAC by-laws will eliminate required percentages designated in the 2060 funds. We are waiting to see how legislation affects funding, and the reorganization of Commerce regarding HGAP. When the City Consolidated Plan is being developed and City Consolidated Block Grants are being determined, WCHAC will want to provide input. Block Grants have broad criteria. The comment period for the Consolidated Plan starts in May/June, formal public comment period is September/October, and the Plan must be passed by November 15. The committee was advised not to wait until the public comment period to provide input. The current five-year plan ends in December 2012, and the new plan will be developed next year, in 2011.</p>	
3. Charter/By-Laws Revisions	<p>A draft of the revised Interlocal agreement was provided for review by members. In sections D and F "applications" was changed to "contracts." In section D, the addition of "as needed" after "applications will be reviewed" was recommended.</p> <p>A draft of the revised By-Laws was provided for review by members. The recommendation was made to add "Small Cities" to the membership portion of the by-laws. Consideration will be given to the possibility of allowing electronic voting by members, and will be discussed further at the next meeting.</p>	<p>Members are asked to review the By-Laws and Interlocal Agreement in preparation for a vote at the March 11, 2010 meeting.</p>
4. Planning Department Update	<p>Alex Cleanthous of the county Planning Department updated the committee on his department's activities, and stated that it is the Planning Department's intention to have consistent representation at future WCHAC meetings. Alex related that the CHAT report indicated a need for 11,000 affordable homes by 2022. 2000 census numbers will be used to update planning beyond 2011. .</p>	

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4. Planning Dept. Update (con't)	<p>The Planning Department is looking at creating a catalog of pre-approved houses. They are also working with city, county, and small cities to update the Comprehensive Plan. The Department of Commerce puts out a checklist of requirements for Comprehensive Plans, and an intern in housing is reviewing all plans to assure they are all in compliance. There are some areas in the county that can be looked at for increased densities. Gail is looking at the number of housing units needed in the Ten Year Plan.</p>	
5. On the horizon <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Legislative Hot Topics • Census • Trends 	<p>The Housing Alliance tracks legislation. The potential exists for legislation to restore the housing trust fund.</p> <p>Census workers are interested in counting the homeless in all communities. County agencies and community partners are committed to helping the census people count the homeless in Whatcom County. Census representatives were invited to the Homeless Coalition meeting. Coalition members will be hired to assist with the homeless census count. The biggest issue for Census is confidentiality. Human services agencies will be encouraged to stress the need for cooperation by those being counted. March 28, 29 and 30, 2010 will be Census survey days.</p>	
Adjourn	<p>The meeting was adjourned by acclamation at 9:56 AM</p>	
Next Meeting	<p>March 11, 2010 8:30 – 10:00 a.m. Whatcom County Health Department Administrative Conference Room 509 Girard Street,</p>	