



Whatcom County Housing Advisory Committee Meeting Minutes

Meeting Date/Time/Location: January 14, 2010 – 8:32-10:02 a.m. – Whatcom County Health Department, 509 Girard Street, Bellingham

WCHAC Members Present: David Cahill, Regina Delahunt, Laura DeRose Harker, Dave Finet, Rebecca Johnson, Steve Powers, Gary Tomsic, Nancy Larsen

WCHAC Members Absent: Andrew Accimus, John Harmon, Kathleen McNaughton, Sue Parrott, Paul Schissler, Gary Williams

Whatcom County Health Depart Staff/Guests: Anne Deacon, Health Department Human Services Manager; Gail de Hoog, Health Department Housing Specialist; Greg Winter, Homeless Service Center; Vicki McClure, Health Department Human Services Clerk

Agenda Item	Discussion	Action/Who
Call to order	The meeting was called to order at 8:35 a.m. by Gail deHoog, in the absence of Paul Schissler. Quorum is present. There being no gallery, introductions were not conducted.	
1. Review June 11, 2009 minutes.	The November 12, 2009 minutes were reviewed and approved unanimously as presented. No additions to the agenda were requested.	
2. Old Business: <ul style="list-style-type: none">PIT count update	Gail provided the Point In Time Count update. Gail is coordinating the count this year, with the help of Greg Winter of the Homeless Service Center. Gail reports that every year we have improved the count, and this year the methodology will be a little different, and the count will not be coordinated with another event. Survey questions are consistent with last year's, and Greg will be compiling information to provide the PIT report. Broad groups of providers are engaging in outreach in the community between January 24 and 29 to conduct the count. Agencies have stepped up to help with the count, and work has been done to include	

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<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li data-bbox="176 167 506 267">• PIT count update (con't) <li data-bbox="176 267 506 771">• HGAP amendment <li data-bbox="176 771 506 1440">• City Gate project 	<p data-bbox="506 167 1398 267">Lummi providers and their population. Small city involvement has been through contact with Food Banks.</p> <p data-bbox="506 267 1398 771">Content of a Department of Commerce letter was shared. The HGAP program is going away, and the HGAP I contract with Commerce has been closed. Cuts in HGAP funding of \$512,000 and \$235,795 are being covered by the county's 2163 funds to make up the deficit until the end of contracts. There is a need to conduct planning to keep programs going after contracts end, as the ability to fully cover HGAP funding will end 12/31/10. We will be eligible for bonus funding under the new Consolidated Grant Program guidelines. Sunset in 2013 of a funding source (HB 2331) will result in possible reduction in services unless other funding is secured. The question was asked if the legislature can provide the authority to counties to add on fees in 2012 to make up for sunseting funding. It was suggested that title companies be provided information as to what document recording fee is for.</p> <p data-bbox="506 771 1398 1440">Gail provided a Power Point handout to attendees. Also known as HGAP II, City Gate is the offender re-entry housing project. Housing the most difficult ex-offender population, occupants must establish income, be working and/or engaged in job search, remain clean and sober, and actively participate in case management and services in their ISP. Expectations of the program were discussed, and an evaluation of the program will be conducted. Stories were shared of those impacted by the program. Considered permanent supported housing, it is hoped that clients will be able to move on to affordable housing of their own once they stabilize, as there is currently a waiting list. Due to changes in sentencing and supervision, we are seeing earlier release from DOC, which is increasing the number of those needing services. The possibility of offering incentives to allow the ability to move clients into their own permanent housing allowing the ability to serve more clients was discussed. It was reported that Pioneer Human Services has far exceeded expectations and what they are doing is working. Twelve clients are now in school with financial aid, and the case manager has been instrumental in clients gaining employment. They have had zero staffing turnover.</p>	<p data-bbox="1398 167 2005 771">Gail will provide a spreadsheet, prepared by Terry, regarding recording fee revenue.</p> <p data-bbox="1398 771 2005 1440">Gail will check on demand versus number of those able to be housed.</p>

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<p>3. Interlocal Agreement Revisions</p>	<p>Copies of the existing and draft versions of the revised Interlocal Cooperation Agreement were provided to attendees. Changes to the original document were discussed, and included the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The third “whereas” is new, addressing housing affordability. • The sixth “whereas” was modified to delete “sometimes.” • “Now Therefore” area was condensed, deleting the domestic violence and sexual assault references as “low income, special needs populations and the homeless” accurately reflects the spirit of the agreement. • Section C of the draft document reflects significant change, allowing flexibility by eliminating percentages. Items 1-4 in section C language is straight from legislation. • It was agreed that good planning must include contingency for unexpected major expenses/needs resulting from a catastrophic event. • County staff will make recommendations to the WCHAC, and the Committee will either endorse/support the recommendation or rule against in their recommendation to the County Executive. • In Section D, currently some contracts are renewable up to three years. The existing document requires annual applications for funding. • It was recommended that sections D&E be combined, then re-divided as appropriate with one area addressing the Advisory Committee, and the other addressing how funds are applied for. • The Committee recommended that the document include a statement that interest on funding stays with 2060 funds and doesn’t go into the General Fund. • An “attested by” line will be added for each signatory. <p>Discussion will take place regarding the Ten Year Plan, RFPs, and educating providers regarding funding. The Committee asks for assurance that transparency will be maintained and that Committee input will be sought regarding the RFP procedure. The process of getting funds out and needs getting met has been tied to the Ten Year Plan, but the plan needs to consistently and continually be updated.</p>	<p>County staff will approach the County Executive regarding whether “interest earned” language being added is appropriate.</p> <p>Motion: The Whatcom County Housing Advisory Committee recommends that interest earned on 2060 funds remain with 2060. Aye 8, Nay 0, Abstain 0, Absent: Andrew Accimus, John Harmon, Nancy Larsen, Kathleen McNaughton Sue Parrott, Paul Schissler, Gary Williams.</p>

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<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Charter/By Laws 	Tracked changes in the Charter will be sent to members. The Charter and By-Laws will be combined, and the document will be called "By-Laws."	Gail will ensure the Interlocal Agreement meshes with the Committee's Charter and By-Laws.
4. Lighthouse Mission Drop In Center	Due to time constraints, this item will be added to the February 11, 2010 agenda.	
5. On the horizon <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Census • Legislative hot topics • Trends 	Due to time constraints, this item will be added to the February 11, 2010 agenda.	
Adjourn	The meeting was adjourned at 10:02 AM	Vicki will re-send the meeting calendar to members.
Next Meeting	February 11, 2010 8:30 – 10:00 a.m. Whatcom County Health Department Administrative Conference Room 509 Girard Street,	