



## Whatcom County Housing Advisory Committee Meeting Minutes

**Meeting Date/Time/Location:** September 10, 2009 – 8:35-10:05 a.m. – Whatcom County Health Department, 509 Girard Street, Bellingham

**WCHAC Members Present:** Andrew Accimus, David Cahill, Regina Delahunt, Laura DeRose Harker, Rebecca Johnson, Nancy Larsen, Kathleen McNaughton, Sue Parrott, Paul Schissler,

**WCHAC Members Absent:** Dave Finet, John Harmon, Steve Powers, Gary Tomsic, 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
<b>Call to order</b>	The meeting was called to order at 8:35 a.m. by Paul Schissler. Quorum is present.	
<b>1. Review June 11, 2009 minutes.</b>	The June 11, 2009 minutes were reviewed and approved unanimously as presented.	
<b>2. Old Business:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li data-bbox="191 1057 394 1154">• <b>2060 R&amp;R application process</b></li> <li data-bbox="191 1227 394 1292">• <b>Revenue projections</b></li> </ul>	<p>Gail reported the 2060 R&amp;R RFQ was due Tuesday, September 8, 2009 and no applicants appeared for the applicant conference. There is \$105,000 available. Volunteers to review the RFQs are Gary Williams, Sue Parrot, and Gail de Hoog.</p> <p>Dollar figures are hard to pin down, but appear to be better than forecast. 2060 Revenues are trending up, and 2009 estimate is increased from \$240,000 to \$275,000, with 2010 estimated revenues increased to \$280,000-\$285,000.</p> <p>1359 projections are increased from \$305,000 to \$345,000, with</p>	



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<b>HGAP cuts in funding (continued)</b>	setting in 2013 unless extended. Recommendations will need to be made to the county to replace lost funding to keep projects whole.	
<b>3. Housing for Mentally Ill RFP</b>	E-mail discussion took place requesting recommendations to use \$25,000 in Northwest Youth Services funding, returned to the County, for housing for the mentally ill. The original thought was to fund a housing for the mentally ill project to provide additional services. One-tenth and Mental Health funds were briefly discussed, as housing is important in the mental health continuum. Blending funding to provide effective care/services would increase opportunities to leverage additional funding as well as build partnerships. Discussion took place regarding other options for allocating those returned funds. Recommendations included a one-year contract for \$127,000, a one-time “bonus” contract, and returning the \$25,000 to the 2060 “pot.” It was determined that a process for dealing with allocation of this type of funding was necessary. If the funds, in this case, were divided among the current O&M contractors, it would necessitate amending contracts. Doing another RFP also would not be a responsible use of resources. The Committee recommended that the \$25,000 be put back in the pot until next fall. The county will look at coordination of timing for the RFP/RFQ and contract processes across specialty “silos” to maximize opportunities for blended funding of projects.	<p>Gail will provide to the Committee a list of agencies, projects and funding at the next meeting.</p> <p>Gail will talk to Terry regarding whether unspent funds would go back to the “bucket” or the “ocean” of housing funds.</p> <p><b>Motion:</b> The Whatcom County Housing Advisory Committee recommends that the unspent contracted dollars, in the amount of \$25,000 which were returned to the county, be returned to the O&amp;M “bucket” to be included in the amount available to contract for next fall. <b>Aye 9, Nay 0, Abstain 0, Absent:</b> Dave Finet, John Harmon, Steve Powers, Gary Tomsic, Gary Williams</p>
<b>4. Housing Affordability</b>	Paul provided a handout regarding the Affordable Housing Investment Fund, and asks for board support for the fund. Revenues for the fund would come from the General Fund, future ballot measures, and Economic Development Investment Fund. The recommendation was made to change the name from “Affordable Housing <u>Investment</u> Fund” to “Affordable Housing <u>Incentive</u> Fund” (AHIF) It was asked that Paul bring the agenda bill regarding AHIF to the next meeting.	<b>Motion:</b> The Whatcom County Housing Advisory Committee supports an ordinance to create the Affordable Housing Incentive Fund. <b>Aye 9, Nay 0, Abstain 0, Absent:</b> Dave Finet, John Harmon, Steve Powers, Gary Tomsic, Gary Williams

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<b>5. On the horizon Commerce Committee Meeting</b>	<p>Gail is going to Olympia as a member of a committee to provide feedback regarding issues discussed in the CTED letter distributed earlier in this meeting. She asks that Committee members provide feedback by September 17 for inclusion in discussions at the Olympia meeting. We don't want to see HGAP funds diverted or cut, and Gail feels THOR and ESHP are a step backward. It is felt that the CTED proposal abandons funded, successful programs. The "Whatcom County Model" was discussed, which utilizes the "housing first" concept, and culminates in affordable housing for all populations.</p>	
<b>Adjourn</b>	<p>The meeting was adjourned at 10:05 AM</p>	
<b>Next Meeting</b>	<p style="text-align: center;"> <b>November 12, 2009</b>  <b>8:30 – 10:00 a.m.</b>  <b>Whatcom County Health Department</b>  <b>Administrative Conference Room</b>  <b>509 Girard Street,</b> </p>	