

MINUTES

Clallam County Homelessness Task Force
Clallam County Courthouse
Virtual and In Person
BOCC Meeting Room 160
June 7, 2022
2:30 pm-4:00 pm

Members Present: John DeBoer, Mark Hodgson, Sharon Maggard, Jenny Oppelt, Christy Smith, Debbi Tesch, Rachel Anderson, Paul Cunningham, Sandra Allen, Tim Fletcher, Ann Simpson, Loni Greninger, Johnny Ankrom

Designated Alternate: Jack Graham, Daryl Trowbridge

Absent: Cheri Tinker, Kathy Morgan, Navarra Carr

General Attendance: Commissioner Randy Johnson, Kevin LoPiccolo, Christine Dunn, Thomas McCulloch, Nancy Jacobson, Martha Bell, Betsy Robins, Lambros Rogers, Beverly Lee, Tonya Panokowski, Sarah Woodward, Dana Ward, Tiffany Dunaway

1. **WELCOME AND INTRODUCTIONS** – The meeting was called to order at 2:30 p.m.
2. **AGENDA** – Majority approved the agenda.
3. **MINUTES** – Majority approved the minutes from March 1, 2022.
4. **OLD BUSINESS**
 - **Bylaws Discussion:**
 - Christine Dunn stated the bylaws are ready to vote on final approval, changing the membership from 25 to 26. The updated bylaws also include verbiage corrections to increase inclusivity throughout the document which does not affect the actual bylaws themselves. Majority approved the final draft of the bylaws. The approved bylaws will be moved on to the commissioners for final approval and once approved, distributed to the board.
5. **NEW BUSINESS**

- **Discussion HTF purpose and future presentations:** This topic was brought to the table by Cheri Tinker, and with her absence, it was decided to table this until she can be present.
- **Safe Parking Discussion:**
 - Christine Dunn stated that this topic was previously discussed as a collaborative group and identified in the Clallam County Homeless Gap and Needs Analysis. Various programs in Seattle, California and Oregon all have experienced varying degrees of success, and direction from the group is being sought. A large concern raised is human waste and what to do with it.
 - Sharon Maggard updated the board on a new program called the REAL Team which offers wraparound services to people living unhoused. The REAL team will be presenting at Serenity House Shelter at 9:00 am on June 15th. Sharon reported she will connect with the REAL team to present at the HTF. Sandra Allen stated that Reflections Counseling and Peninsula Behavioral Health both have REAL teams currently.
 - Sandra Allen also stated that having a safe parking space would be valuable, like providing a centralized meeting location for outreach staff to connect with clients. They interact with people who do not want to or cannot go to the shelter which provides a challenge for finding and assisting people. They also encounter couples that do not want to sleep in separate spaces so they would rather sleep in their RV's or vehicles. Outreach workers also interact with people that have been trespassed for some reason and for others, the shelter is a trigger for them. That may be due to substance use or not feeling safe. Sandra stated that the key word is Safe.
 - John DeBoer wondered if there was a way to get people gas cards with the way prices have gone up. Sandra stated that if people are connected with PBH and they are working towards their goals, PBH has resources to assist with gas cards. She also mentioned that safe parking would alleviate the need to drive around as often looking for a safe place to park which would decrease the need for gas.
 - Mark Hodgson stated support for task force pursuing safe parking. It provides many opportunities such as making it easier for follow-up contacts and providing a safe place for people. Mark noted that often people not always willing to part with their possessions. They may have everything they own in their vehicle, and they are not willing to part with it or the vehicle itself, which the safe parking area would help.
 - Ann Simpson showed support for safe parking and mentioned that respite areas have disappeared or been monetized.
 - Christine suggested assembling a small subcommittee to begin working on safe parking (like exploring examples that could work our area and connecting to the necessary zoning and regulatory agencies) Christine Dunn asked for volunteers for

the subcommittee. Mark Hodgson, Sandra Allen, Johnny Ankrom, Loni Greninger and John DeBoer all volunteered.

- **Department of Commerce Rapid Rehousing Grant:**

- Christine reported the application has been released and is due back by June 14th. Funding is from the Department of Commerce, for hotel leasing and rapid funding in the amount of \$300,000. It can be used for people who are in dire need of housing, for rent, back rent, deposits for rentals and electric bills. Their income needs to be verified after 90 days and at 60% of the area median income. Applications will be processed through Health and Human Services. Applications can be found here: <http://www.clallam.net/HHS/>. Kevin LoPiccolo stated that obtaining hotel/motel rooms during the summer months may prove to be difficult. With that in mind, he has been reaching out to various hotels/motels to see if they would be able to set aside a block of rooms or even just one or two to ensure we have rooms for people.

- **Recommendations on New HTF Members:**

- Christine Dunn mentioned a little about each proposed new member:
 - Leonard Hicks applied for the Business Community position. A graduate of Peninsula College, Bachelor Degree in Applied Management and currently starting up a business in Port Angeles. He wants to be involved in the community and part of the solution. He experienced homelessness as a youth and as an adult.
 - Susan Sullivan applied for the Advocate for youth position. She works for the Lower Elwha Head Start and has a lot of experience working with grants. She asked the tribe if they would like to have her represent that position, but she has not heard back.
 - Samuel Schroeder also applied for the Advocate for youth position. He works for OlyCap and is the Manager of Youth Services Division for the Clallam/Jefferson Counties. He is starting up a program called Anchor.
- A motion was made for each position, Mr. Hicks was selected for the Business Community position, Ms. Sullivan for the at Large position and Mr. Schroeder for the Advocate for Youth position. Majority approved the new members as stated above.

6. FUTURE MEETING AGENDA ITEMS

- Welcome New Members
- Membership bylaw update
- Continue Safe Parking Discussion
- Sandra from PBH will do a program on the REAL Team and Safe Parking
Paul Cunningham mentioned Joe DeScala from 4PA might be a good candidate for an upcoming presentation

7. PUBLIC COMMENT

- Nancy Jacobson spoke about the Safe parking and stated that Port Townsend is working on the same issue. They removed everyone from the fairgrounds and are working on a plan like what this board is talking about today. So, there may be a way to collaboratively trouble shoot as to what works for them, may work in Clallam as well.

8. ANNOUNCEMENTS

- Ann Simpson – Mariposa House: Shared they have hired several new people. One they received funding for from United Way and hired Marion Jackson as a Recovery Advocate. Cecilia Jean Ashu was hired to work in the Sexual Assault unit and April Fordyce-Blewett was hired as she is finishing up her schooling to become a chemical dependency professional.
- Jack Graham – DSHS: Shared they have five new people in training to assist clients. They now have telephonic application, where people can apply over the phone for food and cash programs with a telephonic signature.
- Darryl Trowbridge – Healthy Families: Shared that Becca Korby resigned, and Tracy Caldwell the Deputy Director and Leslie Bond the Program Manager are sharing the Executive Director responsibilities and they will keep us posted on the search for a new Executive Director. Cat/Sara Woodward has applied, and if approved Darryl would be her backup.
- Paul Cunningham – Healthcare Field: Shared that the Healing Clinic behind Costco is on the verge of opening in a couple of weeks and there will be an open house for the public soon.
- Loni Greninger – Jamestown Tribe: Shared they are looking at expanding housing especially for their workforce. They have a piece of property near Cedars at Dungeness Golf Course, right off of Woodcock, currently in environmental review. Also looking at affordable housing and some RV spaces for people that are more into that. We are finding that we are hiring people for our health care and other positions and that there is no place for them to live. Our second project is going to be housing for our elders and then after that more workforce housing.
- Sandra Allen – Peninsula Behavioral Health: Shared they are opening a new office in Sequim and will be having a grand opening soon and will let us know of the date. Just began to revise our jail transition peer program. Still working on the All-View project, which has been renamed the Dawn View Court and is on track to be done the beginning of August. We continue to expand and hire, our issues is there is no housing for prospective new employees.
- Debbie Tesch – Peninsula Housing Authority: Shared they are opening section 8 waiting list hopefully by the end of the month and will advertise on their website and the newspaper. It will be the same as years past. Mail in only and they will select randomly a certain number to put on that waiting list around 300, with hope of getting through them

in 6 months so we can open it up again. Have a lot of funding still for the Tenant Based Rental Assistance Funding (TBRA) a 2-year transitional program similar to section 8. All referrals have to go through coordinated entry.

- Rachel Anderson – City of Sequim: Shared they are just starting to actively research home sharing and looking at other cities and seeing what works and doesn't for them. We are also working on the process of rezoning areas for residential and multifamily homes, but rezoning is a lengthy process and no word when that will be finished.
- Tim Fletcher – City of Forks: Shared they are also suffering the housing problems the rest of the peninsula is encountering. We have opportunity for 3 new employers, mill sites with the potential of hiring 100+ people which will be in direct competition for our housing. We suffered this back in the early seventies a huge housing growth, a big boom for the industry and housing at that time. So, this will be an up cycle for us, knowing in 15 years we will be in a down cycle again. Right now we are right on the boom period and look forward to that and all the troubles that it brings.
- Sharon Maggard – Serenity House: Shared the Serenity House has changed quite a bit and encouraged anyone that has not taken a tour to stop by. They were recently able to open the second story in the addition and able to install bunkbeds for the homeless to sleep. We were able to move all of the sleeping area out of the dining room, so we now have an area for meetings. We are running transportation three times a day on a regular schedule. For about the last year, we have been obtaining about \$300,000 to \$350,000 ERAP funding a month that goes directly to landlords and utilities, so last year we were at \$2,900,000 to utility companies and landlords. We have been processing a lot of past due, and we hope it will stabilize these people from losing housing. Some of the things we are doing around zoning, and we have asked the city, and have asked for letters from our board to support, of rezoning the parking in front of our shelter so we are not full of campers. I don't know when that hearing will be, but anyone that supports that should really attend that meeting. I have asked for either a loading zone, no parking zone or a fire zone. I don't have any place to send everybody, but this is a complaint that I get all of the time and could be part of the safe parking study. We still do not have a formal certificate of occupancy, although I have a temporary one. One of the things we are doing is, Department of Corrections is bringing in the drug sniffing dog once a month and going through the shelter. The new intake agreements are behavioral and we are eliminating those that are using drugs onsite. We have about 180 people on our waiting list for permanent housing. To date we had 13,000 bed nights. One of my happy successes, is we have had some of our people living in our shelter for over 7 years and I got them housed. There were 5 of those.
- Christy Smith – United Way: Shared that the Haller application Grant is open and the maximum amount is \$11,000 and is due right after the 4th of July. We also hired a new person; Marybeth Gregory and her title is Community Impact Director. Her focus will be diversity equity inclusion and making sure United Way is doing the best that they can and that the money gets to the people that needs it the most.

- Johnny Ankrom – Work Source: Shared that both the work Source offices in Port Angeles and Port Townsend have been closed permanently and we are now located at 810 W. Brackett Road in Sequim. We would love to host a hiring event for the Serenity House.
- Randy Johnson – Commissioner: Shared about the Housing Solution Committee. Looking at housing and what our priorities should be, and the funding sources go from 60% AMI up to 120%. My goal is that by the end of this year we The Housing Solutions Committee will be able to start implementing and moving forward.

9. ADJOURN: Meeting adjourned at 3:55 p.m.

Next meeting: September 6, 2022
Virtual & Clallam County BOCC Meeting Room

Members of the Homelessness Task Force

Cheri Tinker, Paul Cunningham, John DeBoer, Mark Hodgson, Sandra Allen,
Kathy Morgan, Debbi Tesch, Navarra Carr, Rachel Anderson, Tim Fletcher, Jenny Oppelt,
Sharon Maggard, Ann Simpson, Loni Greninger, Christy Smith, Johnny Ankrom