

Interagency Council on Homelessness

August 13, 2009

9:00 a.m. – 11:30 p.m.

Olympia, Washington

Present:

Will Graham, Assistant Director for Housing, Commerce – Chair

Lisa Hodgson, Executive Manager, Facilities and Services Licensing), DOH

Kari Burrell, Executive Policy Advisor, Office of Financial Management

Chip Kormas, Veterans Program Coordinator, for Ken Kelnhofer, ESD

ICH Member Staff:

Toni Johnson, Program Coordinator – Homelessness/Housing and Services, DSHS

Guests:

Alice Shobe, Deputy Director, Building Changes

Ranita Jain, Homeless Programs Specialist, Building Changes

Commerce Staff:

Tedd Kelleher

Bruce Yasutake

Legislative Wrap-Up and Budget Update

Note: More detailed information was provided in the March 18 ICH meeting summary - <http://www.commerce.wa.gov/site/1003/default.aspx>

Key housing related bills that passed and were signed by the Governor were reviewed:

- SB 5525 - Concerning rental vouchers to allow release from state institutions – DOC may provide rental vouchers to an offender for a period up to three months, if rental assistance will enable the offender to have an approved release plan. \$4 million per biennium.
- HB 2331 - Concerning the existing document recording fee for services for the homeless – Increases the document recording fee from \$10 to \$30 and expires June 30, 2013. In addition to the Homeless Grant Assistance Program, the following Commerce homeless programs are funded by document recording fees: Independent Youth Housing Program, Homeless Shelter Programs, Transitional Housing, Operating and Rent Program, and the DSHS Homeless Youth Program. State general fund dollars have funded these programs in the past. Commerce is considering how to address the shortfall in available funds to support existing HGAP contracts.
- HB 1663 - Creating relocation assistance rights for non-transient residents of hotels, motels, or other places of transient lodging that are shut down by government action – DOH has plans in place to provide assistance as directed by this legislation.

- SB 5288 – Changing provisions regarding supervision of offenders – Lower risk offenders will no longer be supervised. There is little or no correlation between supervision and recidivism.
- SB 5035 - Improving veterans' access to services – ESD is working a centralized database to identify veterans and link them to services. DSHS is working on ways to better identify veterans in their systems.
- 2nd Chance Act – DOC and Commerce have jointly applied for funding.
- Kari provided a summary of key factors that have altered the budget/revenue picture since the biennium has started and will impact the upcoming supplemental legislative session.

Department of Commerce - Mission, stakeholder process, required report

Forty-nine regional focus group sessions were conducted in seven regions in June and July. In each region, Commerce Director Rogers Weed and members of the Commerce management team engaged in conversation with focus groups of small and large businesses, local governments, housing and community service agencies, economic development organizations, utilities, statewide associations and interest groups, internal staff and other state agencies, and legislators. Summary and details of the major takeaway themes:

<http://www.commerce.wa.gov/uploads/agencyresource/tripreport.pdf>

Other/next steps include:

- Public online survey explores some major themes and topics that emerged from our outreach conversations with a broader audience See results as they come in, [Click here](#).
- Competitive research is providing data and analysis on Washington State vs. other states and regions.
- Checking our results by announcing priorities and opportunity summaries and themes early this fall, with a second phase of targeted stakeholder outreach.
- Final Report released to the Governor and the Legislature due November 1. (Early October target for getting draft report out.)

Principles and themes for moving Commerce forward -

<http://www.commerce.wa.gov/ccb.pdf>

Rethinking the State Homeless Program Structure

Commerce is considering a change in the structure of homeless programs to address new research and changes in homeless funding.

Washington State Coalition for the Homeless Ten-Year Plan Forum

WSCH is conducting two forums, one in eastern and one in western Washington. These events are geared specifically toward implementing local ten year plans. Topics will include: The “perfect” plan; funding and leadership models; reporting, monitoring and outcomes; maximizing federal, state and local resources to end homelessness; effective advocacy; how the State administers its portion of the local document recording fees; and the impact of HB 2331 on State homeless programs.

http://endhomelessnesswa.org/events/274/wsch_ten_year_plan_form_eastern_washington/

AREN Data Collaboration

Due to heavy workloads in the DSHS Economic Services Division, this project is on hold.

DSHS-Housing Authority Collaboration

DSHS staff, including the new Secretary Susan Dreyfus, has met with all Housing Authorities to discuss coordination on housing vouchers and to build relationships.

The DSHS, Aging and Disability Services Administration “Roads to Community Living” Money Follows the Person (MFP) Program has arranged a meeting on August 20, 10:30-12:00 to share information and prepare for the upcoming HUD Notice of Funding Availability (NOFA) for new Housing Choice Vouchers. One of the goals of this meeting is to generate discussion about ways to collaborate with the Housing Authorities.

Point In Time Count - Tracking the increase in homelessness

The latest P.I.T. results can be found at:

<http://www.commerce.wa.gov/DesktopModules/CTEDPublications/CTEDPublicationsView.aspx?tabID=0&ItemID=7497&Mid=870&wversion=Staging>

Washington Families Fund – Overview and Expansion Goals

Alice Shobe and Ranita Jain gave an overview of WFF. Details can be found in the attached PowerPoint presentation and the WFF materials that Alice and Ranita distributed. Additional background information was detailed in the March 18 ICH meeting summary.

Remaining 2009 Meetings

- September 16 – Homeless Plan, Commerce Homeless Program Restructuring, State Advisory Council on Homelessness recommendations to DOC
- October 21 – Homeless Plan
- December 16 – Legislative and Budget Updates