



State of Washington

State Advisory Council on Homelessness
Interagency Council on Homelessness

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SACH/ICH Meeting Summary

Kirsten Jewell
SACH Chair

Thursday, October 18, 2018
10:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m.
Hilton Hotel, SeaTac Washington

Linda Olsen
SACH Vice Chair

SACH Appointed Members Kirsten Jewell, Linda Olsen, Lona Hammer, Melissa Taylor, Arthur Castleton, Matt Davis, Donna Batch, Jesse Green, Sheila Babb Anderson, Tedd Kelleher

Tedd Kelleher
ICH Chair

ICH Agency Representatives

Tedd Kelleher, Department of Commerce
Jennifer McDaniel, Department of Veteran Affairs
Theresa Slusher, Economic Services, DSHS
Sherrie Flores, Children's Administration, DSHS
Liz Prince, Home & Community Services, DSHS
Robert Story, Department of Corrections
Erin Frasier, State Board of Community & Technical Colleges
Melodie Pazolt, Kate Baber, Health Care Authority
Melinda Dyer, Office of Superintendent of Instructions
Jim Baumgart, Office of the Governor

Theresa Slusher
ICH Vice Chair

Guests

Michele Thomas, Washington Low Income Housing Alliance
Matt Lemon, Building Changes
Cary Retlin, Department of Commerce

Staff

Lori Salzer, Kathy Kinard, Department of Commerce

Joint Meeting 10:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m.

Commerce Update

The Homeless Housing and Assistance Act was amended in 2018 to include new homeless housing strategic plan requirements. The amendment also identified new requirements for local governments. In every county, each local homeless housing task force must prepare and recommend to its local government a five-year homeless housing plan. The plan must be in alignment with Commerce's plan and must be aimed at eliminating homelessness.

Tedd Kelleher presented the new [draft Local Homeless 5-Year Plan Guidance](#) that was released to local governments and stakeholders October 2. Commerce is meeting with county government staff, Consolidated Homeless Grantees and other stakeholders and accepting written comment on the draft

through November 9th. Per new legislative requirements, Commerce must release final Guidance by December 1, 2018 and county governments must submit new or updated Local Homeless 5-Year Plans based on this Guidance by December 2019.

The 2018 Annual Report on Homeless Grant Programs is working its way through the review process and is scheduled to be released on time to the legislature. The Report and Report Documents are located on the Commerce web page [here](#).

SACH Workplan update – Linda Olsen, SACH Vice Chair

SACH concluded work on their reentry recommendations to the Governor and will be releasing to the Department of Corrections and the Governor’s Office this week.

SACH is continuing work on an educational slide deck about homelessness that members will share in stakeholder communities.

SACH is reviewing stakeholder legislative agendas and developing a workplan/schedule for 2019.

ICH Workplan update – Theresa Slusher, ICH Vice Chair

ICH members will be exploring HEN data and potential recommendations.

ICH will carry forward the involuntary commitment discussion.

Affordable Housing Advisory Board update

Emily Grossman was unable to attend the meeting. The AHAB’s 2019 legislative agenda is included with this meeting summary. Affordable Housing Desk Reference attached to this meeting summary too.

Governor’s Office update

[Link](#) to state agency budget requests for 2019-2021. Agency decision packages and request legislation are reviewed through the end of November and the Governor’s budget is anticipated the 2nd week of December.

Department of Children, Youth and Families (DCYF) update

Sherrie Flores reported on some of the new and preliminary staffing positions and structure for DCYF. Staff are in the process of learning each other’s programs and how they connect to the agency vision and mission. Members were encouraged to access the website at www.dcyf.wa.gov for more specific information on the programs and services available.

Schoolhouse WA Report

Matt Lemon from Building Changes presented on the new Schoolhouse WA report on [Students Experiencing Homelessness in Washington’s K-12 Public Schools](#).

Involuntary Commitment Discussion

There is bipartisan interest in looking at involuntary commitment, and there is an intersection with homelessness. Members discussed.

Recently enacted California law:

https://leginfo.ca.gov/faces/billAnalysisClient.xhtml?bill_id=201720180SB1045

Article:

<https://sfbay.ca/2018/10/05/as-bill-takes-shape-debate-sharpens-over-homeless-conservatorship/>

Washington proposal:

<https://washingtonstatewire.com/republican-senators-put-forth-package-of-legislation-focused-on-prioritizing-mental-health-in-washington/>
<https://washingtonstatewire.com/wp-content/uploads/2018/10/Mental-Health-Press-Packet3.pdf>

SACH and ICH met separately beginning at 12 noon

SACH Meeting Summary

Reviewed reentry recommendations and letter to Governor and communications plan. Members can use the reentry recommendations after it reaches the Governor. Goal to have it sent by October 23rd.

Updated educational slide deck for SACH members to use in community and stakeholder meetings. Key messages were discussed. The group will work to finalize the slide deck at the next meeting.

Discussed topics/focus for 2019 work plan and meeting schedule. This included a discussion on how SACH could focus on racial equity as it relates to homelessness. The schedule may include longer in-person meetings, monthly conference calls, a legislative educational day, meeting with the Governor, and a year-end retreat connected to the annual Conference on Ending Homelessness hosted by the Washington Low-Income Housing Alliance.

ICH Meeting Summary

Theresa Slusher shared with the group about a series of meetings she recently convened between Community Service Office leadership, Coordinated Entry representatives, and county staff and, in some meetings, school Homeless Liaisons. She hosted 11 meetings across the state and in most of them the Housing and Essential Needs (HEN) program was discussed.

What Theresa learned is that with the addition of those on the Aged, Blind and Disabled (ABD) program last legislative session as an eligible population for HEN, communities have begun to prioritize limited HEN resources to those scoring high on a vulnerability assessment tool. The concern is that this is leaving those less vulnerable to linger on waiting lists, not likely to receive HEN, resulting in those that HEN originally was intended to serve being less likely to receive it.

With the availability of the Supported Housing and Supported Employment benefits under the Medicaid Demonstration Grant, and the benefit to connect a more intentional link to those services for HEN and ABD clients, Theresa asked for the group's interest in a review of the HEN program to look for potential recommendations changes to how the program serves the intended population.

Michele Thomas from the Washington Low Income Housing Alliance said that their members have expressed a need to increase resources for the program but have not expressed changes to the program itself.

During the joint meeting with SACH earlier in the day, Melodie Pazolt from HCA shared that earned income disregards similar to SSI and SSDI benefits would create better alignment with the Supported Employment benefit, allowing those who can work the ability to do so without destabilizing their housing. SSI and SSDI allow a 9 month work trial period before benefits are affected. Whether income guidelines were in the law or in WAC was unclear.

A current best practice which can be expanded is referring HEN clients to Foundational Community Supports (FCS), or better, getting HEN providers to become FCS providers. As of July there were 63

HEN qualified people receiving the Supported Housing benefit and 55 receiving the Supported Employment benefit. Enrollment has soared since July, so new numbers when available are expected to be near double that.

Liz Prince with Aging and Long Term Services shared that they have people enrolled in the Supportive Housing benefit who are not able to find housing. Available housing remains a big issue.

Making it known that people with only a substance abuse disorder are eligible for HEN was brought up, as was a concern that 69% of the HEN-eligible caseload is white according to ESA's 2017 Briefing Book.

ICH Member Updates

OSPI – Melinda Dyer was asked about the Superintendent of Public Instruction's big legislative ask to fund public schools. Melinda talked about the complicated funding environment for school districts right now. The group was concerned that cuts to staff time could mean decreases in the time dedicated to the important work of Homeless Liaisons.

SBCTC – Despite a lot of proposed legislation last session around students experiencing homelessness, no bills were passed. Erin Frasier reported that homelessness is not captured in college applications, so they are not in position to know how many students are experiencing homelessness for sure. The group wondered if DSHS's Research and Development Administration would be able to help with that data.

Next regular meeting, January 17, 2019 10:00 a.m. p.m. at the Sea-Tac Hilton

[ICH and SACH webpage](#)

#housinginallpolicies

