



State of Washington

State Advisory Council on Homelessness  
Interagency Council on Homelessness

1011 Plum Street SE - PO Box 42525 - Olympia, Washington 98504-2525 (360) 725-4000

**SACH/ICH Meeting Summary**

Kirsten Jewell  
SACH Chair

**Thursday, July 20, 2017**

**10:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m.**

**Hilton Hotel, SeaTac Washington**

Linda Olsen  
SACH Vice Chair

Tedd Kelleher  
ICH Chair

***SACH Appointed Members*** Kirsten Jewell, Linda Olsen, Lona Hammer, Melissa Taylor, Donna Batch, Shelia Babb Anderson, Jason Reittereiser, Tedd Kelleher

Theresa Slusher  
ICH Vice Chair

***SACH Guest*** Jason Greene

***ICH Agency Representatives***

Tedd Kelleher, Department of Commerce

Diane Klontz, Department of Commerce

Regina McDougall, Department of Commerce

Theresa Slusher, Economic Services, DSHS

Sherrie Flores, Children's Administration, DSHS

Melodie Pazolt, Behavioral Health Services, DSHS

Liz Prince, Home & Community Services, DSHS

Jon Brumbach, Health Care Authority

Donald Lachman, Department of Veteran Affairs

Bob Story, Department of Corrections

Erin Frasier, State Board of Community & Technical Colleges

Melinda Dyer, Office of Superintendent of Instruction

Gary Kamimura, Employment Security Department

Gwen Stamey, Office of Financial Management

Jim Baumgart, Governor's Policy Office

***Guests***

Emily Harris-Shears, Building Changes

John Demboski, HUD

Ben Miksch, United Healthcare Community Plan

Kate Baber, Washington Low Income Housing Alliance

Michelle Thomas, Washington Low Income Housing Alliance

***Staff***

Lori Salzer, Megan Kendig, Kathy Kinard, Department of Commerce

**Joint Meeting from 10:00 a.m. to 11:30 a.m.**

**Legislative Session and State Operating Budget Overview**

Tedd Kelleher outlined the Commerce homeless housing budget explaining the different fund sources as compared to last biennium. The Consolidated Homeless Grant (CHG) and the Housing and Essential Needs Grant (HEN) are the primary sources of funding that Commerce administers to address adult and family homelessness. These funds are awarded to each county via a formula based on historical spending, population, poverty, unemployment and percent of people with mental illness per a DSHS designation.

<b>Funding by program</b>	<b>Last biennial budget</b>	<b>New biennial budget</b>
CHG standard (can assist all homeless sub populations)	\$29,542,836	\$28,992,562
CHG rapid rehousing rental assistance for TANF families	\$ 5,000,000	\$5,000,000
CHG rapid rehousing rental assistance for families	0	\$1,000,000
HEN	\$58,914,101	\$58,914,101

(CHG is funded by the document recording fees and HEN is funded with state general funds.)

Commerce also received funds for the Homeless Student Stability Program (HSSP). This program was first created last biennium and requires Commerce to contract with school districts who in turn sub contract with local homeless service providers to support homeless students and their families and unaccompanied youth with housing resources.

<b>Funding by program</b>	<b>Last biennial budget</b>	<b>New biennial budget</b>
Homeless Student Stability	1,000,000	2,000,000

(HSSP is funded with document recording fees.)

Commerce also passes through funds to Building Changes for the Washington Youth and Families Fund. They administer competitive grants statewide for homeless services.

<b>Funding by program</b>	<b>Last biennial budget</b>	<b>New biennial budget</b>
Washington Youth and Families Fund	1,000,000	4,000,000

(WFF is funded with document recording fees.)

The Office of Homeless Youth (OHY) received full carry forward funding over the next biennium. In addition, OHY received a \$3.5 million proviso which can be used to expand shelter capacity for youth under the age of 18, increase performance outcomes, provide technical assistance, fund integrated services, and make innovation grants available to public entities that prevent youth from exiting public systems into homelessness.

<b>Funding by program</b>	<b>Last biennial budget</b>	<b>New biennial budget</b>
Office of Homeless Youth Programs	22,076,000	25,576,000

Commerce received new funding for Homeless Management System Upgrades (\$1,300,000) and a program to address exits from psychiatric hospitals and jails (\$3,250,000).

### **Commerce Summer Bulletin**

The bulletin will be sent the end of July to update stakeholders on the work of SACH, ICH, the Office of Youth Homelessness, and the Affordable Housing Advisory Board.

### **Homelessness in Washington Annual Report**

Commerce is working on completing the *2017 Annual Report on the Homeless Grant Programs* and updating the *Homeless Housing Strategic Plan*. Because Commerce needs to submit the documents in early October, they will provide SACH and ICH members an electronic copy to review in September.

SACH and ICH members offered suggestions to Commerce about framing the Annual Report and the update to the Strategic Plan. Suggestions included:

- Positively state performance and outcomes, i.e. number housed, number remaining housed
- Including family and individual stories and examples of the work as well as data and performance
- Give context for state investments, i.e. use HIC data to show context for state and local doc fees leveraging or supported by faith community, fundraisers, United Ways, CFD, federal support, etc.

### **SACH and ICH met separately from 11:30 a.m. to 2:00 p.m.**

#### **SACH Meeting Summary:**

SACH members prepped for the meeting by developing responses to a series of questions about tiny homes. These included the following:

1. How should tiny houses be defined in the context of recommendations from SACH?
2. (As a values statement) what are the minimum standards for shelter/housing that people live in? What should be the minimum acceptable building standards for tiny houses covered under these recommendations?
3. Should the use of tiny houses be recommended only for certain homeless interventions (*e.g.* shelter, interim housing, permanent supportive housing)?
4. When are tiny houses the right response? What are the broad circumstances under which tiny houses should be used? Are there certain market triggers (*e.g.* rental rates or vacancy rates)?
5. Are there specific populations for which tiny houses are appropriate?
6. Should state resources be used to develop tiny house projects? Under what circumstances? How should the use of state funds for tiny houses be balanced with the needs for other types of housing interventions?
7. How do tiny houses fit into the core elements of a high functioning homeless crisis response system (as defined in the State Homeless Housing Strategic Plan)?

Members agreed on the following concepts as the basis for moving forward to develop recommendations:

- Using the term “tiny shelters” to promote the concept of temporary.
- May be an appropriate crisis response to unsheltered homelessness in a community with insufficient emergency shelter beds.
- Must have electricity, heat, ventilation and insulation.
- Must have access to hygiene and cooking facilities, though they don’t need to be internal to the unit.
- A percent of units should be ADA compliant.
- State homeless housing funding is already an allowable fund source for case management, utilities and Porta Potties associated with emergency shelters.
- Access to federal or state/local document recording fee funded units must be through the local coordinated entry system.
- Tiny shelters are not permanent housing solutions for individuals or counties.

*Value Statements:*

1. Ideal state is safe and affordable housing for every person who needs it.
2. In a time when many people are sleeping outside, tiny shelters may offer an emergency shelter option that meets the immediate need and protects people from the elements and extreme harm resulting from unsheltered homelessness.
3. Tiny shelters are not a replacement for affordable housing and should not replace or supplant affordable housing.

**New Vice Chair**

Kirsten Jewell made a motion to elect Linda Olsen as the new Vice Chair. It was approved by the membership.

**ICH Meeting Summary**

ICH members reviewed ICH Inventory, operations budget as passed this session and discussed agency request legislation around housing/homelessness.

- Commerce agency request legislation

- For unsheltered homeless families
  - Rapid Rehousing (\$56 million, 6,910 households)
  - Permanent Supportive Housing (\$36 million, 1,256 households)
- 50% reduction in unsheltered homelessness for chronically homeless
  - \$33 million, 1,372 households

Additional possibilities offered from members included:

- Homeless outreach (\$1 million in Governor’s budget not included in enacted budget). This could also be a DSHS-Behavioral Health Administration request.
- From Governor’s office/Jim Baumgart
  - How can we support local jurisdictions in meeting emergency shelter needs?
  - Housing preservation. How can we prevent losing affordable/subsidized housing units due to preservation issues?
  - Incentivize affordable housing development, specifically on brownfields, and modernize construction industry to lower construction costs.
  - Address re-entry issues/other systems discharging clients into homelessness. How can we better synchronize this effort? Focus on certain populations?
- Housing Trust Fund – obtain stable capital source
- Be strategic about maximizing the utilization of Medicaid funding (1115 Transformation Waiver)
- Revisit list ICH developed during Goal Council 4 strategy meeting

Data sharing update/brainstorm

- Other models to research
  - Existing Hot Spotter and by-name list work statewide
  - [Data Across Sectors for Health](#)
  - DSHS Client Registry – shares w/ “business partners”
- Can PRISM (a tool used in Washington State to manage high-risk Medicaid enrollees) be utilized?
- Include Managed Care Organizations

**Next regular meeting, October 19, 2017 10:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. at the Sea-Tac Hilton**

[ICH and SACH webpage](#)

**#housinginallpolicies**