



State of Washington

State Advisory Council on Homelessness
Interagency Council on Homelessness

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Lael Duncan
SACH Chair

Kirsten Jewell
SACH Co-Chair

SACH/ICH MEETING SUMMARY

Thursday, April 21, 2016

10:00am to 1:30pm

Red Lion Hotel SeaTac, Washington

SACH Appointed Members Attending Lael Duncan, Lona Hammer, Kirsten Jewell, Linda Olsen, Melissa Taylor, Debbie Paul, Tedd Kelleher

ICH Agency Representatives Attending Mireya Beltre, Department of Social and Health Services Children's Administration, Donald Lachman, Department of Veteran's Affairs, Devon Schrum and Robert Story, Department of Corrections, Jim Baumgart Governor's Office, Tedd Kelleher, Department of Commerce, Theresa Slusher, Department of Social and Health Services Economic Services, Gary Kamimura, Employment Security Department, Jon Brumbach, Health Care Authority, Erin Frasier, State Board of Community and Technical Colleges

Guests Michelle Thomas, Washington Low Income Housing Alliance

Commerce Staff Kathy Kinard, Diane Klontz, Corina Grigoras, Meredith Randell, Lori Salzer, Leslie Wolff

Planning for the next Annual State Plan

Tedd Kelleher reviewed steps and a brief outline for the next Annual State Plan update. The next plan is due to the Office of Financial Management at the end of the summer and the final report to the legislature in December.

Governor's Policy Office Update

Jim Baumgart shared state agency 2016 supplemental operating and capital budgets.

Affordable Housing and Homelessness Survey Results & Planning for the July joint meeting with AHAB

SACH co-chair Kirsten Jewell presented the survey results. There were 63 total responses. Summary results included that the availability of affordable housing is impacting homeless service providers' abilities to address homelessness. In addition, counties are experiencing a decline in the condition of existing affordable housing.

Considering the survey responses, SACH and ICH members discussed and identified the top three barriers to addressing homelessness and the top three statewide policy recommendations in small groups. This information will be used by the SACH chair and co-chair to plan with the Affordable Housing Advisory Board chair for the July joint meeting. The groups reported as follows:

Group #1

Barriers and recommendations:

1. Adequate funding of mainstream services
2. Eliminating barriers to housing (SOID, criminal records and the 3x the rent rule)
3. Tax incentives for landlords to set aside a percentage of units for those with income or other barriers
4. Statewide landlord liaison program

Group #2

Barriers:

1. Lack of affordable housing units
2. Person based barriers – all listed are major barriers
3. Definition of homelessness

Policy Recommendations:

1. A statewide housing vision
 - Looking at alternative housing
 - Intentional communities
2. Development of data to better understand homelessness
 - Developing a better resource directory
3. Communication, education, and collaboration between partners and communities

Group #3

Barriers:

1. Lack of inventory of affordable housing
2. Need more connection between housing providers and health care providers particularly, as the homeless population ages
3. Landlords perceive risks for renting to homeless tenants (we discussed the concept of “fidelity bonding” which is used in the employment sector to give employers assurance with “higher-risk” hires)

Policy Recommendations:

1. Promote production of affordable housing, particularly housing connected with transit, and innovative models of affordable housing
2. Embed housing even further in the transition process for Behavioral Health Organizations, Accountable Communities of Health, and education
3. Incentivize landlords to reduce rents and accept higher-risk tenants

Group #4

Barriers:

1. Lack of community support (NIMBY-ism)
2. Not enough affordable housing units (goes with funding)
3. Lack of access to supportive services (specifically linkage to housing)

Policy Recommendations –

1. Engage landlord perspective (outreach, boards?)
2. Sustainable and innovative funding streams (document recording, etc.)
3. Align services with available housing (permanent supportive housing)
4. Make landlords “whole” – mitigate risks to avoid income discrimination

WA Low Income Housing Alliance Legislative Report

Michelle Thomas shared the final information on the supplemental capital and operating budgets as they relate to investments in affordable housing and homelessness programs, including youth programs. You can find more here: <http://www.wliha.org/blog/sine-die-part-2-disappointing-budget>

Next Meeting: Thursday, July 21, 2016, Sea-Tac, WA