



State of Washington

Interagency Council on Homelessness

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Tedd Kelleher
Chair

ICH Meeting Summary

Theresa Slusher
Vice Chair

Thursday, January 18, 2018

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

Department of Commerce

ICH Agency Representatives

Tedd Kelleher, Department of Commerce

Cary Retlin, Department of Commerce

Theresa Slusher, Economic Services, DSHS

Melodie Pazolt, Behavioral Health Services, DSHS

Liz Prince, Home & Community Services, DSHS

Melinda Dyer, Office of Superintendent of Instruction

Gary Kamimura, Employment Security Department

Jim Baumgart, Governor's Policy Office

Erin Frasier, State Board of Community and Technical Colleges

Jon Brumbach, Health Care Authority

Barbara Logan, Department of Veteran Affairs

Guest

Katy Miller, United States Interagency Council on Homelessness (USICH)

John Demboski, Housing and Urban Development, Region X

Staff

Lori Salzer, Department of Commerce

Summary:

Katy Miller from the USICH gave a presentation on current activities. Key points from the presentation:

- West coast differs from rest of nation in the critical lack of affordable housing
- Line up and examine and local, state and federal responsibilities and efforts to address homelessness
- Set ambitious statewide goals
 - Set targets and milestones
 - Use timelines and dashboards to monitor progress
 - Use subcommittees to work between meetings, USICH organizes efforts by homeless sub populations

- Use data, pivot and make changes based on data
- Track new funds and resources
- Track new units and tie to services
- ICH members should make recommendations and decisions
- Utilize federal Technical Assistance

Tedd Kelleher summarized the history of the Washington State ICH, since its inception in 2006 with the Homeless Assistance Act.

Melodie Pazolt provided a summary of Housing 3000 (a subcommittee of ICH) and its accomplishments.

Theresa presented some work in recent years between DSHS's Economic Services Administration and Commerce to reduce the number of families experiencing homelessness.

ICH members spent the remainder of the meeting discussing gaps and needs across agencies and in the work of addressing homelessness as a Council. The group discussed potential goals and targets for the ICH, and what the roles of agencies might be that are less connected to addressing homelessness.

Theresa will follow up with further messaging and send members summary options for 2018 work plan.

- presented the “Tiny Shelter Report” and ideas for making key stakeholders, in addition to the Governor, aware of these recommendations. PowerPoint attached to this meeting summary.
- The Tiny Shelter Report is posted here: <http://www.commerce.wa.gov/wp-content/uploads/2016/10/hau-sach-tinyselters-report-10-23-2017.pdf>

ICH agencies homeless role/responsibility inventory update – Theresa Slusher, DSHS, ICH Vice Chair

- Theresa shared that she and Tedd have been hosting 1:1 discussions with member agencies to take a deeper dive into agency directives that offer a response to homelessness. A primary goal of this exercise is to identify gaps and opportunities to take new joint agency legislative to scale in 2019.

Affordable Housing Advisory Board standing report – Corina Grigoras, Commerce, Housing Finance Unit Managing Director

- Commerce is examining how to implement AHAB’s Housing Affordability Response Team (HART) recommendations, both internally and in collaboration with the Governor’s office. The full HART report is located here: <http://search.commerce.wa.gov/Pages/results.aspx?k=ahab>
- AHAB members and staff have been presenting the report recommendations to planning groups and other stakeholders including presentations at the Master Builders of King and Snohomish County’s Housing Summit and at the Washington Realtor’s Association’s Housing Advisory Council meeting.
- The Joint Legislative Audit and Review Committee study is underway. The original proviso called for “an evaluation and comparison of the cost efficiency of market rate housing in Washington versus publicly subsidized housing projects intended to assist low-income households.”
- Commerce’s Growth Management Services is managing the Buildable Lands consultant contract. Senate Bill 5254 requires Commerce work with a third party consultant to develop guidelines for buildable lands reports. The Ruckelshaus Center received funding from the legislature to undertake a two-year study of the Growth Management Act and make recommendations.

New Statewide Re-entry Council Director, new Behavioral Health Housing Director – Diane Klontz, Community Services and Housing Division Assistant Director

- Diane introduced Cary Retlin as the new Behavioral Health Housing Director and Chris Poulos as the new Statewide Re-entry Council Director. You can read more about Chris here: <https://content.govdelivery.com/accounts/WADOC/bulletins/1bea3c7>

Commerce homeless request legislation

This information was not presented at the meeting due to lack of time but is instead inserted into the meeting summary.

- Agency decision packages for the biennial budget are posted to the Office of Financial Management website here: <https://ofm.wa.gov/budget/find-budget-instructions/2017-19-biennium-budget-agency-requests>
- Commerce’s information is here: <http://www.commerce.wa.gov/about-us/commerce-budget-legislative-information/>.
- Commerce has a decision package titled **“PL B5 – Youth and Families in Need of Services”** which has not been posted on either of the webpages linked above yet. The request is for a revision to the Family Reconciliation Act; it merges the CHINS and At Risk Youth petitions into one new petition option titled “Families in Need of Services” (FINS). The FINS petition process is intended to compel system support and services with the aim of preventing youth homelessness. The budget request is to provide pass-through funds to Commerce for the resources required to implement case management support in juvenile courts and services to youth and families under jurisdiction of FINS.

New [Department of Children, Youth & Families](#) - Governor’s Office update, Jim Baumgart

- The new Department is two months into creating a new agency and moving toward a staff and work plan that will include operational functions by July 2018.
- Agency leadership have been meeting statewide with stakeholders and community members to hear recommendations.

Washington Low Income Housing Alliance updates – Michele Thomas, WLIHA

- 2018 Conference on Ending Homelessness – call for session proposals due November 9 <http://www.wliha.org/conference>
- 2018 State Legislative Agenda, attached to this meeting summary
 - Secure significant funding for the Housing Trust Fund, pass a Capital Budget
 - Secure and increase funding for programs that prevent and end homelessness
 - Fund services to help people with disabilities and experience of long term homelessness access permanent housing
 - Outlaw discrimination against renters based on use of rental income assistance

- Protect state rental and income assistance for disabled, elderly and extremely low income adults.

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

SACH Meeting Summary

Michelle Thomas from the Washington Low Income Housing Alliance (WLIHA) presented ideas on how the SACH and members could advocate for homeless issues within the framework of the Executive Order.

- SACH asked staff to reach out to the Governor's office to determine if SACH can sign on in support of the WLIHA legislative agenda.
- The SACH Chair asked the WLIHA to draft an advocacy plan for their group to consider.

Members discussed distribution plan for Tiny Shelter Report, including possible press release.

- Members discussed using the Tiny Shelters Report as a tool to educate the public about their role and advance policy to end homelessness.
- The Tiny Shelter Report is posted here: <http://www.commerce.wa.gov/wp-content/uploads/2016/10/hau-sach-tinyshelters-report-10-23-2017.pdf>

2018 Work Plan ideas were introduced. Members agreed on a November conference call to discuss their 2018 work plan.

ICH Meeting Summary

ICH 1:1, Inventory and next steps – Theresa Slusher, DSHS, ICH Vice Chair

Members who previously met with Tedd and Theresa summarized what was discussed and discovered at the 1:1 meetings. Information about WorkSource offices can be found [here](#).

Theresa emphasized that connecting people experiencing homelessness to mainstream services is a HUD priority. The meetings taken place were part of the inspiration to hold webinars sharing information about these resources with homeless providers from across the state.

After the remaining 1:1 meetings conclude, Theresa will update the ICH Inventory and send out to the group for review.

ICH 2018 Workplan – ICH Member discussion

- Coordinated Entry – members discussed the increasing focus and reliance on the role Coordinated Entry plays in communities in terms of closing side doors to homeless assistance and having accurate data about who is being served, but more importantly who is not being served. What does working across systems and referral to CE look like when someone is exiting another system of care? CE and homeless system providers are typically struggling financially, so what does increased reliance on CE look like in terms of funding stability for that system? Working by-name lists is a best practice, how can other systems of care assist CE in outreach to ensure an accurate by-name/active list is developed and maintained?

Next regular meeting, January 18, 2018 10:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. at the Sea-Tac Hilton

All ICH and SACH members will receive Outlook Calendar appointments for the 2018 calendar year.

[ICH and SACH webpage](#)

#housinginallpolicies