



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, April 19, 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, Donna Batch, Jason Rittereiser, Arthur Castleton, Jesse Greene, Tedd Kelleher

Tedd Kelleher
ICH Chair

SACH Guest Matt Davis

Theresa Slusher
ICH Vice Chair

ICH Agency Representatives
Tedd Kelleher, Department of Commerce
Mary Forbes, Department of Veteran Affairs
Theresa Slusher, Economic Services, DSHS
Sherrie Flores, Children's Administration, 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

Guests

Michele Thomas, Washington Low Income Housing Alliance
Emily Grossman, Department of Commerce, Affordable Housing
Advisory Board Representative
Ben Miksch, United Healthcare

Staff

Lori Salzer, Kathy Kinard, Department of Commerce

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

Legislative wrap up – Michele Thomas, Washington Low Income Housing Alliance Chair and Tedd Kelleher, Department of Commerce

- Michele shared a PowerPoint (attached) that outlined the legislation passed in the 2018 session supporting affordable housing and homelessness. There were several significant

and important wins including a capital budget with \$107 million for the Housing Trust Fund, passage of the source of income discrimination and an increase to the document recording fee which was also made permanent. Both ICH and SACH members acknowledged the tremendous efforts of the Washington Low Income Housing Alliance.

- Tedd shared a PowerPoint (attached) outlining some of the high level next steps for implementing the new legislation.

West Coast Convening – Tedd Kelleher, Department of Commerce

Tedd shared about a recent meeting with Oregon and California on affordable housing and homelessness. Meetings with these two states take place about every 6 months where staff come together to share best practices, data and strategies. At the most recent meeting Washington State shared the [County Report Cards](#) and [Homeless Project Dashboard](#) as a tools used to evaluate system performance. The next convening will be in September.

State agency legislative decision packages - All

The following ideas were suggested by members for consideration by ICH agencies as they develop their decision packages for the 2019 legislative session.

1. Stabilize and increase the [Age Blind Disabled](#) benefit. Currently the benefit is *up to* \$197 if a person's countable income is less than \$339. If a person is in subsidized housing the benefit is reduced. End ABD recipient not getting full \$197 due to housing situation (in temporary rental assistance program) or while in homelessness.
2. Create a new rent assistance program for people who are Medicaid eligible and receiving the supported housing benefit.
3. Transition period for target populations receiving Supported Employment services, such as what Social Security does as a trial period, or Ticket To Work so that people who earn over \$339 per month do not become ineligible for Housing and Essential Needs (HEN) and become homeless.
 - a. A different solution would be to increase the limit on earned income for people on Supported Employment and HEN/ABD – or both increase the limit and add an exempt term of benefits for those trying to work.
4. Increase in Housing and Essential Needs budget to address the state's [Alcoholism and Drug Addiction Treatment and Support Act](#) (ADATSA) services and connect to the opiate use crisis.
5. Increase the state's Housing and Essential Needs budget.
6. Address the issue of housing for people leave correctional facilities that discharge into homelessness or soon after their limited housing assistance ends.
7. Make families not eligible for [Temporary Assistance for Needy Families](#) (TANF) (because of time limits or because they are receiving social security disability) eligible for [Working Connections childcare](#).
8. Increase length of TANF benefit.
9. Allow TANF parents on WorkFirst to get up to one year of job training instead of only 6 months as most employers want one year of experience.
10. Eliminate conflicting requirements:

- a. TANF and or CPS recipients being encouraged not to work and focus on mental health/sobriety/or other hoops while homeless or in temporary rental assistance programs as opposed to employment which could secure housing
 - b. TANF recipients denied paid programming like Community Jobs because DSHS has required chemical dependency or DV counseling for their work first activity while homeless or on temporary rental assistance as opposed to a supportive employment mindset
11. Plan to address the “silver tsunami” low income senior housing crisis.
 12. Develop plan to expand capacity to build affordable housing in rural areas. Incentivize rural development.
 13. Address the lack of ongoing operating subsidies for affordable housing projects. Either expand the O&M program or create a new generic one.

SACH Workplan update – Linda Olsen, SACH Vice Chair

- The priority identified for SACH’s workplan this year is supporting the ReEntry Council on its housing initiatives for people who are re-entering our communities after incarceration. Since there are several existing DOC programs that are providing some support with this, SACH needs to work closely with the ReEntry Council on how we can best support its work with seamless housing options for this often vulnerable population. Christopher Poulos, Executive Director of the ReEntry Council, will be able to join future SACH calls to help frame. Linda is also on the ReEntry Council and will bring the SACH desire to be supportive to the 4/25 ReEntry Council meeting.
- The Tiny Shelters report and slide presentation continue to be circulated.
- Other SACH members are focusing attention on education campaigns on homelessness for local communities.

ICH Workplan update – Theresa Slusher, ICH Vice Chair

Theresa shared that in January, Katy Miller from the US Interagency Council, shared her perspective on how state Councils can best organize their work to address homelessness, based on learnings from the USICH, which have achieved a number of successes in the last 5 to 10 years. Next steps in ICH’s Workplan involves a review of the council’s structure, relationships to other statewide and federal councils, task forces, work groups and advisory committees, and responsibilities to support the state Homeless Plan.

Updates:

New Victim Service Funding

Linda Olsen shared that the Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) created a \$50 million domestic violence set aside in their annual [application](#) for Continuums of Care.

These funds are for rental assistance for victims of domestic violence, dating violence and stalking who are experiencing homelessness.

The [Washington State Coalition Against Domestic Violence](#) (WSCADV) strongly encourages local providers and coalitions to work with their CoC to highlight the need for DV-specific housing and DV programs' efficacy (successful outcomes). WSCADV is encouraging DV/victim services providers to pursue the funds.

New Disabilities Funding

HUD announced the availability of up to \$100 million for Mainstream Vouchers to provide voucher rental assistance to households that include a non-elderly person with disabilities. HUD will target funding to applications that show the capacity and commitment to serve persons with disabilities who are transitioning out of institutional or other segregated settings, at serious risk of institutionalization, homeless, or at risk of becoming homeless.

HUD strongly encourages PHAs to develop partnerships with health and human service agencies and other community-based organizations serving persons with disabilities. A summary of the Notice of Funding Availability, including detailed rating criteria is available on [Grants.gov](#) under Funding Opportunity Number FR-6100-N-43. Applications are due on June 18th.

1115 Foundational Community Supports Program

Melodie Pazolt provided the following update:

The 1115 Foundational Community Supports Program launched service delivery in January 2018. Amerigroup the third party administrator administering the benefits has approximately 65 Providers Contracted in a 196 locations. Of those 94 are for supported employment and 28 for supportive housing. 74 entities are providing both supported employment and supported housing. [Provider List](#) and [Provider Map](#)

To date there are 233 people enrolled.

- SE: 191
- SH: 41
- Both: 1

Amerigroup has two new websites:

Provider facing website - <https://providers.amerigroup.com/pages/wa-foundational-community-supports.aspx>

Public facing website - <https://www.myamerigroup.com/washington-fcs/home.html>

Affordable Housing Advisory Board standing report

AHAB's focus areas in 2018: condo liability reform, Housing Trust Fund requests, reinstating the Public Works Infrastructure account, Buildable Lands/GMA through the Ruckleshaus project), other land use legislation that supports development of housing.

The Finance Commission is funding development of a new data dashboard, which should be finished around October, followed by real time updates for the next 3-4 years. This platform will be used to do the next Affordable Housing Needs Assessment. In the meantime, the AHAB will be developing the RFP Scope of Work for the next Needs Assessment, finalizing it around the end of June. Paul Purcell is the new AHAB Chair.

SACH and ICH met separately from 12 noon to 2:00 p.m.

SACH Meeting Summary

Re-entry

Members reviewed the March conference call policy and legislative recommendations on *Re-entry from the Department of Corrections to Stable Housing*.

Unfortunately no staff from the Department of Corrections (DOC) or State Re-entry Council were able to attend the meeting.

The following are **draft** recommendations from the SACH regarding releases from the DOC for individuals identified as homeless and participating in the Earned Release Date housing voucher program and other similar programs. SACH plans to continue to discuss these recommendations during the upcoming monthly conference calls and has invited DOC and State Re-entry Council staff to join them.

Policy Recommendations

- Commerce should include in the Consolidated Homeless Grant Guidelines the requirement that counties work with their local DOC staff on decreasing exits from the ERD program to homelessness.
- ERD program participants should be provided with information about the local coordinated entry program upon entry into the ERD program and/or exit from the program.
- DOC parole officers should work with the coordinated entry program and housing case managers from local organizations to develop a housing stability plan for ERD program parolees.
- ERD program parolees should be entered into the Homeless Management Information System.
- Consolidated Homeless Grant Guidelines should be adjusted to define ERD housing as transitional housing so that parolees exiting the ERD program would qualify for rapid rehousing and other housing programs.

- Affordable Housing programs funded with Washington State grant funds, including the Housing Trust Fund, should include a requirement that owners/operators not be able to discriminate in tenant selection based on prior criminal history.

Legislative Recommendations

- For the ERD program, the amount of monthly stipend should be increased and indexed based on average local rents, and funding for the program be increased commensurately
- For the ERD program, the number of months that a parolee is able to receive the rental assistance should be increased to up to six months and/or made to be consistent with other rapid rehousing programs administered by Commerce
- Clarify how Landlord-Tenant Law applies to the DOC ERD program

Members will review the community education and outreach materials during the May conference call.

Emily Grossman, the [AHAB](#) representative, shared the [2017 Affordable Housing Update](#) and explained next steps for updating the [Affordable Housing Needs Study](#). The last one was completed in 2015. Emily will update the members again on during the May conference call.

SACH members are scheduled to participate in two monthly conference calls before the next in-person meeting. The calls are scheduled for May 17th and June 21st from 10:00 a.m. to 12 noon.

Matt Davis from the City of Spokane applied to the Governor’s Boards and Commissions office for the vacant local government seat on the SACH. He attended as a guest at the meeting. Kirsten is moving his name forward for recommendation for the appointment.

ICH Meeting Summary

Orbit Map - Members reviewed and discussed the ICH Orbit Map document (attached) and decided that partnering with existing groups working to address homelessness makes sense.

Theresa agreed to develop language for a formal ask to appropriate groups on the Orbit Map to partner with ICH as a committee or a partner. The language will include the intent to:

- develop a two-way relationship, identifying what ICH can do for them and what they can do for the ICH
- ask that partners bring issues and barriers closer to the ground to ICH

Feedback on the Orbit Map included editing the document to highlight that Commerce is the common denominator among all of the players identified. Also recommended is to add a fuller description of each group on the back of the Orbit Map visual.

ICH Members – Theresa and Tedd will reach out to the new Department of Children, Youth and Families for representation on ICH as well as follow up with those who have attended infrequently this past year such as the State Board for Community and Technical Colleges (SBCTC).

Decision Packages – Tedd will send out a draft decision package from Commerce.

Presentations – Tedd and Theresa will reach out to Office of Homeless Youth and SBCTC and request presentations at future meetings.

Next regular meeting, July 19, 2018 10:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. at the Sea-Tac Hilton

[ICH and SACH webpage](#)

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