

**Yakima County Homeless Coalition (YHC)**  
**Yakima County 5-Year Plan Development & Review Meeting**  
**May 21, 2019 Minutes**

**PRESENT**

Joleen Garcia (YWCA), Cheri Kilty (YWCA), Geoff Baker (Gen Hope), T. Gaulket (Entrust), Leslie Hatton (Young Adult Shelter), Sara Watkins, Lee Murdock (HNYC), Steven Hays (JR), Holly Timmerman (Northwest Justice Project), Meredith Bruelt (Northwest Justice Project), Kelly Penfold (Alpha Team), Jackie Hertel (LWVYC), Julie Growe (Camp Hope Sunrise), Spenser Hatton (Young Adult Shelter), Beth Dannhardt (Yakima Homeless Network), Joan Davenport (City of Yakima), Milke Johnson (Union Gospel Mission), Tino Alonso (Yakima Nation), Tom Silva (Noah's Ark), Dave Brown (Yakima County Veterans), Angie Girard, David Hacker (Noah's Ark), Theresah Yanez (Noah's Ark), Mary Stephenson (NAMI Yakima), Scott Thielen (Union Gospel Mission), Joan Jondus (City of Grandview), Esther Magasis (Homeless Administrative Manager YVCOG), Kellie Connaughton (Yakima Greenway), Joshua Jackson (Rod's House), Yakima County Commissioner Mike Leita, Yakima County Prosecutor Joe Brusic, Board of Yakima County Commissioners Clerk Melissa Paul

**HANDOUTS**

Agenda, YHC 5-Year Plan Preliminary Assessment Survey Results, Acronym Guide with Goal Appendix, Local Plan Guidelines, Progress Report Card.

Meeting facilitator Kellie Connaughton called the meeting to order at 1:38 pm  
Following introductions of all present, a statement of purpose for convening was provided:

**5-YEAR PLAN WORK**

*The primary purpose of the Yakima County Homeless Coalition (YHC) is to develop and review the Yakima County 5-Year Plan, which will be reviewed annually by the Board of County Commissioners (BOCC), who is the local legislative authority and holds the ultimate responsibility for the homeless housing programs within Yakima County, as outlined in RCW 43.185C.*

The YHC Executive Committee will consolidate feedback from today's meeting, along with other resources and work from future general membership meetings and use to develop actionable items to incorporate in the 5-Year Plan.

The Exec Committee members are as follows:

- County Commissioner Representative: **Mike Leita**, term determined by BOCC
- City of Yakima Representative: **Brad Hill**, term determined by City of Yakima
- YHC Representative: **Rhonda Hauff**, April 2019-December 2020 (1 year)
- For Profit Business Representative: **Kyle Curtis**, April 2019-December 2020 (1 year)
- YVCOG Member Representative: **Joan Souders**, (2 year)
- YHC Representative: **Mike Johnson**, April 2019-December 2021 (2 years)
- Homeless/Formerly Homeless Individual: **Kelly Penfold**, April 2019-December 2021 (2 years)
- YHC Representative: **Tino Alonso**, April 2019-December 2022 (3 years)
- Public Safety Representative: **Joseph Brusic**, April 2019-December 2022 (3 years)

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Yakima County Commissioner Mike Leita stated the YHC 5-Year Plan is intended to be a living document that will evolve and be modified over time with community input heard and incorporated. The YHC should be focused on seeking solutions and it is encouraging to see so many organizations coming together.

Yakima County is reassuming Homeless Program Administration. Esther Magasis in her role as Homeless Administrative Manager will move from the Yakima Valley Conference of Governments to Yakima County July 1, 2019.

Esther presented survey results from 21 respondents. Kellie guided an overview discussion.

*Questions and comments pertaining to the survey:*

- There is currently a Coordinated Entry System (CES) in place. The County has 3 entry points for Coordinated Entry Entity (CEE): Rod's House, Neighborhood Health, and Northwest Community Action Center. Some Coordinated Entry Entities offer mobile and telephonic assessment and entry.
- Does the current program accurately assess and prioritize need? Is the scoring rubric effective?
- Concern that some entities, like the Union Gospel Mission, are not receiving CES services. Additional outreach to these community partners may be needed.
- Need is assessed with the goal of prioritizing services and matching to available housing inventory.
- Are 3 CEE's sufficient to cover need?
- Can measurable data be provided to YHC such as: available housing inventory, how long before an individual is placed, other metrics to determine if CEE system is helping to improve placement.
- Concern that potential shelter locations are not being utilized due to bureaucratic or other barriers to use.
- No resources for currently incarcerated persons, this is not coordinated because these individuals are not "homeless" until they are released. This may be a barrier to accessing services.
- Mental health and addiction contributing factors to incarceration and homelessness.
- Yakima County spends 82% of tax dollars on criminal justice needs. Recidivism is a big problem because underlying issues are not addressed.
- How will Veterans Services related to homelessness be included?
- Reference to recent legislation (WA SB-6560) requiring that any youth discharged from a public system of care must be discharged into safe and stable housing.
- The 5-Year Plan should focus on preventing homeless instead of just intervening.
- Concern expressed that Lower Valley communities may not be receiving services. Lack of CES/CEE
- Concern that due to lack of CES/CEE homeless service providers are creating own informal entry programs and not sharing data or cooperating in joint efforts.

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- How will the plan address juvenile services – no current beds designated for juveniles.
- Education to increase utilization of available programs (e.g. 2-1-1 program)
- Coordinated funding for homeless programs. Desire to see new process for funding included in the 5-Year Plan with emphasis on transparency and equitable distribution. Treat all programs equally.
- Funding cycles to consider calendar year vs. fiscal year or other schedule. Identify and calendar grant cycles. May need to bridge a funding gap. Noah’s Ark currently experiencing a funding issue due to federal government shutdown.
- Define “emergency” for use of specific funds – a catastrophic community disaster situation. Should be objectively defined to allow for prompt response to an unexpected need.
- Define funding streams and identify other income sources.
- Monitor program performance and efficacy for funding reauthorization.
- A summary of past efforts and results is desired to help inform future goals.
- Collaboration with municipalities to consider what efforts have been made in the past and what progress has been made.
- Can there be a stipend or compensation made available to include currently or recently homeless individuals in future YHC meetings and efforts? Would a time reimbursement enable participation?
- Important to engage with homeless individuals to understand their needs. Site visits were proposed.
- How are/will goals be prioritized in 5-Year Plan?
- What funding is mandatory and what funding is discretionary?
- YHC should consolidate and coordinate information and efforts to avoid duplicity.
- Consider creation of subcommittees and invite community specialists to address/inform specific areas e.g.: Youth & Family (may include school districts and youth services providers), Housing (may include Yakima Valley Landlords Association and CWHBA members), Shelter Services, etc.
- Executive Committee soliciting questions and feedback to inform the direction of the 5-Year Plan
- What other organizations or individuals should be included in the Yakima Homeless Coalition?

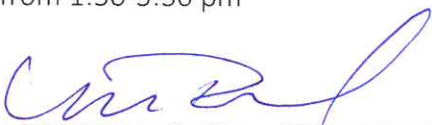
**NEXT STEPS**

- YHC meeting participants are asked to email Esther Magasis - [esther.magasis@yvcog.org](mailto:esther.magasis@yvcog.org) with additional questions, comments, or contacts related to the YHC 5-Year-Plan.
- BOCC will determine deadline for feedback.
- Data from Yakima Homeless Network will be provided to YHC before July meeting.

**NEXT MEETING**

The Next YHC meeting will be held Tuesday, July 16, 2019 from 1:30-3:30 pm

Meeting adjourned at 3:30 p.m.



Attest: Melissa Paul, Clerk of the Board