

Yakima County Homeless Coalition

MEETING MINUTES

July 16, 2019

**CALL TO ORDER** The July 16, 2019 came to order at 1:34 p.m.

**INTRODUCTIONS** Members present: Valorie Bazard, Sheri Rynd (Camp Hope), Kelly Penfold (Alpha Team), Rhonda Hauff (Yakima Neighborhood Health Services), Javier Vela (Yakima Schools), Geoff Baker, Mike Leita (Yakima County), Pastor Don J. Davis Jr. (Bethel AME Church), Theresa Yanez (Generating Hope), Julie Grove (Sunrise Outreach), Josh Jackson (Rod's House), Brian Ahern (Rod's House), Tom Gaulke (Entrust), David Hacker (Generating Hope), Mike Kay (Sunrise Outreach), Dave Hanson (Sunrise Outreach), Joan Souders (Grandview City Council, YVCOG), Kay Funk (Yakima City Council, representing herself as a resident), Jayson Harmon (Blue Mountain Action Council), Juan Benaviodes (Blue Mountain Action Council), David Brown (Yakima County Veterans Program), Tyler Sheperd (Holy Family Parish), Lowel Krueger (Yakima Housing Authority), Beth Dannhardt (Homeless Network), Holly Timmerman (Northwest Justice), Marjorie Bigham (Wesley UMC), Teresa Carlson (WA State DOC), Mary Stephenson (National Alliance on Mental Health), Angie Girard, Tino Alonso (Yakima Nation), Joseph A. Brusich (Yakima County Prosecutors Office), Mike Johnson (Union Gospel Mission), Scott Thielen (Union Gospel Mission), Sara Watkins (City of Yakima), Joan Davenport (City of Yakima), Annette Rodriguez (Yakima Neighborhood Health Services), Brad Hill (Yakima City Council), Lance Larsen (Yakima County Homeless Program)

**OLD BUSINESS** Approval of Minutes: May 21, 2019 YHC Executive Committee Meeting  
**Action: Mike Johnson moved to approve the minutes from the April 16, 2019 YHC Executive Committee Meeting. Kelly Penfold seconded. The motion carried.**

Mike Leita informed attendees that the Homeless Housing and Assistance Program (including YHC program administration) has been officially moved to Yakima County.  
**Action: Information**

**NEW BUSINESS**  
*YHC Exec Update*

Mike Johnson: Feedback from membership regarding fewer goals with specific outcomes. Try to consolidate or adjust the 11 local plan goals to align with the 5 state objectives, and rephrase with greater measurability and accountability. Identified need for hard data to improve measurability.

Rhonda Hauff: Point In Time Count – should consider contracting locally instead of contracting external agency to conduct PIT count. Special meeting in August to discuss.  
**Action: Discussion and information**

Mike Leita: Charge to Coalition is discerning process to review current 5-year plan goals to ensure alignment with the state objectives and inclusion of community feedback. Long term will have flexibility and evolution. Also will look at financial allocations of resources towards goals. One of the principal reasons this program has come back to the County is to help reduce administrative costs and make sure that funds are being spent to the greatest benefit. Goals and accountability going forward.

**Action: Discussion and information**

*2019 Timeline* Today's objective is to take a look at the goals and consolidate and align and modify from prior plans. Reviewed upcoming meeting goals thru the end of the year.

**Action: Discussion and information**

*Member Feedback*

- Mission Should be More Bold
- A Mission Statement is Needed

- Too Many Goals – should have fewer goals with specific outcomes, eliminate redundancy and confusing language (i.e. the plan has: bold steps, action plan, ultimate goals, vision statement, objectives, and goals)
- SMART (Specific, Measurable, Attainable, Relevant, Timely)
- Diversion could be included

**Action: Discussion and information**

Tom Gaulke: Homeless Network hosts Affordable Housing Committee meetings every second Wednesday from 3-5pm at YNHS.

*Homeless Network  
(HNY) Data*

HNY turned over data to YHC and will not do own 5-Year Plan, instead will cooperate with this group to include information for development of YHC goals/plan.

HNY 5-Year Plan development process:

1. Identify Needs
2. Identify Resources
3. Review Funding Landscape
4. Identify Gap
5. Develop Goals and Objectives

**Action: Discussion and information**

Best goal more people leaving the homeless system than entering it.

Discussed use of “SIESTA” model for inter-agency cooperation.

There is a Community Housing Profile available from HNY with good data about available housing options.

**Action: Discussion and information**

*5-Year Plan – Local  
Plan Guidelines  
from State*

Summary of State Requirements was reviewed. The local plan must be aimed at eliminating homelessness.

Josh Jackson: One key point that is missing is identifying youth and preventing homelessness. Use coordinated entry/HMIS systems to help identify and connect to housing – starting to do this with youth.

Objective 1: Identify and Engage through outreach and coordination – How many systems should be used? How do these systems coordinate?

Difficult for providers to use HMIS due to time, labor, costs associated. UGM does not due to these reasons.

Kay Funk: HMIS and burden of entry? How much time does this take

Annette Rodriguez: Screen and evaluate immediately 20-60 minutes, depending on the person. Initial intake to assess need, depending if attached to housing program or if providing service.

Rod’s House: Drop ins take about an hour daily for 30-40 participants.

Mike Johnson: Creating a new record much more time consuming than logging a visit. HMIS is not known for being easy to use.

Commissioner Leita: what the BOCC is interested in here is optimizing our responsibilities. There is 1 objective in the State Guidelines, Number 5 that is NOT currently being addressed and it HAS to be (Address racial disparities).

Pastor Davis: Racial disparities and coordinating funding for programs should be a local plan goal. Other protected classes should also be included in Number 5 [addressing racial disparities] (LGBTQ, etc.). High prioritization of this issue helps with obtaining funding to

combat issues if there is a high priority given to this issue.  
Kelly: Perhaps tweaking in language of goals to be more inclusive.

Brad Hill: Number 8 on plan goal – can we eliminate redundant goals from the “Current Local Plan Goals”

**Action: Tom Gaulke moved to adopt the 5 State Objectives as a framework for goals for the 5-year plan. Pastor Davis seconded. The motion carried**

Should include 5-year goals plan as a county-wide plan not forgetting rural areas.

Angie Girard: Income not addressed, employer component is missing. Should these factors that contribute to housing insecurity be included in the plan?

Mike Johnson: Angie’s question really is if homelessness a symptom of poverty or is it the absence of housing? Our funding sources (HUD) indicate the federal perspective is housing based.

Included in Goal Number 10/Goal Number 3.

Mike Leita: YCDA has been charged with more development opportunities. One component missing from YCDA is effort to be self-sufficient in employment – to move people through housing. Should there be more of a partnership with YCDA – obligation for self-sufficiency.

Reviewed Commerce Five-year Plan Goals/Requirements and Performance Measures  
5% increase of intervention measures is desired by CHG program funding goals.

Rhonda Hauff: Was the emergency shelter priority from the State incorporated into these priorities?

Commissioner Leita: These are not performance standards that are currently in place. Mental Health also needs to be a component of the homeless program.

**Action: Discussion and information**

*Next Steps*

**Action: Eliminate redundancies, include protected classes/special needs**

**Action: HMIS and data collection samples would be beneficial to show measurables to the coalition.**

Mike Leita stressed the goals should have deliverables allocated to those programs. Next meeting YHC will be tasked with prioritizing funding to the goals and balancing.

*Other Business*

Point In Time opt-in Meeting will be announced for August.

*Next Meeting*

Tuesday, September 17<sup>th</sup> at 1:30 p.m.  
Will be the last opportunity for comments on goals, objectives. Request deliverables suggestions from Coalition members.

*Adjourn*

With no other business, the meeting was adjourned at 3:15 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

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(Name), YHC Executive Committee Chair

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Date signed

ATTEST:

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Melissa Paul, Clerk of the Board

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