

Yakima County Homeless Coalition Executive Committee
MEETING MINUTES
August 20, 2019

CALL TO ORDER – The August 20th, 2019 meeting of the Yakima County Homeless Coalition Executive Committee came to order at 1:30 p.m.

INTRODUCTIONS:

YHC EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEMBERS:

Tino Alonso, YHC Representative, *ABSENT*
Joe Brusic, Public Safety Representative
Kyle Curtis, For Profit Representative, *ABSENT*
Rhonda Hauff, YHC Representative, *ABSENT*
Brad Hill, City of Yakima Representative
Homeless Program Administrator: Esther Magasis
Meeting clerk: Melissa Paul, Clerk of the Board of Yakima County Commissioners

Mike Johnson, YHC Representative, *ABSENT*
Mike Leita, BOCC Representative, *ABSENT*
Kelly Penfold, Consumer Representative
Joan Souders, YVCOG Representative

OLD BUSINESS:

- Brad Hill asked if the next steps from the June meeting had been achieved
 - Esther Magasis confirmed that the PIT meeting has been completed
 - Kelly Penfold reported that there were some encampments that she believes were missed in the last PIT. Esther added that at the PIT meeting, community members expressed concern that there were shelters not counted as well, because they were not in HMIS. General consensus at the PIT meeting was that it has been difficult for a remote third party to effectively do the on-the ground community organizing needed for a successful PIT count.
 - The TAC review has been arranged for this meeting.
 - The YHC meeting in July included data review and comparison of state objectives to local goals.
- Approval of Minutes: April 16, 2019 YHC Executive Committee Meeting. Motion by Brad Hill, Second by Kelly Penfold – none opposed.
- Reviewed additional binder materials.

5-YEAR PLAN

- Reviewed draft version of updated 5-Year plan based on work so far. Revisions will be presented at the next YHC general meeting.
 - Focus on goals that are monitorable and fundable
 - 11 goals have been consolidated to 7
 - Goal 1
 - Discussion regarding coordinated entry program and lack of emphasis in Southern Valley
 - There may be a need for further focus on Southern Valley and Sunnyside
 - Goal 2
 - Tasks with a June 30 2020 deadline are from the CHG Contract and the 2021 goal deadlines are associated with State Objectives
 - Goal 3: Services and Emergency Shelter – should be refined further
 - Are there enough shelter beds for every person who needs one? What is the shortfall?
 - SOAR is a SSI/SSDI outreach program to connect qualifying individuals with services
 - Goal 4
 - Questions about working with owners of existing motels and single occupancy for vouchers – what can be achieved (landlord counseling, finding landlords willing to rent to individuals transitioning out of homelessness), what likely cannot (convincing landlords to lower rental rates in a low-vacancy market)
 - How does a person “graduate” into more stable housing? Case management

- Every shelter program should have a case management component – shelters are transition points, not permanent destinations
- Data does not show good results in the county transitioning clients from shelter into housing so far
- Landlord tasks should be consolidated to be measurable, specific, and achievable. Remove 4.6 and 4.7, keep 4.5
 - Goal 5, no changes needed
 - Goal 6: Racial and LGBT* disparities
 - Goal 7: Respond to Youth and Veteran Homelessness

Action: Discussion and study for update.

TAC ASSISTANCE

- Call with Jacob (Jake) Mihalak from Sound Thinking, Commerce's technical assistance group for the 5-Year Plan.
- Caution about being overly ambitious with goals – “propose what you can reasonably do”
 - Q: What are consequences of being overly ambitious?
 - Having a plan with many unmet goals may reflect poor planning abilities to the legislature, and indicate to them that this is not a community ready for funding
 - Suggestion to adjust target dates to 2022 for tasks related to State Objectives in goal 2 – allow ample time to reach goals.
- State to review 5-Year Plan for compliance, but not to judge strength of goals.
- LGBT* data sources
 - The only thing required by the State is to analyze racial disparities (using a tool which is provided)
 - Any other goals don't have to be included in the 5-year plan, or could be phrased as “exploring” disparate impact (again, cautioning against being overly ambitious)
 - Not enough to be tracking just demographic trends, must also be able to identify outcomes for group. Are people in this identity group getting worse outcomes?
 - The Youth Homeless Demonstrative Initiative tracks data related to Youth and Young Adults (YYA) homelessness.
 - May not have an accurate count in Yakima
 - Generally, YYA homelessness has more data
- Joe Brusic: If there are goals that are not required or deliverable, we should not include them. Avoid setting ourselves up for failure.
 - General agreement to this statement
- State objective 3 (operate an effective and efficient homeless crisis response system) encompasses most of the actual tasks of the homeless system
- Summation of advice from Jake: Don't worry too much about what the state is going to say, use this as a tool to build public will and recruit new resources, work toward a more integrated system. Be mindful about not creating disparities.

NEXT STEPS

- Esther to update 5 Year plan for review by general membership at September meeting
 - Goal 1: No change
 - Goal 2: Adjust dates per TAC advisement to 2022
 - Goal 3: Condense, maintain mental health and drug/alcohol rehabilitation, merge into goal 2
 - Goal 4: Remove 4.6, 4.7
 - Goal 5: No change
 - Goal 6: Remove 6.2, 2.3, consider language only to seek LGBT* data

- Goal 7: Merge into goal 6
- List of acronyms will be included in final plan
- Timeline:
 - August: Updates made to 5-Year Plan based on Exec Team feedback
 - September: Updated 5-Year plan presented at general membership for feedback, feedback integrated into draft
 - October: 5-Year Plan draft reflecting YHC General Membership feedback presented for final consideration and feedback from YHC Exec Team, feedback integrated into draft and sent to Jake at TAC for review
 - November: TAC feedback integrated into 5-Year Plan, final version presented to the General Membership for closure
 - December: Final version of 5-Year Plan submitted to Commerce, Exec Team meets to plan for 2020

NEXT MEETINGS

- Homeless Coalition: Tuesday, September 17th
State Fair Room, 1301 S Fair Ave, Yakima
1:30-3:30 pm
- Homeless Coalition Executive Committee: Tuesday, October 15th
First Street Conference Room, 223 N 1st St, Yakima
1:30-3:30 pm

ADJOURN