

Yakima County Homeless Coalition
MEETING MINUTES
November 11, 2019

- CALL TO ORDER** The November 11, 2019 came to order at 1:30 p.m.
- INTRODUCTIONS** Members present:
- OLD BUSINESS** Approval of Minutes: July 16, 2019 YHC Meeting
Approval of minutes **Action: Rhonda Hauff moved to approve the minutes from the September 17, 2019 YHC Meeting. Mike Johnson seconded. The motion carried.**
- YHC Exec Update* The Executive Committee did not meet in October, and instead discussed changes via email. Esther Magasis reviewed the changes that were agreed to by the Executive Committee: the adjustment of task 1.3 to broaden the language around the prioritization tool to not specify VI-SPDAT, and the addition of Task 2.10 to include the YCCC project. The changes were not challenged.
- NEW BUSINESS**
5-Year Plan Update Esther Magasis: The last thing that needs to be addressed is the identification of responsible parties and measurable outcomes.
Lee Murdock: Suggested keeping the community partners named as responsible parties vague, instead of specifically naming someone when there is no agreement as to who the “responsible parties” will be.
Mike Leita: The plan should be representative of the wishes of the community – this represents the goals that this community has developed collectively to address the issues we are facing. The previous plan had a lot of lofty goals that were not held accountable. We now have a set of refined goals. We should not micromanage the document, if the state does not agree with what we approve then we can come back and review it at that time. Yakima County is the overwhelmingly responsible entity to seeing to this getting done – Yakima County being both the County, and the entire community within the county.
Josh Jackson: Clarified that **Yakima County would then be listed as the responsible party within the 5-Year Plan and will hold community contractors accountable through subcontracting.**
- Goal 2* Rhonda Hauff: How will we achieve exits to permanent housing related to goal 2.1 (increase percentage of successful exits from emergency shelter to 26%)? Where are we at now with those exits?
Esther Magasis: That benchmark was established by the state, so we do not have the flexibility to lower it. We are currently at 16% successful exits from emergency shelter.

Mike Johnson: The language of goal 2 should be amended from “system that swiftly moves people into stable permanent housing” to “system that moves people into stable permanent housing as swiftly as possible.”
Action: Mike Johnson moved to change the language of goal 2. Lee Murdock seconded. The motion carried.
- Jerry Mellen: It’s important to include responsibility in the plan.
Mike Leita: Yakima County is listed as the responsible party, and is currently investing in their responsibilities through the development of a Human Services Department.
- Goal 4* Kay Funk: There needs to be a goal that specifies the need for a concerted data collection effort.
Mike Johnson: Goal 4 addresses data (Track and publish data regarding homelessness in

Yakima County)

Rhonda Hauff: Goal 4 should include something about a By Name List.

Action: Rhonda Hauff moved to create task 4.7 Utilize a county-wide By Name List for people experiencing unsheltered homelessness.

Mike Johnson: This task should be under goal 1, because the goal of a BNL is effective outreach and service provision, not purely data.

Rhonda Hauff amended her motion to create task 1.4. Motion passed.

Goal 5

Lee Murdock: Since there is an overarching task related to BNL creation, we should remove tasks 5.6 and 5.7 that specify BNLs for specific sub-populations. Don't want to risk the creation of multiple BNL systems – want everything to remain streamlined as possible.

Action: Lee Murdock moved to strike 5.6 and 5.7 from the plan. Mary Stevens seconded.

Lowell Krueger: some programs require specific BNLs for subpopulations, such as veterans. Don't want to lose that specificity.

Josh Jackson: Veterans are also identified as a priority population in the narrative section of the plan, are they represented anywhere else in the goals if we remove 5.7?

Esther Magasis: 5.7 is the only place where veterans are cited in the goals.

Lowell Krueger: I know we have programs that require a BNL for veterans, I don't want to lose that.

Lee Murdock withdrew the motion.

Action: Rhonda Hauff moved to move 5.6 and 5.7 to subsections of 1.4. Tom Gaulk seconded. Motion passed.

Goal 4

Steven Hayes: Specifying “unsheltered” in task 1.4 leaves a lot of the people I work with in institutions off the list. That level of specificity may be a hindrance to our work.

Teresa Carlson: Commerce's definition of “homeless” is problematic because incarcerated individuals are excluded from that definition.

Action: Rhonda Hauff moved to remove “unsheltered” from the newly created task 1.4. Lee Murdock seconded. Motion passed.

5-Year Plan

Action: Tom Gaulk moved to accept the plan. Motion was seconded. Motion passed.

Mike Kay: Point of order, people on this side of the room were not able to talk as much during the meeting. I had my hand up but didn't get a chance to speak.

Josh Jackson: You have the floor.

Mike Kay: My point was already made by someone else.

Next Steps

Esther Magasis: BOCC will vote to adopt the 5-year plan next Tuesday (November 26th) at Yakima City Hall at 10 am. The Executive Committee will meet once more in December to discuss plans for next year. The next General Membership meeting will be January 21st, where members will be voting for new BoS representatives. Our current BoS representatives are Rhonda Hauff and Lowell Krueger.

Rhonda Hauff: [Gave a brief overview of BoS representative responsibilities.]

Sara Watkins: I see in the 5-Year Plan that there is one Executive Committee position that remains unfilled – can we vote to fill that at the next meeting as well?

Esther Magasis: Yes

Mike Kay: Can we make nominations now for individuals to be nominated for the Executive Committee position?

Josh Jackson: Yes

Action: Mike Kay nominated Dave Hanson for the Executive Committee.

Josh Jackson: We will also be discussing the Point in Time Count at our next meeting, as we are holding our meeting just two days before the Point in Time Count takes place.

Lee Murdock: Will we have time to meet just before the Point in Time Count? Should we

reschedule the meeting?

Esther Magasis: I am open to that if it is what the General Membership wants.

Josh Jackson: We can make that decision later.

Esther Magasis: We had discussed creating a PIT Count/Data Needs Subcommittee for the Coalition, and while developing that work we found that there was a huge amount of overlap, both in content and in membership, of that potential subcommittee and the existing data efforts at the Homeless Network. In an effort to not duplicate efforts among participants, we are working on collaborating on a co-lead data team. Stay tuned for more details on that.

Yakima County Care Campus Esther Magasis and Mike Leita briefly presented information about the Yakima County Care Campus.

Next Meeting Tuesday, January 21st (barring rescheduling for PIT) at 1:30 p.m.
State Fair Room
1301 S Fair Ave, Yakima, WA 98901

Adjourn With no other business, the meeting was adjourned at 3:30 p.m.

DRAFT