

Yakima County Homeless Coalition Executive Committee
MEETING MINUTES
February 18, 2020

CALL TO ORDER – The February 18, 2020 meeting of the Yakima County Homeless Coalition Executive Committee came to order at 1:30 p.m.

INTRODUCTIONS:

YHC EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEMBERS:

Vicki Baker, *PRESENT*

Joe Brusic, *PRESENT*

Kyle Curtis, *ABSENT*

Dave Hanson, *PRESENT*

Rhonda Hauff, *PRESENT*

Soneya Lund, *PRESENT*

Mike Johnson, *PRESENT*

Kelly Penfold, *PRESENT*

Joan Souders, *PRESENT*

ALSO PRESENT:

Kellie Connaughton, Yakima Greenway Foundation, YHC Chair

Josh Jackson, Rod's House, YHC Vice-Chair

Esther Magasis, Yakima County Human Services

CALL TO ORDER – The February 18th, 2020 meeting of the Yakima County Homeless Coalition Executive Committee came to order at 1:34 p.m.

OLD BUSINESS:

- Approval of Minutes: August 20, 2019 YHC Executive Committee Meeting. Motion by Joan Souders. None opposed, motion passes.

MEETING ATTENDANCE

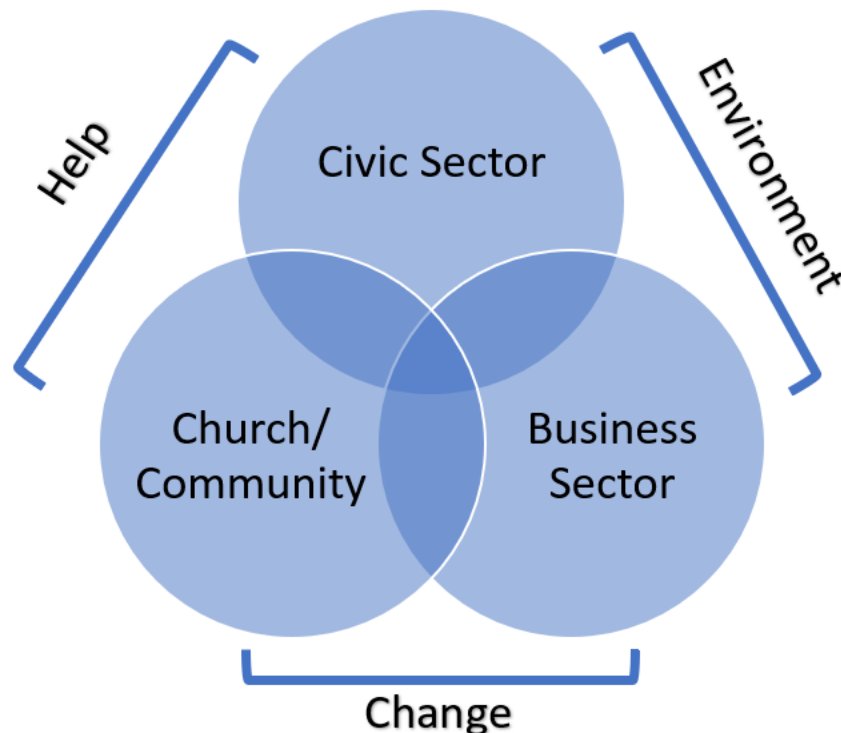
- From the charter: “All Executive Committee members are members of the Coalition are required to attend and participate in a minimum of 60% of the regular Coalition meetings each calendar year. The Board of County Commissioners can remove a member for failure to meet this requirement.”

YHC OVERVIEW

- Rhonda Hauff, Mike Johnson, and Dave Hanson – YHC Representatives
 - Dave: Elections were held, PIT was discussed, RFP status was discussed
 - Rhonda: All the feedback so far about PIT and Project Homeless Connect was positive. Yakima and Thurston were the only counties using a third-party contractor to organize PIT, and Thurston also took it back this year
 - Joan: South Valley feedback was that the PIT was more effective this year than when it had been contracted out
 - Rhonda: We had more refusals than we have in previous years, in part because of the increased requirements needed for HMIS.
 - Esther: This is also the first year we've taken the PIT back, we need to rebuild community awareness and understanding
 - Josh: PIT data is always flawed
 - Rhonda: There is a Building Changes paper on the ways to use PIT data in conjunction with other forms of data
 - Action item: Rhonda send Building Changes paper
 - Mike: King County counts people without needing their consent, and the Seattle data has been really valuable.
 - **Action item: Mike will reach out to his peers in King County to see how they do their count.**

YHC GOALS FOR 2020

- Required by RCW:
 - Updating 5-Year Plan
 - Kellie: We should designate a coalition meeting towards the end of the year to address this.
 - Establishing guidelines for: emergency shelters, short term housing needs, temporary encampments, supportive housing for chronically homeless persons, and long-term housing
 - Kellie: These items need to be communicated to the community as part of our community education and information efforts as well.
- Identified at YHC meeting:
 - Public education on services funded and provided
 - Kellie: This is key in our community right now. Attendees want to know: where is the money going and how is it being used?
 - Rhonda: We can show numbers all we want, the piece that's not here that really needs to be addressed is values. How do we address the issue of values? How do we address the discrepancy in belief that every person deserves housing?
 - Kellie: We want to say it's not one thing or the other – we don't need to take sides, we need our resources and services to be partnered with each other.
 - Soneya: When I first got involved with homeless issues, I had to have a visual of types of services and issues.
 - Josh: I don't think we can convince everyone to adopt the same values, but it's also more cost effective to help people get out of homelessness than to keep serving them. There's a fiscal conservative issue here, too.
 - Action item: We need to intentionally revisit the Chamber of Commerce and invite them to the table, reengage business owners downtown, engage people in South Valley.
 - Mike: Because we are funded entirely by contributions, we have developed a stakeholder model of our work:



We need to make sure that we are collaborating across these sectors, not pitting the priorities or groups against each other. The issues and solutions are all interconnected.

- **Action item: introduce this stakeholder model at the next meeting, discuss how we can develop an action plan based off of this**

- Rhonda: Need to have Commerce staff come to a meeting and present our data, so that we can have them explain our data
 - **Action item: Esther will talk with Commerce about coming to present data during her call with them on Friday**
- Collecting public feedback and concerns
- Other priorities as identified in the charter:
 - Data collection and review
 - Youth services
 - Affordable housing
 - Homeless services for special needs populations
 - Emergency shelter

MEETING FREQUENCY

- From the charter: “The Yakima County Homeless Coalition shall meet quarterly (March, June, September, and November).”; “The Executive Committee shall meet quarterly (January, April, July, and October) or more often if determined necessary by a majority vote of Coalition members.”
 - In 2019, Coalition members voted to alternate General Membership and Executive Committee meetings on a monthly basis, due to the development of the five-year plan.
 - Kellie: Based on the conversations we’ve been having today, it seems like we have enough content to **meet on the same monthly basis this year.**

HOMELESS NETWORK AND HOMELESS COALITION REDUNDANCY

- Question posed by Dave Hanson: Does it make sense to have two redundant bodies, the Coalition and the Network?
 - Kellie: The Coalition is the body that brings together civic leaders in our community to talk. The Network is the boots on the ground team.
 - Dave: I don’t know why one can’t be a component of the other.
 - Rhonda: They work together, and there is membership overlap.
 - Dave: Is this the most efficient way to do this?
 - Esther: This is the way the Commissioners structured their public taskforce, which is required by RCW.
 - Dave: Is there a fiduciary conflict, in having Esther staff the Coalition and be the County employee responsible for overseeing funds allocations?
 - Esther: I staff the Coalition at the direction of the BOCC, I set agendas at the direction of the YHC Executive team, and I do not make decisions on funding allocations – I only oversee the use of the reimbursements.
 - As a County legal representative, Joe Brusica was able to confirm that Esther’s roles as YHC staff and as staff responsible for reimbursement monitoring do not present a conflict of interest, and are well within the scope of appropriateness.

NEXT STEPS

- Agenda items for March YHC General Membership meeting
 - Mike: Talk about the RFP release, CPSC update
 - Rhonda: Commerce data profile
 - Kellie: Invite the Chamber
 - Rhonda: If Commerce can’t come to present, is there any other educational offerings we should put together?

NEXT MEETINGS

- Homeless Coalition: Tuesday, March 17th, 2020
State Fair Room, 1301 S Fair Ave, Yakima
1:30-3:30 pm

- Homeless Coalition Executive Committee: Tuesday, April 21st
Location TBD
1:30-3:30 pm

ADJOURN