

Yakima County Homeless Coalition  
Executive Committee  
MEETING MINUTES  
June 16<sup>th</sup>, 2020

**CALL TO ORDER** The June 16<sup>th</sup>, 2020 Yakima County Homeless Coalition Executive Committee came to order at 1:33 pm.

**INTRODUCTIONS** YHC EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEMBERS:

Vicki Baker, *ABSENT*  
Joe Brusic, *ABSENT*  
Kyle Curtis, *PRESENT*  
Dave Hanson, *PRESENT*

Rhonda Hauff, *PRESENT*  
Soneya Lund, *PRESENT*  
Mike Johnson, *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  
Mitzi Duenas, Yakima County Human Services

**OLD BUSINESS**

*Approval of minutes*

Approval of Minutes: The May 11<sup>th</sup>, 2020 YHC Executive Meeting

**Action:** *Rhonda Hauff moved to approve the minutes from the May 11<sup>th</sup>, 2020 YHC Executive Meeting. Dave Hanson seconded. The motion carried.*

**NEW BUSINESS**

*YCCC Status*

Esther mentioned the Yakima County Human Services Department has been working mostly on COVID issues, but they received funding from the State in the last session, there should be some funding coming in to be able to do some planning on the project. She also mentioned she has been trying to get information from the finance department about the amount of funding they will receive and when will they receive it. At the moment Esther has not received any status but she will work on planning with the commission board.

Question raised: Is the program still targeting homeless individuals?

Project is treading water for now; City of Yakima has said there will be no zoning for low-barrier shelter so there is a change in scope there. Need to revisit this with a workgroup again. Esther will send the document she made for legislators, which is the most recent document that exists on this project.

Soneya Lund mentioned the City does not want to have another shelter within the city limits, but the there is still support for camping.

*Commerce Data Profile*

Kellie: It won't do us good to invite the Chamber of Commerce at the time for our meetings that are largely scrambling to respond to COVID.

If commerce can't come to present, is there any other educational offerings we should put together?

Would still be valuable to have Commerce staff present via webinar

**Action Item:** *Esther will reach out to Commerce and see if they can present online*  
Rhonda Hauff suggest it could still be meaningful to invite Commerce to this meeting.

*Updates*

Members discussed establishing guidelines for: emergency shelters, short term housing needs, temporary encampments, supportive housing for chronically homeless persons, and long-term housing. Communicating information about these programs to the community as part of our community education and information efforts.

Public education on services funded and provided.

Collecting feedback and concerns from the public.

Kellie: do we need to take a step back on some of our goals? Would public education about homelessness even be heard right now? What are the immediate needs?

Rhonda Hauff suggested that immediate needs might be priority right now.

Kellie: What about 5-Year Plan Updates? Are those important right now?

Josh: Might not be priority, although it does affect how funding is allocated

Kellie: Does the 5-Year Plan need to be revisited with a more emergency preparedness lens, knowing what we have been experiencing?

Mike Johnson: Emergency by its nature is hard to specifically plan for

Rhonda: Would still be good to have emergency response in document.

Esther: Emergency preparedness is about resiliency – all the factors that exacerbated the spread of COVID were vulnerabilities in our community before COVID.

Mike Johnson: Absolutely

Kellie: Recommendation is to revisit the 5-year plan knowing what we know now, with the lens of COVID response and the vulnerabilities in our community

**Action Item: Esther will resend 5-Year plan to the group.**

Josh: Good opportunity to interface between County 5-Year plan and the housing portion of the OEM emergency response plan.

Josh: This is also an important time to focus on the racial disparities goal in the 5-Year plan

Rhonda: Some of the work we are doing with ACI may give us the framework to do that work with the 5-year Plan.

Kellie: Should we invite Joan to another meeting RE: YCCC?

Josh: City of Union Gap is updating their land use table and can include updates that accommodate their capital project. The planning process has stalled for now due to COVID

Joshua mentioned if there are any other ideas about the filling up Kelly Penfold's position?

Esther replied that she does not have any leads yet.

**Action Item: Esther will send out application as part of follow up for folks to distribute to potential candidates.**

*Next Meeting*

Next General membership meeting will be held on July 21<sup>st</sup>, 2020

Next Executive meeting will be held on August 18<sup>th</sup>, 2020 / Virtual Meeting.

*Adjourn*

With no other business, the meeting was adjourned at 2:47 pm.