

Yakima County Homeless Coalition  
Executive Committee  
MEETING MINUTES  
August 18<sup>th</sup>, 2020

**CALL TO ORDER** The August 18<sup>th</sup>, 2020 Yakima County Homeless Coalition Executive Committee came to order at 1:30 pm.

**INTRODUCTIONS** YHC EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEMBERS:

Vicki Baker, *PRESENT*

Joe Brusic, *ABSENT*

Kyle Curtis, *PRESENT*

Dave Hanson, *ABSENT*

Rhonda Hauff, *PRESENT*

Soneya Lund, *ABSENT*

Mike Johnson, *PRESENT*

Joan Souders, *ABSENT*

**ALSO, PRESENT:**

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

Esther Magasis, Yakima County Human Services

Mitzi Duenas, Yakima County Human Services

**OLD BUSINESS**

*Commerce Data  
Presentation*

Esther asked committee members - What are some questions to ask to Commerce for the data presentation?

Mike Johnson mentioned to open the 5 year-plan will result in less clarity.

Rhonda suggest if it would be a better idea to discuss the 5 year-plan after the Commerce Data presentation. Rhonda also suggested it might be something to think about in relation to the current 5 year-plan.

Joshua Jackson mentioned community stakeholders that have no real connection, were just trying to figure out what the committee is doing, and what was working and why?

Rhonda Hauff mentioned it would be helpful and more meaningful to have Commerce share the progress over the last 5-10 years because some of comments that have been heard is about no improvement towards homelessness, and there is a lot data that has been collected. She also mentioned Commerce should compare the data to outside communities.

Kyle Curtis asked if Commerce use homelessness data for the Census?

Esther Magasis mentioned there is a strong effort to count homeless in the Census. However, the County use Point In Time count, which is similar to a Census. Esther also mentioned most of trend used by Commerce is from HMIS which is data the county has in a statewide database. All the service providers that are funded by public dollars record their services in the statewide database.

Esther also mentioned there has been a lot of improvements and clean up in HMIS to help prevent duplicates in the data.

Esther mentioned it would be great to split next meeting between Commerce presentation and the review of PIT.

Commissioner Baker asked if Commerce makes the decisions on what our community needs that way, she can reach out to someone in case, we need more flexibility locally for our specific community needs.

Rhonda Hauff mentioned there isn't enough prevention whether they are local or CHG dollars.

Commissioner Baker shared her experience with Affordable Housing, and her background working with Habitat for Humanity and how can she use that experience for near future in allocating prevention dollars.

Mike Johnson asked if there is any news on the CARE campus.

Esther sent out the legislative packet and she will have a meeting soon with the state folder's

group. Programs highlighted in the packet refer more to mental and behavioral health as well as substance abusive resources, and transition into recovery housing.

Commissioner Baker asked Mike Johnson How does having the mental and substance use programs would benefit Union Gospel Mission?

Mike Johnson mentioned UGM run a long substance use program and they are working on improving it. Mike expressed his gratitude for the partnership UGM has with Comprehensive and Neighborhood Health.

Some challenges UGM face is the timely access to mental health services.

Commissioner Baker asked Mike if patients need a residential facility in order to be monitored and watched at all times.

Mike mentioned substance users are often diagnosed with mental health disorders and it is very common among homeless people. Mike also mentioned recovery requires active participation of patients.

Rhonda Hauff mentioned YNHS has a Medication Assistance (MAT) and a Behavioral Health Specialization program. She mentioned those programs specifically serve chronically homeless. Ronda mentioned based on last summer's data, 80% of patients had mental health issues and 40% had a substance use disorder. YNHS have patients that go to both go to inpatient and mental outpatient primarily through their medication assistance treatment.

Mike asked Rhonda if YNHS MAT program use methadone or suboxone or both for medication-assisted treatment.

YNHS use suboxone but they also have the chemical dependency providers from Comprehensive Health.

**NEW BUSINESS**      None

*Next Meeting*      September , 2020  
                            Online

*Adjourn*      With no other business, the meeting was adjourned at 2:33 pm.