

Yakima County Homeless Coalition
General Membership
MEETING MINUTES
May 18th, 2021

CALL TO ORDER The May 18, 2021 Yakima County Homeless Coalition General Membership came to order at 1:30 pm.

INTRODUCTIONS Members present: Salvador Salazar, Mike Johnson, Daisy Martinez, Beth Dannhardt, Jeanna Hernandez, Lee Murdock, Lowel Krueger, Sheri Rynd, Venus Lomeli, Commissioner LaDon Linde, Sara Watkins, Linda DiLembo, Holly Timmerman, Briana Tamaki, Joan Souders, Shawna Michels, Zak Welsh, Dainen Penta, Sgt. Ritchie Fowler, Lori Russell, Mary Stephenson, Alicia Bell, Mike Kay, Brian Ahern, Annette Rodriguez, Jerry Mellen, Joan Davenport, Vicki Baker, Scott Thielen, David Brown

Staff Present: Esther Magasis, Lance Larsen, Mitzi Duenas

OLD BUSINESS

Approval of minutes

Approval of Minutes: March 16th, 2021 YHC Meeting

Lee Murdock moved to approve the minutes from the March 16, 2021 General Membership Meeting. Commissioner Linde seconded. Motion passed.

NEW BUSINESS

Exec Committee Update

Mike Johnson mentioned the sequential intercept model was discussed at the previous General Membership meeting and there was also a discussion to reduce street homelessness. Commissioner Linde mentioned there was also discussion update on the renewal of the 5-year plan.

Action: The data committee meeting will be next Friday May 28th, 2021 at 10 am.

Members interested in participating should email Lance Larsen to get connected to the group Lance.larsen@co.yakima.wa.us

YCCC Update

There will be two reports developed this year by the Department of Human Services: the Criminal Justice Sequential Intercept Model (an update to the 2017 report), and the Homeless Response System Map (a new report within our community). These models will be analyzed as part of the preparation for planning for the Yakima County Care Campus, by helping to answer the questions: what mental health resources already exist in our institutional systems, where are there opportunities for better cohesion system-wide, and what is missing?

ERAP Update

The Emergency Rental Assistance will be rolling out next week. This new round of Rental Assistant can pay up to 12 months of arrears, and can in some cases even pay a limited amount of future rent for individuals who need to pay rent that has been owed since March 2020.

Yakima County is working with the Yakima County Landlord Association to ensure landlords understand the program and facilitate the process between landlords and tenants. Esther discussed the Yakima County COVID Rental Assistance Guidelines where it shows the eligibility documentation depends on the funding source. The funding sources are grants from the state and federal government.

Tenant households have to qualify on the basis of income eligibility limits. The program

does not require US citizenship to participate in, nor should benefits received under the program be considered towards public charge.

For more information about Emergency Rental Assistance visit:
<https://www.yakimacounty.us/2453/For-Tenants-and-Landlords>

Outreach Reports

Sgt. Fowler (Yakima Police Department): There have been observations about 20 to 30 homeless individuals in Naches and Chestnut. YUGM has given access to Sgt. Fowler to store supplies for homeless. The Yakima Police Department will do bike patrol for areas that harder to reach in police vehicles. Sgt. Fowler has observed an increase in young adults during his street outreach.

Brian Ahern (Rod's House): RH's outreach team has focused on doing outreach in schools and is aware of the increase of the young people in the "island" (Naches and Chestnut).

Mike Kay (Camp Hope): Three individuals that he knows of came from the north due to the closing of a behavioral recovery services home up in the Spokane area. Camp Hope has seen young people come in to look for services and more activity has been seen in West and Astria hospital, and there has been observations of an increase of people using detox services.

Zak Welsh (PATH, Comprehensive Mental Health): Zak is still new, and is still learning the community and gaining an understanding of where to find people experiencing homelessness to engage them with services. He has mostly been connecting to people through referrals from other programs.

Mike Johnson/Heather Carrillo (Yakima Union Gospel Mission): YUGM has increased their outreach team to weekly outreach.

Mike Johnson presented his proposal for Operation Creating H.O.P. E. This is a proposal which he has asked the City of Yakima to consider participating in. Neither City of Yakima nor Yakima County is currently participating in or funding this program.

Lee Murdock shared a link to a document that contains models that communities have tried to address individuals who are unsheltered: https://nlchp.org/wp-content/uploads/2018/10/Tent_City_USA_2017.pdf

Other Items

Salvador Salazar from the Governor's Office mentioned if any members have any questions for their office, or questions about policy regarding homelessness, members can contact him at: salvador.salazar@gov.wa.gov

Next Meeting

July 20th, 2021.

Online

Adjourn

With no other business, the meeting was adjourned at 3:14 pm.