

Yakima County Homeless Coalition
Data Committee
MEETING MINUTES

CALL TO ORDER The **April 15, 2024** Data Committee Meeting came to order at **10:00am**.

INTRODUCTIONS Members present: Mike Johnson (YUGM), Dave Hanson (SOC)

Zoom: Annette Rodriguez (YNHS), Patricia Bengé (YNHS), Jeanna Hernandez (Comm. Member), Suzi Carpino (Camp Hope), Brian Ahern (RH),

Human Services staff present:
Melissa Holm, Deann Bergquist, Ivan Orozco

*If you don't see your name or your organization name here, please email Deann at Deann.Bergquist@co.yakima.wa.us

OLD BUSINESS

Approval of minutes

Approval of Minutes: March 11, 2024 Data Committee Meeting.
Mike Johnson *moved to approve the minutes from the March 11, 2024, Data Committee Meeting. Dave Hanson seconded. No-one abstained/denied. The motion carried.*

NEW BUSINESS

2023 PIT Report

January 2023 surveys that were completed de-duplicated data was presented by Ivan Orozco. The 685 total Individuals participated in the survey and totaling 581 counted for households. Of those 624 individuals surveyed were experiencing homelessness and 520 households. Of those households surveyed, there was a 26.1% increase in households identifying as "Unsheltered" from the previous year. Households surveyed who identified as staying in Transitional housing rose by 10.6%, Melissa clarified that percent increase in Transitional Housing only represented 10 additional households. However, overall, the number of individuals surveyed who were experiencing homelessness decreased in 2023 by 6.1% from 2022. There is additional information on the shift in the population which is found in the Multi-Year Data section of the document presented.

Households by Housing Types were presented with 222 households surveyed, reporting as Unsheltered(Outdoors, RV/Boat/Vehicle, or Abandoned Building. Households surveyed who reported staying in Emergency Shelters decreased from 2022. These changes may be due to the number of surveys actually completed. Locations of Households surveyed were primarily reporting Upper Yakima Valley area and in the South Valley the largest surveyed location was the Toppenish area. Yakima had the largest number of unsheltered households surveyed.

Households by Type showed 91% of households surveyed reported without children and 9% with children in 2023. The majority of those surveyed without children remained unsheltered with 220 households responding. For Households Income Source in 2023 data, over half of all households surveyed, 61%, had some form of income. There were only 27% surveyed who reported no income and 10% surveyed had unknown income. Under Causes and Conditions for the 520 households surveyed, the biggest response from households who listed causes and conditions leading to homelessness was they were evicted or had a loss of housing.

Dave Hanson initiated discussion about not having enough harm reduction programs for housing in the county because individuals can get into the housing but then can't

maintain it without continued assistance. This points to a systemic issue with the programs meant to end the housing issue. Annette Rodriguez questioned the way the PIT question regarding *What circumstance led you here the most*, and wondered if it could be rephrased for a more accurate response. Suzi mentioned that with their intake process, they ask a clarifying question regarding why individuals have no housing. Drugs, addiction and mental health were listed. Where does mental health and substance use fall?

The Length of Time Homeless graph showed year to year change data, with households surveyed reporting in 2023 *Less than 1 Year*. When comparing to our local HENA data, it was the opposite, and showed the majority of people responding said they were homeless for *2.5 years or Longer*. Melissa said the data in this table needs to be looked at more closely.

Action: Lenth of Time Homeless table needs adjustment to verify accuracy.

When broken down by age, the chart showed the average age of all individuals surveyed was 42 years old, which was an increase from 39.5 years old in 2022. As a side note, the Gender Categories for 2023 to 2024 will be different due to the further expansion of the categories. Race and Ethnicity of Individual had White being the largest and Hispanic/Latin(a)(o)(x) were next highest. For Tribal Enrollments, the largest surveyed responses were for the Confederated Tribes and bands of Yakama Nation at 91 individuals identifying, with Chippewa unspecified responses having the next highest at 4 individuals identifying out of 121 total responses. The data for Educational Attainment for those 25 or older were reviewed as well.

Chronically Homeless Households (must have a disability and who live either in a place not meant for human habitation, a safe haven or in an emergency shelter) showed 59% Chronically Homeless, 26% Not Chronically Homeless and 15% were Unknown of 191 households surveyed who were Unsheltered, Sanctioned Encampment, or Emergency Shelter. Melissa said the goal is to try to intervene with them before they become chronically homeless. There were 29 individuals surveyed who identified as Veterans in 2023 and 20 in 2022. Of the 29 who identified as Veterans, 41% qualified as chronically homeless.

Discussion ensued around how to better state the number of surveyed individuals clearly to help explain the numbers we are seeing. Once we have used the same methodology for three years, we can begin to see real trend data. Finding the right methodology for our county is still being researched and this seems to be the right direction. From a data quality standpoint, HMIS data has the highest quality data points available to us.

Snaps Report	The Snaps report from Commerce is the most balanced report that Melissa has found and for our next meeting we will focus on this. Tabled to next meeting
2024 WTR 1 Data Quality Preliminary Report	Tabled to next meeting
HENA & YAHA Updates	Tabled to next meeting
Next Meeting	DATE: May 13, 2024 Location: Hybrid Zoom and In Person at the Human Services Conference Room
Adjourn	With no other business, the meeting was adjourned at 11:02am .