

Yakima County Homeless Coalition  
Data Committee  
MEETING MINUTES

**CALL TO ORDER**

The **March 10, 2025** Data Committee meeting came to order at **2:00pm**.

**INTRODUCTIONS**

Members present: Commissioner Curtis (YC), Luis A. Lopez (Yak. Eco Solutions), Jennifer Schlenske (JHY)

Zoom: Mary Diaz (YNHS), Mike Vachon (YNHS), Celina Sanchez (ACGWA), Makela Alem (COMM), Susan Soto Palmer (SLVMS), Shamira Moore (YWCA), Dave Hanson (SOC)

Human Services staff present:

Melissa Holm, Esther Magasis, Rosana Negrete, Brian Hedengren

\*If you don't see your name or your organization name here, please email Deann at [Deann.Bergquist@co.yakima.wa.us](mailto:Deann.Bergquist@co.yakima.wa.us)

**OLD BUSINESS**

*Approval of minutes*

Approval of Minutes: January 13, 2025 Data Committee Meeting.

\_\_\_\_\_ moved to approve the minutes from the January 13, 2025, Data Committee Meeting. \_\_\_\_\_ seconded. \_\_\_\_\_ abstained/denied. The motion carried/failed.

*Minutes will be emailed to the group for approval.*

**NEW BUSINESS**

*Recap of SWOT  
Activity - Strategic  
Session #1*

Dave Hanson provided data points for the group discussion. The discussion touched on how HMIS data has been improving over the last few years since the Human Services Department (HSD) took over the management of local data inputs and completed significant data clean-up involving all agencies with HMIS access. Melissa mentioned that we are now at the point that we can address the data issues and include some steps that can be added into the 5-Year plan. Many agencies who use HMIS are struggling with them but acknowledge that the HMIS monthly reports can be utilized to build better pathways and outcomes. Melissa Holm mentioned the Crosswalk between state guidelines, what information we need to make a decision and what is the Data Team's recommendation for how we move that forward. The State has said in each area we need to project for growth. She reviewed the data from the HAPT Method C with population spreadsheet report that showed that in each area we need to project for housing growth out to 2044, and she indicated that these goals would be good to add into the 5-Year plan regarding the emergency shelters and housing needs. Esther Magasis added that there is a need for more housing and to get useful feedback from the housing developers, it will require us to have goals and measurable outcomes set for the housing developers as part of the 5-Year plan for them to better understand the needs of the community. Melissa said the emphasis for our long-term strategy for the additional beds the state says will be needed in our community should be for more permanent housing outcomes. She

explained that all of the information and data gathered from the SWOT analysis will be compiled and the Data Team's job will be to determine what recommendations to make based on the information and data gathered, should we stay with the state's target, adjust from the state target and determine what other targets are needed. For the next meeting, the group should focus on determining any additional goals. She mentioned that when they are prioritizing those who are most vulnerable, for example, vulnerability doesn't always mean they qualify for services. If we decide locally that they are going to be prioritized, there is a gap, so we then must determine how to move mountains to establish their alignment with funding sources.

**Action Item: Melissa will email all the meeting materials from today along with the list of Exit destinations out following the meeting.**

*Initial Point In Time  
Data*

*Tabled to next meeting.*

*Commerce Data  
Presentation/Equitable  
Outcomes*

Melissa introduced Makela Alem from Commerce. She went over the Commerce Performance Monitoring with slides and reviewed how it works and then compared our Yakima County data to these performance measures. She explained the Housing Outcome Performance Requirements and the associated Equitable Outcomes measure and went into more detail regarding the Equitable Outcomes Data Source and how some of the lower numbers in the data can cause somewhat inflated disparity data. For example, Melissa explained the how the lower counts in our Emergency Shelter of some categories like Black, African America, African populations can make our county data appear to have more disparity than actually exists. The Equitable Outcomes Dashboard can help providers see the gaps in our system for access and exits. Makala had some recommended next steps that included user guide links that are embedded in the slide deck that was sent to the group via email prior to the meeting.

**Action Item: Melissa will send out Commerce Equitable Performance slides to the group.**

*Next Meeting*

**DATE: April 14, 2025**

*Adjourn*

Location: In Person at Yakima County Human Services Office/OEM/Baker Boyer  
With no other business, the meeting was adjourned at **4:00pm**.