



Whatcom County Housing Advisory Committee Meeting Minutes

Meeting Date/Time/Location: February 11, 2016 – 8:34-9:56 a.m. – Whatcom County Health Department, 509 Girard, Bellingham

WCHAC Members Present: Regina Delahunt, John Harmon, Bob Libolt, Jennifer Moon, Emily O'Connor, Debbie Paton, Paul Schissler, Tara Sundin (representing COB)

WCHAC Members Absent: Michael Heath

Whatcom County Health Depart Staff/Guests: Greg Winter, Opportunity Council; Mike Parker, Opportunity Council HSC; Karen Burke, DVSAS; Anne Deacon, Human Services Manager; Barbara Johnson-Vinna, Human Services; Patty Proctor, Business Office Supervisor, Vicki McClure, Health Dept. Human Services clerk

Agenda Item	Discussion	Action/Who
1. Call to order, introductions	The meeting was called to order at 8:34 a.m. by Debbie Paton in Emily's absence. Quorum present; introductions conducted.	
2. Agenda Review	No additions	
3. Public Comment	None	
4. New Business <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • December 10, 2015 minutes • Committee membership vote and updates 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Minutes of December 10, 2015 reviewed. Motion made and seconded to approve minutes as presented. Emily arrived and assumed chair responsibilities. • Motion made for recommending the appointment Karen Burke and Gary Williams to the committee was seconded. Barbara is working with the Port of Bellingham for a representative from the Small Cities Caucus. On Tuesday Samya Lutz will become the COB representative to the WCHAC. Emily volunteered to continue as Chair; Debbie 	<p>Motion: To approve the minutes of the December 10, 2015 meeting as presented. Aye: 6, Nay: 0, Abstain: 0, Absent: Michael Heath, (Regina and Bob arrived later)</p> <p>Motion: To recommend to the County Executive appointment of Karen Burke and Gary Williams to the WCHAC. Aye: 8, Nay: 0, Abstain: 0, Absent: Michael Heath</p> <p>Motion: To appoint Emily O'Connor as Chair and Debbie Paton as Vice Chair of the WCHAC</p>

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<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Financial update • Regional Home Consortium 	<p>volunteered to continue as Vice Chair. Motion made and seconded to appoint the slate.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Handout provided. 2015 Still closing, so a complete report will be available at the next meeting. We saw a 62% cut in HG funding, but were able to utilize recording fees excess to back-fill. If CHG funds are reinstated we hope to be able to use the dollars for case management services. Decision on how to spend the funds will be addressed if and when the funds are available. Recording fees are trending well. We are watching sales tax trends due to the decrease in the value of the Canadian dollar. • A new program manager has been hired and Anne and Barbara will meet with her today to discuss available funds and the plan for Whatcom County. We expect rental assistance to funnel through the City of Bellingham for tenant-based rental assistance. 	<p>for 2016. Aye: 8, Nay: 0, Abstain: 0, Absent: Michael Heath</p>
<p>5. Reports/Updates</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • PIT Update 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Point in Time Count took place January 28 with 60+ volunteers. Everything went smoothly and, with the help of HOT outreach, we tried to focus on some new locations. Unofficial results indicate an increase in homelessness of approximately 14%, which is probably due equally to more intensive outreach and actual increase in homeless persons. An increase of 29 homeless youth was seen, but we are not seeing the huge increase in number of homeless students as the state is seeing. Final report is expected in April/May. Feel good: A man who had been living around the Health Department for a good while approached Barbara to let her know he'd found housing after extensive work by the HOT team to get him services, and one homeless man who had been "living" in our Girard Street doorways at night stowed his worldly possessions in our bushes during the day when he went to work. One day, our yard crew removed all his belongings and placed them under a tree, although it was about to rain. We beckoned our Homeless Outreach Team to help us identify the owner of the goods, who they knew. They 	

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<p>5. Reports/Updates PIT update (con't)</p> <p>• Legislative update</p> <p>• Planning Commission City of Bellingham Homeless Efforts</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Agreed to pick up his belongings and wait for his return “home” from work. They wanted to be sure his personal property was dry and in good condition because his housing was becoming available the very next day. • Flyer provided for the “Homeless in Bellingham” film project. Screening and discussion will occur February 24 at the Bellingham Public Library. The films have been shown at neighborhood associations. Goal for season two was 10,000 viewers and that goal has been surpassed. Entire series is available on the Opportunity Council’s Homeless Service Center website. Council will be informed of the series. Times and locations for the Human Rights Film Festival are also available on Opportunity Council’s website http://www.whatcomhsc.org/ • Hope is for ten million more in the state housing trust fund. CHG funding has been a moving target. Commerce is seeking to allocate \$11 million. Evictions recording legislation is being considered. Fair Tenant Screening, to make screening reports portable, died in Senate. Source of income discrimination, which disallows housing discrimination based on source of income, is moving along. A request for \$300 million from the state’s rainy day fund for homelessness might not pass, but press exposure is good by creating a buzz. City Council unanimously approved the Aloha project with 154 units for seniors, families, formerly homeless and businesses that operate into night hours for a nighttime presence. Hope for a three year time frame. • Nothing to report • Tara Sundin provided update. It is a high priority of the mayor to bring resources to Bellingham and Community Development is looking at housing options. Lighthouse might partner with the city for a low barrier shelter. A lease situation would be ideal; siting is an issue. Also looking at Peace Health to partner from a point of savings 	

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	standpoint. Outreach is taking place to the faith-based	
5. Reports/Updates (con't)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> community. The city is working with HOT to assess what the housing needs are and how to meet them in an efficient way. 	
6. Future Issues/Topics	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The committee will continue to meet every other month. Suggestion to broaden the agenda to encompass a broad range of housing needs. 	Paul will present at the April meeting.
7. Adjourn	Meeting adjourned at 9:56 AM.	
Next Meeting	<p style="text-align: center;">Next regular meeting April 14, 2016 8:30 – 10:00 a.m. Whatcom County Health Department Admin. Conference Room 509 Girard Street</p>	