



CITY/COUNTY HOMELESS MEETING
(ECHO: ENDING COMMUNITY HOMELESSNESS ORGANIZATION)



MINUTES OF JANUARY 11, 2022

The ECHO Meeting convened, in Vancouver, Washington, via WebEx, City Councilor Ty Stober, City Manager Eric Holmes, City Mayor Anne McEnerny-Ogle, City Sr. Policy Analyst Aaron Lande; County Councilors Gary Medvigy, Karen Dill Bowerman and County Manager Kathleen Otto, Sr. Policy Analyst Lindsey Hueer, Clark County Director of Community Services Vanessa Gaston, Clark County Community Services Michael Torres, Battle Ground City Councilor Cherish DesRochers, present.

9:30 am

Karen Bowerman:

Asking the question; “what is the purpose of this group”? The suggestions that were before us were:

1. Think Tank; meaning who votes is less important than who is at the table.
2. Detailed group, working out policies and programs. To take suggestions back to the respective governments to be able to move forward.

These are tow (2) different approaches and depending on which way we go determines the structure of this group.

Ty Stober:

The current “Action Plan” expires this year, and this is a good launching spot for our renewed efforts. All the cities in the County understand that homelessness is affecting everyone. The Goal is how can we work together, use our funds in the most effective way to go after a thought threw process in order to attack this problem.

The Funds do not belong to us, they have been in-trusted to us, they belong to the people of Clark County, in some cases individuals within cities, and we are in-trusted with these funds, the County is the largest entity in-trusted with funds, primarily coming from the state and federal government, the City of Vancouver is in-trusted with funds coming the federal government, state and the voters within our jurisdiction. The small cities are being represented by the County. The County is acting on everyone’s behalf and is an opportunity for the County to hear everyone’s concerns from all the different jurisdictions and the people of the County.

Vanessa Gaston:

The Housing Authority, the County, and we pay for the Cites share to have the Counsel for the Homeless serve as that convening body. They bring city and county staff, community members, people with lived experience and providers together to start the planning process for strategies. They must report the performance outcomes. There are several work groups that people participate in, it is part of a larger continuum of care. After thoughtful planning and input that plan is used as part of the process to go to the County Council elected body for them to approve.

Michael Torres:

The homeless action plan is something that is required by state legislature to be developed locally for the system of care that is fed by the public funds, document recording fees, consolidated homelessness grant, system administration grant and emergency solutions grant. The plan that exists right now is the result of a thorough collaborative process with the involved stake holders and does incorporate the voice not only of service providers but of actual people experiencing homelessness.



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Cherish DesRochers:

She was under the impression from when she started, that this group was a representation of those who contribute document recording fees to homeless services, so there was an expectation that she would have a voice on how those funds were utilized and the big picture. She has not received any documentation for the inter local agreement of how much the City of Battle Ground has contributed to the fund. She is not comfortable of the restructuring of this group as it seems sufficient. She is more interested in continuing as the original format, where we have the municipalities that are contributing funds to the document recording fees having a voice at the table.

Mayor Anne McEnerny-Ogle:

The mayor presented, changes that she would like to make regarding the MOA, the highlighted areas in green are her proposals. She states that this is an advisory group not a policy group. There should be a representative from every city throughout the county.

Gary Medvigy:

He is in agreeance with, the mayor's suggested changes. He pointed out serval bullet points that he would like to bring to the attention of the group. Would like to where in the process, the Council for the Homeless is on creating a standard operating procedure for bringing services to encampments, especially to those that are closing.

OVERVIEW

- Reviewed the changes to the MOA.
- Would like the Council for the Homeless to present at the next ECHO meeting are where they are in their process.
- Present a clear and clean copy with all changes to all members.
- Meetings to be held monthly.

Adjourned

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