



ECHO convened via WebEx; in attendance: County Chair Bowerman, County Manager Otto, County Sr. Analyst Hueer, Mayor McEnery-Ogle, Van. Manager Holmes, Van. Councilor Stober, Van. Councilor Harless, Van. Councilor Perez, Van. City Analyst Lande, B.G. Councilor DesRochers, Vanessa Gaston, Michael Torres, and Jamie Spinelli.

Clark County ECHO

(Ending Community Homelessness Organization)

Meeting Minutes – March 8, 2022

ECHO Chair, Clark County Councilor, Gary Medvgy, opened-up the ECHO meeting with a warm welcome & introductions.

- February 8, 2022, meeting minutes were approved through unanimous consent.

1. Update from each entity and any suggested action items

- **Council for the Homeless – Andy Silver**
 - Leadership transitions, there is a new interim Executive Director of Council for the Homeless, Kirsten Ware.
 - Project Homeless and Point in Time count.
 - Council for the Homeless releases an annual System Number Report and will be released next month; a highlight from that report: 4036 Households experienced homelessness at some point during the year and interacted with a service provider who enters data.
 - Another big project for Outreach is being headed by, Clara Johnson, Coordinator Outreach Director for Council for the Homeless.
- **Vancouver Housing Authority – Andy Silver**
 - Newest effort around homelessness is LACH (Local Accountable Community of Health), they have received funding to use the pathway's care coordination program to support some of the voucher recipients who are exiting homelessness and they are hiring a team to help people once they exit homelessness.
 - Tenny Creek Assisted Living and the Meridian partnership are nearing the end of construction and will start pre-leasing for these buildings next month.
- **Community Foundation for Southwest Washington – Shona Carter**
 - Community Foundation Focus Grant Programs Cycle 1 open February 14th and closes March 31st. Cycle 2 opens July 15th and closes August 31st. The discretionary grant program usually grants about \$25,000 to \$50,000.
- **Clark County – Vanessa Gaston**
 - Staff is continuing to work on the document requested in the previous meeting, about all the different organizations, funding sources, and programs available.
 - They are working on "How do we do better care coordination", focused on the homeless, housing, and behavioral health are the top priorities.
- **City of Vancouver – Jamie Spinelli**
 - They have completed the Public Engagement for the 2nd Safe Stay Community, opening in mid-April. Continuing to look at potential sites for the 3rd Safe Stay Community and safe park.



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- **City of Camas – Steve Hogan**
 - He is wanting to define how the agencies work in the County, what, how, when, and availability. He would like to bring his team in, to understand the parameters, and then work on how they are going to approach the homeless population and define an internal process for the City of Camas, as well as determine if and where there are any gaps.
- **City of La center – Greg Thornton**
 - This meeting is primarily educational and is looking forward to being an active member of ECHO.
- **Other Small Cities**
 - Mayor of Ridgefield is happy to attend and is looking for education on how to move forward as “Homelessness doesn’t have Borders”.
 - Cherish DesRochers of Battle Ground is happy in the direction this group is moving.

2. Update re-existing encampments, including SOP for encampment clean-up by Council for the Homeless; existing SOPs for Clark County and for the City of Vancouver

- **City of Vancouver**
 - Jamie Spinelli spoke about the HART Team in the City of Vancouver, this consists of, Jamie Spinelli, Tyler, Sheila Andrews, and Officer Chavers.
 - Sheila Andrews, Encampment Coordinator, spoke about the clean-up and organization of removal of waste for all encampments in the City of Vancouver.
 - Officer Chavers spoke about his role in the HART Team and there is a need for more people on this team.
- **Clark County – Vanessa Gaston**
 - Vanessa Gaston spoke about the County is on the lead for the Homeless Action Plan, that will be turned into the State. They are updating the process as they do every five (5) years. They pay The Council for the Homeless funds to help with the updating of the process. She spoke about the different organizations within the County.
 - Vanessa and Michael Torres provided an outline as to where the \$15.5M ARPA funding has been allocated too.
 - Clara Johnson of Council for the Homeless spoke about some improvements they are making to support the encampments across the County.

3. Status of small city members

Group Discussion

- **Next meeting:**
 - April 12, 2022, 9:30-11:00am
 - PeaceHealth will be presenting an update on a new community center project