

Policy & Planning Council General Membership Meeting
Friday, October 30, 2015
Yakima Valley Arboretum, 8:30-11:30 a.m.

Present: Tim Sullivan, Larry Mattson, Avery Zoglman, and Tamara Hayward (YVCOG), Kelly Penfold (ALPHA Team), Janice Gonzales (NCAC), Derald Ortloff (City of Toppenish), Mark Todd (United Way), Jane Williams (City of Selah), David Helseth, Ryan ?Enright (Landmark Properties), Annette Rodriguez (YNHS), Joe Willis (Rod’s House), Lowel Krueger (Yakima Housing Authority), Jesse Farias (City of Wapato), Kathy Tierney (NW Justice), Beth Dannhardt (Triumph), Joan Davenport (City of Yakima); Stacy Kellogg (People for People), Teresa Carlson (Dept. of Corrections), Debra Whitefoot (Yakama Nation Housing), Patrick Baldoz (SCWDC), Donald Day (City of Sunnyside)

Transcribed by: Tami Hayward

Agenda Item	Action Taken	Follow-up
Call to Order – Larry Mattson, 8:34		
<p>Welcome and Introductions</p> <p>Mr. Mattson welcomed everyone to the meeting and explained that this is not a dissolution of the Homeless programs, it is a remodel. The Homeless Network will continue to exist as a grass roots coalition. The Planning & Policy Council will serve as a planning and policy body to help guide the funding allocations and strategic direction as far as the resources for trying to end homelessness here in the Valley go.</p> <p>Mr. Mattson then asked attendees to go around the room and introduce themselves, along with a brief explanation of their reasons for attending this meeting.</p> <p>Mr. Mattson shared his view on the recent articles printed in the Yakima Herald and asked to get the conflict laid out on the table. He stated that he hopes this council will be a safe place for open, candid dialogue. He invited council members to contact YVCOG staff with questions and to work with them directly.</p> <p>He then addressed the issue of the YVCOG Pay Plan scheduled to take effect in January of 2016. He explained that 8 of the positions will see an increase of between 3 – 8%, an analyst position with increase by 11%, and the deputy director will increase by 22%. His salary is set each December by the YVCOG Executive Committee. The funding to support these increases is expected to come from new contracts, including a Department of Health grant, and from cutting outsourced contracts, and part of the funding will come from the Homeless programs. The funding pool is quite complex and we receive grants from many sources, including transportation.</p> <p>Concern was expressed from various members over the disconnect the Homeless Network has experienced since the loss of Ellie Lambert’s position – questions on why her position wasn’t brought to YVCOG instead of increasing the salaries of existing staff. Mr. Mattson responded that Ms. Lambert filled a void in the Yakima County Human Services department. YVCOG is more focused on planning and policy. YVCOG does more contracting with providers to provide the type of services that she provided.</p> <p>Ms. Dannhardt mentioned that outreach and good press are very important pieces in order to raise awareness and address preconceived ideas. Mr. Mattson would like to begin a perception campaign for the Homeless Programs – “This is the face of homelessness in Yakima Valley.” (Outreach and resource coordination.) He stated that communication does need to improve.</p> <p>Avery Zoglman noted that Ellie Lambert addressed a small portion of the homeless population who are hard to reach – the chronic homeless who are very isolated. He stated that there are many sub-populations within the homeless and that most of the other groups,</p>		

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<p>besides the chronic, are almost invisible. We will have to decide which groups will be our priority, because there isn't enough resources to help all of them.</p> <p>Ms. Davenport agreed that the chronic homeless is the subpopulation of homeless that people see and where they get their perceptions on the homeless.</p> <p>Mr. Sullivan spoke on the upcoming Point in Time count, which is given to the Department of Commerce and to HUD. We are not hitting our benchmarks. Homeless populations are increasing. Funding continues to decrease, and many programs are losing money on their housing programs. Outreach has never been a mandatory component of our grants, but it is something to consider in the future.</p>		
<p>Review Agenda</p>		
<p>Why YVCOG? What Does YVCOG Do?</p> <p>Conference of Governments/Councils of Governments – they can perform just about any service, under their bylaws. Land use, transportation, GIS, parks and recreation, 9-1-1, etc. – whatever services the cities as the COG to provide. One of the things asked of Larry when he was hired was to go out into the community to find out what services communities consider valuable. We also do a lot of grant seeking, researching, writing, and administration.</p> <p>Mr. Mattson explained the structure of Yakima Valley Conference of Governments and reviewed the YVCOG org chart. Advisory committees meet about a week before the Executive Committee/Policy Board and make recommendations to the Executive Committee/Policy Board.</p> <p>Mr. Mattson explained the process of the Homeless Programs' transition to YVCOG. YVCOG was approached by the Yakima County Commissioners last summer and asked to consider bringing the Homeless Programs into our organization, because they felt that YVCOG was a better fit than the County. After consideration, the YVCOG General Membership voted to bring the Homeless Programs to YVCOG under an 18-month professional services contract. At the end of the contract, the Homeless Programs will transition completely to YVCOG. There are quite a few COGs around the state who manage homeless programs.</p> <p>The Homeless Programs joined YVCOG in July. We want to bridge the gap and make a strong connection between the Homeless Network/Homeless Planning & Policy Council/YVCOG.</p>		
<p>Homeless & Housing Data</p> <p>Point in Time is a process developed by HUD for communities to count their sheltered and unsheltered populations. Unable to do a survey by going to their home, because they have no home – we have to find them, find out who they are and what their issues are. Mandated by HUD and Department of Commerce – last Thursday of January.</p> <p>Mr. Sullivan reviewed various charts and graphs indicating the numbers of unsheltered people are dropping. We are definitely seeing more unsheltered and chronic homeless populations recently. People who are “couch surfing” normally aren't included in the counts.</p>		

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<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Almost 32% of our homeless people are children (17 and younger). • Point of origin: 84% of all homeless resided in Yakima before becoming homeless. • Top three income sources: Social Security, no income and/or unaccounted <p>Causes: unable to pay rent or mortgage, family crises or breakup, drug or alcohol use, mental health, etc.</p> <p>Needs: transportation, job training/placement, food</p> <p>Mr. Sullivan and Mr. Zoglman identified additional data sources that are utilized by the Homeless Programs. Mr. Zoglman also gave examples of ways the data can be used.</p>		
<p>Purpose, Roles and Responsibilities of the Planning Council</p>		
<p>History of Homeless Services</p> <p>Mr. Sullivan provided information on his educational and professional background, and his involvement in the formation of the Homeless Network. In 2004, while working with United Way, he got involved with the issue of homelessness. A very complicated issue.</p> <p>YVCOG will be providing binders to the Policy & Planning Council members, where you will be able to keep copies of educational materials, agendas, minutes, etc.</p>		
<p>Homeless Funding and Services</p>		
<p>Continuum of Care</p>		
<p>Next Steps</p>		