

Yakima County Homeless Coalition  
General Membership  
MEETING MINUTES  
July 21<sup>st</sup>, 2020

- CALL TO ORDER** The July 21<sup>st</sup>, 2020 Yakima County Homeless Coalition General Membership came to order at 1:30 pm.
- INTRODUCTIONS** Members present: Gilbert, Vicki Baker, Ava Sanchez, Scott Thielen, Joseph Brusica, Josh Jackson, Kellie Connaughton, Esther Magasis, Lance Larsen, Tom Gaulke, Brian Ahern, Geoff Baker, Meredith Bruch, Cecilia Vizcaino de la Mora, Jo Ann Garcia, Dave Hanson, Beth Dannhardt, Mitzi Duenas.
- OLD BUSINESS**  
*Approval of minutes* Approval of Minutes: March 17<sup>th</sup>, 2020 YHC Meeting  
**Action: Dave Hanson moved to approve the minutes from the March 17<sup>th</sup>, 2020 YHC Meeting. Vicki Baker seconded. The motion carried.**
- NEW BUSINESS**  
*YHC Exec Update* Esther mentioned updates from last meeting which discussed goals for 2020 and including reaching out to Commerce staff to do data presentation. Esther pointed out about the consistent point of interest which is more education to the public about the funds Yakima County administers and the programs where the funds are going towards. Esther has been able to get a hold of Commerce staff and confirm about dome staff will be available for September's meeting to present about the date collected in the Yakima County. There is a need a new Executive Team Member for the Individual with Lived Experience of Homelessness position. Esther will send out an application to YHC members in case someone may be interested in applying for the position.
- RFP* Esther went over the HHA RFP Results. Esther had previously sent out a link proving RFP results which can also be found at the Yakima County website. Esther gave a review presenting the Five-Year Plan Alignment for the RFP. Most addressed goal was goal two, which is Operating Effective and Efficient Homeless Crisis Response System. Esther mentioned Yakima County has a limited RFP. There are two categories identified by the Board of County Commissioners as important services but were not filled during this RFP, which are 24-hour Low Barrier Drop-in Shelter for single adults with no medical issues within the City of Yakima and Lower Valley Extreme Winter Weather Drop-in Shelter.
- ESG-CV Grant* Yakima County was awarded \$699,874 by the State for shelter, outreach, and prevention. Esther mention the funds will be used to fully fund all the shelter and outreach applications received. Esther mentioned the Yakima County currently has rental assistance dollars within the community. Esther has worked with the State and Department of Commerce to be able to flex those dollars in ways the County does not typically does. Rental assistance is normally for people experiencing homelessness. Rental assistance has been used to prevent people who are currently un-housed to prevent becoming homeless. Esther mentioned the programs Yakima County is founding, YNHS and NCAC are still issuing rental assistance for folks even before the moratorium eviction is lifted as long as people can provide proof they are at risk of eviction. Commissioner Baker mentioned the Yakima County Commissioners are trying to get ahead of that and communicating with the community, therefore landlords and tenants are aware of the program.

*Shelter Grant*

Yakima County is applying for funds from the State for new shelter beds where the Emergency Solutions Grants which is CARES ACT money coming through the State. Esther mentioned the idea of the grant is anticipating that once the moratorium on evictions is lifted, there may be an increase in homelessness. “We are making plans to increase shelter’s capacity at Noah’s Ark, UGM and Camp Hope”.

**Action: Esther suggested to contact/email her or email the Department of Human Services about any other shelter proposals at [HumanServices@co.yakima.wa.us](mailto:HumanServices@co.yakima.wa.us)**

Tom Gaulke asked What is the current capacity at the shelters Noah’s Ark, Camp Hope and UGM?

Esther mentioned as far as she is concerned, they are all at full capacity. Due to winter coming and the upcoming lift of the moratorium eviction, organizations are getting prepared in advance to make sure they have beds available. Esther mention UGM is interested in trying to get portables out behind their current family shelter site that way they can take families there in case they need to.

Kellie asked Esther if she needed any letters of support to go with the grant application. Currently Commerce is not asking for any letters of support.

*Yakima Valley  
Community Needs  
Project*

Yakima Valley Community Foundation and Yakima County distributed almost 35,000 COVID response items to nonprofits across the County (out of 40,000 requested). Tom Gaulke mentioned Camp Hope received funding to provide tablets and training support to individuals who cannot connect to services specially when doing job searches. Dave Hansen mention Sunrise Outreach received personal protective equipment. Scott Thielen also mentioned UGM received personal protective equipment. Kellie recognized Lee Murdock’s effort in Tableau and the ability to have access to the needs of non-profit organizations. Esther mentioned there is almost \$10,000 dollars left for the project if any other organization needs supplies. Applications can be found at <https://yakimavalleyneeds.org/>

*Updates*

none

*Next Meeting*

Tuesday, September 15<sup>th</sup>, 2020  
Online/virtual meeting

*Adjourn*

With no other business, the meeting was adjourned at 2:10 pm.

