

Yakima County Homeless Coalition  
Executive Committee  
MEETING MINUTES  
October 20, 2020

CALL TO ORDER      The October 20, 2020 Yakima County Homeless Coalition Executive Committee came to order at 1:30 pm.

INTRODUCTIONS      YHC EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEMBERS:

Vicki Baker, <i>PRESENT</i>	Rhonda Hauff, <i>PRESENT</i>
Joe Brusic, <i>PRESENT</i>	Soneya Lund, <i>PRESENT</i>
Kyle Curtis, <i>ABSENT</i>	Mike Johnson, <i>PRESENT</i>
Dave Hanson, <i>PRESENT</i>	Joan Souders, <i>PRESENT</i>

ALSO, PRESENT:  
Esther Magasis, Yakima County Human Services  
Mitzi Duenas, Yakima County Human Services

**OLD BUSINESS**

*Approval of minutes*

Approval of Minutes: August 18, 2020  
**Action: Rhonda Hauff moved to approve the minutes from the August 18, 2020 YHC Executive Meeting. Joan Souders seconded. The motion carried.**

*Commerce Data  
Presentation*

Mike Johnson asked How does veterans homelessness portion throughout the state?  
Esther mentioned data has been better with veteran's status and Yakima county as well as other counties also track veteran's homelessness data.  
Joan Souders – What is the data of homelessness and mental health issues and what has been addressed?

Esther mentioned is unsure if HMIS will have the data available.

**Action: Esther will reach out to Commerce to retrieve information about mental health.**

Rhonda suggested it would be helpful letting commerce staff know about what information stands out about Yakima County that makes the committee an outlier regarding information about treatment services and data from the population of unsheltered people with different mental health disorders.

Mike Johnson said is interesting to know if Commerce has data about tracking income growth or metric that demonstrates the movement of an individual from recovery associated with homelessness and actual participation in the economy.

**Action: Rhonda mentioned to invite DBHR to present on Supported Employment & Supportive Housing.**

Mike Johnson suggested Mental Health Club house model for individuals with mental health disorders as a data that could be useful to learn and present to Commerce.

**NEW BUSINESS**

*Limited RFP*

Yakima County had the limited RFP for Award for 24-Hour Low-Barrier Night-by-Night Shelter for Single Adults and Families in Upper Valley.

Yakima County opened another RFP – Grace City Outreach was the only applicant and who received the award.

Link to award:

<https://www.yakimacounty.us/2436/Programs-We-Fund>

Esther mentioned part of the shelter grant is to get some portables to try to get something more sustainable for homeless people.

Mike Johnson mentioned about funding- How can Mike add value into the conversation with the state about recognizing the tents as a model for shelter?

Commissioner Baker mentioned to invite someone who had a positive outcome of going through the system successfully.

Rhonda mentioned, often times a tent is not a home, is a matter of what people are willing to give up in order to accept housing.

Esther Magasis mentioned is mostly not recognizing shelter as housing and focus whether tents shouldn't be the model because there's nothing else available. Esther mentioned homeless people should have the alternative to meet their preferences whether is a tent or other sustainable shelter.

#### *Unite Us Software*

Dave Hanson gave information about United Us Software.

Health plans were promoting as an alternative to 2-1-1

Question: How does this relate to 2-1-1?

The purpose is not to replace 2-1-1 systems but they both can play distinct roles to complement each other.

Dave encouraged members to join the meeting on October 27 from 9 to 10 am.

**Action: Dave will send meeting invitation link.**

Is a secure network. Unite Us has equitable access to be able to refer to other organizations to follow through and reconnect with individuals.

For more information visit:

<https://uniteus.com/>

#### *EWWS*

Dave mentioned Mike Kay had a request for making space for young adults from 18-25 years old.

Question: What is the current status with the EWWS?

Esther mentioned Camp Hope has been trying to utilize hotel/motel vouchers rather than their traditional model for WWS. Camp Hope has no funding for volunteering as previous years.

Soneya Lund- Rod's house contracted with a hotel closed during winter, using the motel as EWWS and following COVID-19 guidelines.

Dave asked about an update of EWWS in Sunnyside.

Esther will be meeting with David who is the case managers who does outreach in that area.

Dave is there any momentum going on in Toppenish on EWWS - Esther mentioned she has been in communication with the city administrator, Lance Hoyt, and she is waiting to hear from Tribal Council. Esther will attend a meeting with Tribal Council Wednesday October 21<sup>st</sup>, 2020 to hear about EWWS.

#### *Other*

Soneya Lund gave an update about Astria's hearing which will be held Wednesday October 21<sup>st</sup>, 2020.

#### *Next Meeting*

December 15, 2020  
Online

TBD

#### *Adjourn*

With no other business, the meeting was adjourned at 2:56 pm. .