

Continuum of Care Oversight Committee

Human Services

Meeting Minutes

January 16, 2019

Salvation Army – 1110 S Puget Sound Ave, Tacoma, WA 98406

Members Present (21)

James Pogue, Comprehensive Life Resources
Amanda DeShazo, Aff. Housing Consortium
Andy Rohr, TPC Health Dept.
Cacey Hanauer, Tacoma Housing Authority
Dana Orr, Pierce County AIDS Foundation
Diane Powers, City of Tacoma
Ellie Ottey, Pierce County Housing Authority
Dr. Eric Jackson, Bethlehem Baptist Church
Erica Azcueta, City of Tacoma
Keith Galbraith, Family Renewal Shelter
Martha Sheppard, Salvation Army
Neal Rogers, Community Representative
Nick Bayard, The REACH Center
Patti Spaulding-Klewin, CCS
Rachel Silis, Dept. of Veterans Affairs
Samantha Iverson, Tacoma Public Schools
Sean Raybell, WSD of Corrections
Seth Kirby, Oasis Youth Center
Tasha Smith (rep), Rebuilding Hope
Tonya Tunnell-Thornhill, Exodus Housing
Valorie Crout, Associated Ministries

Members Absent (5)

Joe Contras, Optum
Lakesha Egardo-Jones, Workforce Central
Laneta Able, Dept of Children, Youth & Fam.
Marilee Hill-Anderson, Sumner School District
Tiffany Spier, City of Lakewood

Staff

Jeff Rodgers
Valeri Knight
Vy Yun

Call Meeting to Order and Approval of Minutes

James Pogue called the meeting to order at 8:43 a.m.

Introductions

Introductions were made for Committee members and visitors.

Approval of Minutes

James asked for a motion to approve the minutes. Sean motioned; Dr. Jackson seconded; unanimously approved; Ellie abstained.

Public Comment Period

None

Governance Charter Discussion

Valeri will send out a draft of the edits discussed below:

A. Purpose

- a. For clarification on the Annual Homeless Point-in-Time Count, overflow is counted as sheltered and safe parking is counted as unsheltered.

B. Committee Membership

a. Vacancies

i. Governance Charter Seats

1. An agency or institution will replace themselves, include language the replacement will be of equal position as previous member.
2. When a new person starts, that is when their term should start, and not for the remainder of the term of the person vacating the seat.
3. Member terms will remain at three- years.

b. Open Membership and New Membership

- i. Add language the Executive Committee will hand over duties of developing a process to the Membership Committee. The process will include language to reflect the community that we serve. The Membership Committee will take in to account diversity and inclusion in the process.

C. Committee Officers

a. Officers

- i. Update "Chair" to "Chair(s)" to give the option of having two Chairs.
- ii. Include any former Chair or Vice-Chair can serve as interim Chair. If a former Chair or Vice-Chair is not present, a volunteer can step in as interim Chair.

D. Code of Conduct and Conflicts of Interest

a. Expectations and Code of Conduct

- i. It was clarified that a super majority would be of the members that attend that meeting, not a committee as a whole.

E. Committee Member Participation

a. Attendance

- i. Allow space for excused absences for legitimate reasons.
- ii. Agreed that members can send someone in their place for an excused absence.
- iii. Update to "at least 9 of 12 monthly meetings".
- iv. Update Committee members "must attend" to "are expected to attend".

b. Proxies

- i. Update "must designate" to "have the option". Include language that a member does not need to assign a proxy, but this is the process if they choose to do so.
- ii. If designating a proxy, email your proxy with a copy to County staff and Chair(s) so that it can be documented in the minutes.

F. Subcommittees, Working Groups, and Tasks Forces

a. Standing Subcommittees

- i. Add Membership Subcommittee.
- ii. Add Coordinated Entry Subcommittee.
- iii. Super majority vote will remain at 66%.
- iv. Remove language that requires County Staff to be present at every meeting, and replace with upon invitation, as requested, quarterly, or as appropriate with advance notification.
- v. Update "Should a need be identified for *additional* standing committee(s)" to "should a need be identified for *changing* a standing committee(s)" to leave room for committees to be added, combined, and/or removed.

Five-Year Strategic Plan Update

James reports they are meeting and working on the Five-Year Strategic plan, which will be the focus of the February meeting.

Good of the Order

- City of Tacoma passed the Rental Housing Code last year and are beginning a series of educational workshops, the first one being tonight, January 16, at the Tacoma-Pierce County Health Department. There will also be a workshop on Saturday, January 19, at the Peace Community Center. All informational sessions can be found online at the City of Tacoma website (<https://www.cityoftacoma.org/cms/One.aspx?portalId=169&pageId=163295>).

Public Comment

- Jeff would like to gather feedback on the use of Pierce County Jail to shelter the homeless.
 - I. Dr. Jackson said he would oppose of this because when it comes to sheltering, a jail cell, at any point, is not a place of dignity. There is a likelihood the person experiencing homelessness, may have previous experiences in jail.
 - II. Neal piggy-backed off Dr. Jackson, stating he has experienced doing time in both jails, and that he would absolutely, not approve this because it would trigger PTSD.
 - III. Diane also agreed and added that we do not want to re-traumatize people that have already been traumatized.
 - IV. Tonya also agreed as she has worked with domestic violence survivors and expressed that she does not think it is a place for children.
 - V. Sami states she thought the work we did in our community is to decriminalize.
 - VI. Dr. Jackson adds that we are far from exhausting all our resources, we have so many options, this should not be our last resort.
 - VII. Al expressed this is inappropriate to do and he opposes.
 - VIII. Nick suggests that some thought be put in how the questions are framed, i.e. stay outside for the winter or stay in a jail cell. You will get a different answer than when you ask, here are all your options, we have community resources, how do you consider this in comparison to the other things that are out there?
 - IX. James states that emergency shelters can be full to capacity, and although he is not endorsing this, he wants to throw out there, that there is a population that would access a shelter, regardless of where it is.
 - X. Questions regarding staffing were brought up. Who would staff this? How would guards react to the clients and vice-versa.
 - XI. Amanda thanks Jeff for posing the question to the CoC and suggests the CoC draft a letter and figure out who to address the letter to appropriate recipient.
 - XII. Valeri informs council meetings are opened to the public and each meeting has a public comment time.
 - XIII. Valorie asks if there are resources available in the community from this proposed effort, how can we use these resources elsewhere – How much would this proposed renovation cost, and how can we use it elsewhere?
- Al says that when we brought up the issue of the community being served representing the Committee, he thinks we have failed as a board to have a representative sample of people who have been served. He says we make good effort as we try to get consumers to participate, but they don't participate because they can't in various ways (i.e. they cannot afford to participate). As the discussion evolved and moved towards subcommittees, he

started thinking of the Accountable Community of Health (ACH) Community Voice Council, which consists of 12-14 members, people who have received services and some community health workers, that group has stayed together because ACH decided they would pay people for their time and they gave this committee some authority to review and approve items, which has gradually strengthen them. He recommends for the CoC to look at their group as they will continue to evolve and consider creating a committee to recruit people, pay them, and assign them responsibility to participate. He poses the question to the committee, "In the past year, what new thing(s) has evolved out of the work of this group that you are most proud of?"

Meeting Adjourned

James asked for a motion to adjourn the meeting. Sean motioned; Rachel seconded; adjourned the meeting at 10:29 a.m.