



Meeting Minutes

April 17, 2019

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

Members Present

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
Dr. Eric Jackson, Bethlehem Baptist Church
Erica Azcueta, City of Tacoma
Jeff Rodgers, Pierce County Human Services
Keith Galbraith, Family Renewal Shelter
Marilee Hill-Anderson, Sumner School District
Martha Sheppard, Salvation Army
Rachel Silis, Dept. of Veterans Affairs (rep)
Samantha Iverson, Tacoma Public Schools
Sean Raybell, WSD of Corrections
Seth Kirby, Oasis Youth Center
Sydney Screws, Dept of Child, Yth & Fam (rep)
Tiffany Spier, City of Lakewood
Tonya Tunnell-Thornhill, Exodus Housing
Valorie Crout, Associated Ministries

Members Absent

Autumn Hughes, Workforce-Central
Diane Powers, City of Tacoma
Ellie Ottey, Pierce County Housing Authority
Neal Rogers, Community Representative
Patti Spaulding-Klewin, CCS
Nick Bayard, The REACH Center
Tasha Smith, Rebuilding Hope

Staff

Valeri Knight
Vy Yun

Welcome

- Amanda called the meeting to order at 8:40 a.m.
- Introductions were made for CoC Members and Pyramid consultants.

Public Comment Period

- Maureen Howard asks if the CoC comment on policy at a federal, state, city, or county level? If so, what is that process?
- Maureen says at a previous meeting, unsafe/unsanitary conditions of some of the housing units being used was discussed. She attended the Coordinated Entry Committee and there is a pilot program to inspect these properties. Once the pilot is over, they will decide what to do next.
- Maureen runs a list of advocacy, strategy, and policy around homelessness, housing, and income issues. Please give Maureen your card if you would like to be added to this.
- Sean Lewis asks if guests could introduce themselves. Introductions for guests were made.

Overview of Today's Agenda

James asked for a motion to approve the minutes. Martha motioned; Seth seconded; unanimously approved.

Connecting Around What's Important to Us

Reminder of the CoC's Purpose

Pierce County Homelessness Landscape Assessment

Strategic Planning Process

- Pyramid has been engaged to support the strategic planning process.
- James proposes a full-day retreat after we have a solid draft of the plan. The goal would be to dive into what we have as the draft plan, look at where we want to go, and it will be the final opportunity to make changes.
- The landscape assessment was to get a clearer idea of the homelessness landscape in Pierce County.
 - Who is doing what
 - What the needs are
 - What policies are in play
 - Who are the players
 - What are other sectors doing
- The Google Drive link houses all their documents. Please email Valeri if you would like the link to the Google Drive.
- Denise discussed the formal homeless system. A simple explanation is that people can come in through coordinated entry, street outreach, or shelter and they move through the system. They may have problem-solving support (diversion) and if that works for them, then they have their housing situation resolved. If that is not the right solution, they may be put into a priority pool if they are part of one of the high priority sub-population. That might mean they go into permanent housing or rapid re-housing.
- Denise says they not only focused on the current system but looked outside the formal homeless system to get a sense of the informal organizations and efforts.
- Denise says they looked at needs and barriers. What are the resources and efforts that exist that are working on homelessness. She says they looked at existing focus groups research; there was a lot that has been done in the past two years and they did not want to duplicate efforts. There is good material out there that can inform the plan in process.
- Amanda and Tonya spoke about the greatest barriers faced by individuals to get housing and what are the greatest needs outside of housing. The populations analyzed were chronically homeless, survivors of domestic violence, persons of color, veterans, LGBTQI, youth and young adults, and families experience homelessness.
 - Lack of affordable housing/availability of housing
 - Lack of knowledge about resources and how to use them
 - Eligibility barriers
 - Feeling of inequity and discrimination among the groups interviewed
 - One stop shop - access to services, i.e. having an agency compile all the resources for all of Pierce County and have it accessible online or in a document
 - Providers stated funding was not flexible enough for their program
 - Facial expressions, body language from providers.
- Denise shared a diagram of the distribution of services. Martha says she would like to see the diagram true to scale as Denise explains the diagram is based on general observation at

the system and how it works, but not true to scale. Denise says the diagram shows the system is under resourced.

- Denise states they found extensive network of partnerships. This speaks to the fact that this work cannot be done alone. In the planning process, we want to think about how to leverage, strengthen, and/or streamline those networks.
- Basic Needs
 - Meal programs were a core offering for many organizations.
 - What are the other basic needs gaps? (i.e. hygiene, clean clothing, address, etc.)
 - James adds there are many faith organizations that have homeless services on their website. While the volume was huge, the actual services were small.
 - Maureen adds sometimes it's a fake name not linked to any organization.
- Dawn says funders are interested in how their funding can compliment other types of funding (i.e. funding pilot projects, cross-sector work, government funds). Funders are already coming together at monthly/quarterly meetings to talk about their funding and if they are in line with each other. They would love to have a connection with the CoC and County to see where they fit in and make sure they are not duplicating other efforts.
- Tiffany spoke about how policies encourage moving from homelessness to permanent housing and how policies serve as barriers.
 - Tiffany suggests instead of addressing each barrier individually as they may get adopted or considered for amendment over time, to come up with a template or legislative agenda that the CoC believes in (i.e. CoC oppose this, CoC supports that) so when those individual policies are up for discussion, whoever is addressing it is able to know the reaction that is appropriate.
 - CoC may want to establish a committee focused on policies or government affairs.
- James states they fund 35 established/identified coalitions in Pierce County. A survey was sent out to all the coalition leaders asking if they address homelessness in their coalition. Ten responded, with seven addressing homelessness. Many are addressing homelessness as an issue they are facing, but there is not a strategic plan developed within that coalition to address it besides how to partner with the system at large.
- Dawn met with cross sector champions – people working outside the formal system, but whose jobs connect them with homelessness (i.e. education sector, healthcare sector, criminal justice system).
 - All information can be found on the Google Drive.
- Pyramid is here to support the process, not here to take over and write the plan. They will serve as advisors.
- James says when we come to a consensus of a plan, the idea would be we really get the message of what we are trying to sell to the community. If there is something you want to address or have conversation about, let's do that while we are building the plan, but when we are done, we are all committed to the message to sell to our communities, coalitions, faith organization, etc.
- Denise says that if something is not in the plan, that doesn't mean it cannot be done later down the road. She adds it's important to be a contributor and a learner. Be proactive about your participation.
- Denise says Parameters and limitations shaping the plan is that the funders (HUD, State) have goals that need to be in the plan.
- Timeline:
 - August (late): need to be done with planning, sessions, and conversations.

- September/October: compose a written report of the plan.
- Reserve an entire month for County approval.
- Tiffany reminds October/November is the budget period for the County Council. Valeri says it does not need to go to Council.
- Denise plans to create groups to work on strategy development rather than having everyone working on every strategic priority.
- Al suggest talking to the Council Community of Health.
- Keith asks what decisions will be made if we do not meet the December deadline. Valeri answers the state has not shared the ramifications because the goal is that it will be completed by December. In the past, we have requested an extension and it was granted.
- Maureen says she hears a lot about services, but not housing. She asks how the CoC will address the housing requirements of the State requirement. Valeri says the only requirement is to house people experiencing homelessness. She adds that businesses are on the list for future conversation; they will be their own focus group.
- Maureen asks when Pyramid talked to the funders if homelessness was on the priority list. Dawn says they were not part of the meeting, but there is a sub-group that meets regularly to speak specifically about homelessness.
- Seth encourages benchmarking with neighboring jurisdictions. Valeri says they are sharing their plan with us and vice versa.
- Denise says there are three planning sections, each 3-5 hours each.
 - Pyramid offers weekend availability.
 - James adds that if you cannot make, please send the right replacement.
 - Marilee requested the meeting not be in July for the education sector.
 - Eric suggests extending the CoC meeting for the planning sessions.
- Valorie asks when the topics of the workgroups will be released so they can start planning. Denise says it will depend on strategic priorities that we need to develop together.
- Denise says the next session will be scheduled in mid-May.

Public Comment

- Martha is unclear on who makes the decision on how much money is reallocated from HUD. Valeri says it is done by the Application Evaluation Committee, represented from the Continuum of Care members as well as people out in the community with an unbiased voice; it is different each year. Valeri explains HUD gives us a percentage based on our annual renewal demand, DV bonus funding, new bonus funding, but reallocation is done by the Application Evaluation Committee. The percentage is based on what HUD gives the County.
- Maureen says that if you are part of her list, the email subject line is Comprehensive Plan. She says this will give you information on the city and county.
- Al comments the following:
 - He tells Pyramid very good work.
 - Encourages to invite private funding to come and participate.
 - It is important to create linkages (i.e. collaboration, join locations) to build an effective system.
 - Encourage your thoughts on becoming policy advocates and encourages to join other policy advocates, rather than creating another independent policy.
 - There aren't many people of color in the room. Valeri says the policy and procedure will be started after the Membership Committee meets this month.

- Source of income in the City of Tacoma is now illegal. You cannot refuse to rent because someone has a voucher.
- Just Cause is dead and we need to pursue that locally.
- Policy 1/10 mental health and 1/10 for housing still needs to be pursued.
- If there are issues that Martin Boise raised, this needs to be addressed.
- James instructs to let Valeri know if there are any topics they find confusing, so we can start looking at how to address those topics.

Meeting Adjourned

James adjourns the meeting at 10:27 am.