



The Road Home

Tacoma / Lakewood / Pierce County Continuum of Care
In Partnership with Pierce County Human Services

Continuum of Care Meeting Minutes

October 16, 2019

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

Members Present

James Pogue, Comprehensive Life Resources
Andy Rohr, TPC Health Dept.
Cacey Hanauer, Tacoma Housing Authority
Dr. Eric Jackson, Bethlehem Baptist Church
Erica Azcueta, City of Tacoma
Janice Pitt, Dept of Child, Youth & Family
Jason Scales, The REACH Center
Jeff Rodgers, Pierce County (rep. John)
Kari Haugen, Workforce-Central
Marilee Hill-Anderson, Sumner School District
Martha Sheppard, Salvation Army
Neal Rogers, Community Representative
Nick Bayard, The REACH Center
Patti Spaulding-Klewin, CCS
Rachel Silis, Dept. of Veterans Affairs
Tiffany Speir, City of Lakewood
Tonya Tunnell-Thornhill, Exodus Housing
Valorie Crout, Associated Ministries

Members Absent

Amanda DeShazo, Aff. Housing Consortium
Dana Orr, Pierce County AIDS Foundation
Diane Powers, City of Tacoma
Ellie Ottey, Pierce County Housing Authority
Keith Galbraith, Family Renewal Shelter
Sean Raybell, WSD of Corrections

Staff

Valeri Knight
Vy Yun

Call Meeting to Order

James called the meeting to order at 9:07 am.

Approval of Minutes

James asked for a motion to approve the September minutes. Tiffany motioned, Dr. Jackson seconded; unanimously approved.

Introductions

Introductions were made for CoC members.

General CoC Business

- James invites member and non-members to take leadership to come up with an on-boarding process. The on-boarding process will include expectations, meeting requirements, subcommittee requirements, action-items, assigning peer-mentor, explaining what the CoC believes in and what the CoC does. Once that process is finalized, we can look into an annual retreat or annual get-together to do work.
- Valorie reports the Membership Subcommittee has completed a new application, which is sitting with Pierce County lawyers for approval. They've mapped out steps for the on-boarding process. There are folks waiting in the queue and they will start vetting those

applications. She says we will start seeing new faces soon. She asks for additional support because there is a lot of work to do and sometimes it's hard for everyone to get together.

- James asks if anyone would like to join the Membership Subcommittee and review what is already developed and finalize the on-boarding process for 2020. Tiffany and James volunteered to join.
- James invites CoC members and non CoC-members to attend the Executive Subcommittee meetings. He will be sending CoC members the meeting invites so they know the time and place, but the invite is optional. Meetings are held the second Monday of every month.
- Starting in December, the CoC meetings will be held at Tacoma Housing Authority (THA) Bay Terrace at 2550 S G St, Tacoma. We will be looking into doing quarterly meetings in the community.
 - Marilee offers Sumner School District building
 - Tiffany offers City of Lakewood
- James opens the floor up for comments for those who attended the team building meeting:
 - Dr. Jackson thinks a lot of items were discussed that do not come up at the CoC meeting, such as being a task force and the need to be advocates for issues around homelessness and having a presence at City or County Council meetings.

Review of the 5-Year Strategic Plan

- Nick is unclear as to why County Council will need to review and approve the plan. His understanding is that the CoC will own the process. His concern is that in the past, County Council has rejected racial equity language in County contracts. He cannot support the plan because it is not strong enough on racial equity. He asks when does the CoC get to decide that this is the CoC's plan, not the County's plan.
- James explains it is a state requirement, but the CoC can have their own plan that is developed by the CoC.
- Valorie would like to know how the plan plays in the role of HUD. Valeri explains HUD does not require this plan; this plan is required by the state. HUD does require each community to have a Continuum of Care Committee. The state requires that Pierce County have a taskforce to create a plan (RCW43.185c) and requires the specifics for this plan.
- Erica asks if the Human Services Committee and County Council Meeting have already been scheduled for this year. Valeri answers that we are working with scheduling that with Jason Escareno today.
- Dr. Jackson comments there is a lot of concern around the racial equity piece of the plan. He asks why is it so difficult to add language in that has already been formed? And why is it so difficult to satisfy the people around the table so we can move on. James says he did not want the consultants here today so that CoC can take over the plan.

The 5-Year Strategic Plan draft was reviewed, and the following edits were made:

- All highlighted areas need to be updated (i.e. Annual Benchmarks).
- Goals 1.1, 2.2, 3.1, 3.2 and every population, that each of those goals have an explicit goal for the Black, Latinx, and Native American population.
- Make language consistent, replace Native American and Indigenous with Sovereign Nation.

- Plan uses the word Black, but some prefer African American.
- Request for consultants to use track changes when editing document.
- Population
 - Armed Forces, Reserve, and Veterans need to be capitalized.
 - Change language to Armed Forces (including Active Guard and Reserve).

STRATEGIC PRIORITY AREA		
STRATEGIC PRIORITY AREA	ASSIGNED TO	COMMENTS/NOTES
#1 Housing	Housing Subcommittee: Tonya Tunnell-Thornhill Kevin Bates, Helping Hand House	
#2 Stability	Stability Subcommittee: Martha Sheppard	2.2.2 Add program for prevention (creating a prevention element of Diversion).
#3 System and Service Improvements	Racial Equity Subcommittee: Erica Azcueta Valorie Crout	
#4 Community Partnerships	Community Partnerships Subcommittee: Tiffany Spier Kari Haugen	
#5 The Continuum of Care	Executive/Membership Subcommittee: Amanda DeShazo (? - will check)	

POPULATION	ASSIGNED TO	COMMENTS/NOTES
Chronically Homeless Individuals	James Pogue	
Veterans	Rachel Silis Patti Spaulding-Klewin	Key Strategy 1 - Change to "The HUD-VASH program will"
Youth	Cacey Hanauer Devon Isakson, Reach	Add Key Strategy #5 - Utilize family reunification services to addressing youth homelessness to include identified families.
Families (Households with Children)	Andy Rohr	
Domestic Violence Survivors	Keith Galbraith Tonya Tunnell-Thornhill	
Households without Children	Jeff Rodgers Ellie Ottey Sean Raybell (? - will check)	

Action Item: Valeri will send feedback from organizations to all CoC members.

Good of the Order

- Tiffany requests to add to the January agenda to summarize what the plan now says, who it is assigned to, and benchmarking.

- Marilee continue to see numbers rise in the school district. Families have been evicted and are now calling her district asking for ways to keep kids in local schools and they are struggling to find local housing.

Public Comment Period

Larry provided the following comments:

- Racial equity is not just an add on or another group – it is infused in the roots of homelessness and response to homelessness. He thinks even with the fixes in the document, we are not close to touching the serious racial equity problems that the community is experiencing.
- Prevention is important to not just respond. We need to think about how prevention needs to happen.
- Words and interactions are encouraging, this remains a word on paper exercise, that is not connected to the real data. He is concerned we are putting words on paper that have zero impact on the community and hopes we continue to do better.

Maureen asks for clarification on Strategic Priority Goal 2.2.1b – if “and” means both participate in diversion and who refuses CTI, or if the “and” means one or the other? She asks if the training is limited to organization who are funded through the CoC or intended to be brought through the community. Valeri answers it is intended to be brought through the community.

Kevin, Helping Hand House, points out the committee consists of 23 members, and only 2 members are located East of Portland Ave. To not have more people on the committee or in the room that journey past Portland Avenue is a big loss for the County. All their clients are going to Lakewood, Tacoma, and Hilltop to find affordable housing. He wants to be more involved.

Meeting Adjourned

Adjourns the meeting at 11:05 am.