



ECHO convened via WebEx; in attendance: County Chair Bowerman, County Manager Otto, County Sr. Analyst Hueer, Mayor McEnerny-Ogle, Van. Manager Holmes, Van. Councilor Stober, Van. Councilor Harless, Van. Councilor Perez, Van. City Analyst Lande, B.G. Councilor DesRochers, Vanessa Gaston, Michael Torres, and Jamie Spinelli.

## Clark County ECHO

*(Ending Community Homelessness Organization)*

### Meeting Minutes – February 8<sup>th</sup>, 2022

- County Chair Bowerman, welcome the new appointees, Councilmembers Kim Harless and Diana Perez  
Thank you to departing members, Councilmember Ty Stober and Mayor Anne McEnerny-Ogle
- **Update from each entity and any suggested action items**
  - **Council for the Homeless**
    - Michael Torres, Program Manager for Clark County Community Services, provided an update:
      - The “Point in Time Count” is a U.S. Department of Housing and State requirement that is conducted annually. This years “Point in Time Count” will be on February 24, 2022.
      - Project Homeless Connect, is a homeless services, resources and Healthcare fair that will take place on February 24, 2022, at St. Joes Church.
  - **Vancouver Housing Authority – Andy Silver**
    - Andy Silver provided updates on two (2) main topics:
      - Housing Vouchers, the numbers from 2021, were that they provided 253 Home Vouchers to help people get out of homelessness.
      - Buildings that are built and operated by VHA, they are just finishing construction on Tenny Creek Assisted Living (40 apartments available for lease in March), also in construction on The Meridian, which is a 46-unit permanent supportive housing, that should be ready to start leasing in June 2022.
  - **Community Foundation for Southwest Washington – Shona Carter**
    - Shona Carter provided 2021 stats:
      - \$1.8 million to homeless organizations and affordable housing in the county.
      - Since 2016 they have provided \$1.8 million in loans through their, Program Related Investments, program.
      - They provided \$1.8 million in discretionary grant monies.
      - During COVID they provided \$800,000.00 in grants for Wrap Around Services.
  - **City of Vancouver – Eric Holmes**
    - Vancouver City Manager Holmes provided a progress report on the “Safe Stay Communities”.
    - Provided a progress report on affordable housing, 250 housing projects and 251 in process of development, 179 preserved housing units, 142 preservation units that are in process.
    - The City of Vancouver has allocated \$30.7 million to find affordable housing.



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- **Clark County – Vanessa Gaston**
  - Director of Clark County Community Services, Vanessa Gaston provided updates regarding:
    - Winter Hospitality Overflow Shelter is open from November – March
    - They have just opened in December the two (2) bridge shelters that are open 24/7. They have added an additional 124 beds to these locations.
    - Bertha Too is full and the original Bertha is at 50% capacity.
    - There are legislative bills that are coming in Clark County, such as one that is to support permanent supportive housing, they are looking for projects to allocate funds too.
    - Since Council for the Homeless is in transition, Michael Torres has been appointed to create a committee to provide oversight for the update on the Homeless Action Plan.
  
- **Small Cities – Battle Ground, Deputy Mayor, Councilmember Cherish Desrochers**
  - No Update
  
- **Update regarding the Mobile Mental Health Units**
  - **Leah Becknell, MPH, from Beacon Health Options provided a presentation on a few new programs:**
    - CBRA (Community Behavioral Rental Assistance)
      - Funding: \$400K annually across the Southwest Region
      - Clark County Partners: Lifeline Connections; Sea Mar; Columbia River Mental Health
    - HOST (Homeless Outreach Stabilization Team)
      - Funding: \$1M annually in Clark County
    - RNP (Recovery Navigator Program)
      - Funding: \$1.2M annually across the Southwest Region
      - Partner: Recovery Cafe
  - **John Bunk Moren from Community Services NW/Sea Mar provided a presentation regarding Mobile Outreach Teams:**
    - Adult Mobile Crisis Teams
      - Operates with 12 FTE's; 7 days a week from 8am – 12pm
    - Co-Responder
      - Operates with 6 FTE's; M-F 8am – 12pm; dispatched from CRESA
    - Homeless Outreach
      - Operates with 9.5 FTE's; M-F 7am – 5pm
    - Clark County DCR (Designated Crisis Responder) Program
      - Operates with 5 FTE's; 24/7/365
    - Community Based Services
      - PACT
      - CST
      - FEP (First Episode Psychosis)
      - Supported Housing Services



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- Victor Jackson, Anne Willis, and Mike Delay from Columbia River Mental Health provided a presentation on their Mobile & Housing Services, such as:
  - Housing Affordability
  - Supported Programs
  - Mobile Program
    - Currently open 10am – 8pm; Tuesday thru Friday.
    - Services provided; MHP, SUD(T); Medical Providers, Peer Support, and Care Management
  - Statistics presented from Dec. 2021 and Jan. 2022 on services rendered.
  - Overnight Crisis Unit is currently recruiting for volunteers, from 10pm – 8am; 7 days a week.

- ECHO MOA and Charter

- *Group Discussion*

- All the mayors (Vancouver, Battleground, La Center; Camas, Washougal, Ridgefield & Woodland) had met and would like to represent in each meeting
- The possibility of having 2 members of lived experience as the opposed 1, (up to two (2)).
- Bring approved and signed MOA at the next meeting on March 8, 2022.
- Mayors from small cities to elect their representatives.

**ACTION:** Moved by Mayor McEnery-Ogle to **APPROVE** the adoption of the MOA as amended and take back to each jurisdiction for final approval and signature. Vancouver City Councilor Stober, seconded the motion. All aye/Motion carried.

- **Next meeting:**

- March 8<sup>th</sup>, 2022, 9:30-11:00am