



CITY/COUNTY HOMELESS MEETING  
(ECHO: ENDING COMMUNITY HOMELESSNESS ORGANIZATION)



## MINUTES OF DECEMBER 14, 2021

The City/County Homeless Meeting convened, in Vancouver, Washington, via a hybrid combination of WebEx and in-person, City Councilor Ty Stober, City Manager Eric Holmes, City Mayor Anne McEnerny-Ogle, City Sr. Policy Analyst Aaron Lande; County Councilors Gary Medvigy, Karen Dill Bowerman and County Manager Kathleen Otto, Sr. Policy Analyst Lindsey Hueer, Clark County Director of Community Services Vanessa Gaston, Clark County Community Services Michael Torres, Battle Ground City Councilor Cherish DesRochers, Homeless Response Coordinator Jamie Spinelli, Council for the Homeless Executive Director Heather Hoell, present.

1:05 p.m.

### New Business

- **Chair Medvigy:** Is anticipating a productive and concentrated discussion on how to proceed and improve with this collaboration effort on policy direction between the City and the County. The past collaboration has been ineffective, and this is evident in the vast growing homeless population. The goal of this group should be a “think tank” on how to irradicate homelessness in the best way possible and provide relief for those that are homeless to be productive and sustain affordable housing as our climate in Clark County, Washington continues to put people at risk. Councilor Medvigy stated he would like to reform and add to the previous discussions on how to be successful in housing the homeless population.
- **Sr. Policy Analyst Lindsey Hueer:** Provided an introduction based on perspective discussions she had with the City and the County and there is a desire for a continued cooperation and collaboration. The purpose of the meeting today is to evaluate the path moving forward and believes there is room for modifications through this group in which these discussions can take place. The fundamental question for today is who should have a seat at the table in these meetings.
- **Mayor Anne McEnerny-Ogle:** Spoke to Exhibit A of the Joint Executive Board Charter for the Vancouver Clark County Continuum of Care, as this states the Charter will be reviewed annually by the board (the City, County, Vancouver Housing Authority and Council for the Homeless). City Sr. Policy Analyst Aaron Lande constructed a Homelessness to Housing Continuum timeline.
- **Vanessa Gaston:** Stated that Community Services uses Federal, State, and local funding. Community Services uses local mental health sales tax for permanent supportive housing and any kind of recovery support services for people that are homeless.
- **Michael Torres:** Stated that all the spectrum in the Homelessness to Housing Continuum graphic as presented seem to be accurate. The County provides local funds in the form of document recording fees. Funding and federal funds include CDBG and emergency solutions grants. Clark County Community Services is funding an outreach team for Council for the Homeless and an outreach team for Outsiders In and about 6 overnight shelter with supportive services. The severe weather shelter and the winter housing overflow also receives funding from the County. The County also provides funds to rapid rehousing and permanent supportive housing.



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- **City Councilor Ty Stober:** Spoke to the original goal of the Joint Executive Group; to have conversations around topics that prompted individuals in the public with organizations and businesses to want to attend and express their feelings and voices in the policy development discussion meetings. As the pandemic struck, this has been more difficult. Even though we are in this pandemic this is still the goal. The only people the voters of Clark County can hold accountable are the elected officials sitting on the group.
- **County Councilor Karen Bowerman:** Stated she believes there is a disconnect regarding the intended purpose of this group. This should be a group that goes beyond policy. She believes that it's very important to have the implementers and the funders talking about the same issues.

### OVERVIEW

- Reviewed the current MOU (Memorandum of Understanding).
- The County has requested a change to the MOU for a new name change for this group. **ECHO:** *Ending Community Homelessness Organization.*
- Spoke about having the Vancouver Housing Authority as voting vs non-voting members of the new group.
- Suggested that small cities should be involved as stakeholders.
- Evaluated on who and where contributing funds are being placed to irradicate homelessness.
- Discussed the actual intention of this group.
- Understanding of the difference between the HUD Continuum of Care and the broad spectrum of the Community Continuum of Care.
- Discussed a first meeting and needing the status of the issue, potential solutions, how to help and make suggested recommendations to the County, City, Vancouver Housing Authority, Council for the Homeless regarding how and where funds should be allocated, with the two (2) representatives from the County, two (2) representatives from the City, a representative from Council for the Homeless, Vancouver Housing Authority, the Community Foundation of SW Washington, and a small city representative in attendance.
- Next meeting is on the calendar for January 11, 2022 from 9:30-11:00 AM.

Adjourned

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