



ECHO convened at the Clark County Public Service Center, 6th Floor, Hearing Conference Room, also via WebEx Online.

Clark County ECHO

(Ending Community Homelessness Organization)

Meeting Minutes – April 11, 2023

ECHO Chair, Clark County Councilor, Gary Medvigy, called the ECHO meeting to-order.

ACTION: Minutes **APPROVED** with no objections.

1. WELCOME NEW MEMBERS:

- Chair Medvigy welcomed the new members:
 - Sheriff's Office (Sheriff John Horch)
 - WSDOT – Bill Morrison
 - Mayor Pro Tem, Elizabeth Cervený – City of La Center

2. BEHAVIORAL HEALTH TREATMENT BEDS & COORDINATION WITH HOMELESS SYSTEM

- Rainier Springs – Presented by Larisa Klein
 - Larisa spoke about the Rainier Springs and recent patients and how the community is working together to help and assist those experiencing houselessness.
 - Behavioral Health Hospital with 72 inpatient beds
 - A partial hospital of an outpatient program
 - Mental Health treatment is available
 - Been in operation for 5 years
 - 890 Emergency Room referrals in the facility in 2023
 - 20% of those referrals were defected due to capacity
- Lifeline Connections – Presented by Arianna Kee & Brandy Branch
 - Brandy Branch spoke about:
 - Treatment locations
 - Lifeline Connections Continuum of Care
 - Residential Treatment Programs Clark County
 - Residential SUD Beds
 - Discharge Planning for Housing Starts at Intake
 - Recovery Support Services
 - Arianna Kee spoke about:
 - Crisis Beds
 - Status of Crisis Bed Space

3. WAITING TIMES FOR SHELTER SPACE

- Presented by Council for the Homeless, Sesany Fennie-Jones & Sunny Wonder
 - 544 beds in the community
 - 487 year-round beds open in the community
 - To access a bed is done through a referral system in HMIS
 - The goal is to fill beds in 12-24 hours but no more than 48 hours
 - Work very closely coordinated outreach teams
 - The average usage for year-round beds is at 94%
 - The wait list is currently at 1151
 - Average length of time in shelters: fall/winter = 99 days; spring/summer = 83 days



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- Shelter is the answer for people in Clark County; Affordable housing is what we need to fix
- We don't have the space or the shelter available to meet the needs of this community, and the need is growing as fast rate.

4. UPDATE FROM EACH ENTITY AND ANY SUGGESTED ACTION ITEMS

- Council for the Homeless: NONE
- Vancouver Housing Authority: NONE
- Community Foundation for SW WA: NONE
- Clark County : NONE
- City of Vancouver: NONE
- City of Battle Ground: NONE
- City of Camas: NONE
- City of La center : NONE
- City of Ridgefield: NONE
- City of Washougal: NONE

5. ANYTHING FOR THE GOOD OF THE ORDER

- NONE

6. NEXT MEETING

- May 9, 2023, at 9:30 a.m.

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