



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

## Clark County ECHO

*(Ending Community Homelessness Organization)*

### Meeting Minutes – August 08, 2023

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

- **ACTION:** Minutes **APPROVED** for July 11, 2023, as amended, with no objections.
  - **HOMELESS SHELTER STATUS, HISTORY & WHAT'S NEEDED TO CREATE MORE BEDS (continued)**
    - Stats, presented by Michael Torres
      - Shelter Provider: Outsiders Inn; Presented by Adam Cravitz
        - St. Paul's, Men's Shelter on Franklin St.
        - 25 Beds
        - Open 7 days a week; evening and overnights from 6:30PM – 7:00AM
          - Weekends and holidays all day.
        - 50% returning & 37% permanent exits.
        - Length of stay is approximately 94 days.
        - They are seeing a lot of people with high medical needs.
      - Shelter Provider: Bertha's Place & Bertha's Place Too; Presented by Samantha Forrester
        - Bertha's Place
          - Single Women/Couples/Elderly 55+
          - 58 Residents (served last month)
          - 94% Bed Utilization
          - 67% Successful exits
        - Bertha's Place Too
          - Single Women/Couples/Elderly 55+
          - 32 Residents (served last month)
          - 100% Bed Utilization
          - 45% successful exits
      - Challenges: Lack of affordable housing, staffing, refusing to transition from shelter.
      - Trend: significant medical, mental health and SUD issues, high rising amount of elderly.
      - Significant discussion regarding, bed space metrics, costs for running shelters and safe stays.
- **HOMELESS PROGRAM OUTCOMES & DISCUSSION ON GAPS IN SERVICES**
  - Presented by Michael Torres
    - Homeless System-level Program Outcomes (May/June 2023)
      - Adult Shelter: Served 289/331; 90%/90% utilization; 49%/40% successful exits; 27%/14% Return to homeliness.
      - Youth Shelter: Served 12/4; 42%/53% utilization; 75%/67% successful exits; 20%/67% Return to homeliness.



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- Transitional Housing: Served 94/99; 96%/95% utilization; 100%/25% successful exits; 0% Return to homeliness.
- Rapid Rehousing: Served 389/391; N/A; 75%/97% successful exits; 0% Return to homeliness.
- PSH: Served 126/126; 97%/97% utilization; 100%/99% successful exits; 0% Return to homeliness.
- 9,032 people were homeless in 2022 and 68% (6,119) people were identified as newly homeless.
- 190+ year-round emergency shelter beds were added between 2020 and 2023.
- In 2022 there was a 57% increase with persons that accessed shelters than in 2021.
- In 2022 there was 2421 people that asked for Shelter and 1857 people received shelter.
- CONTINUED TO NEXT MEETING

- **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

- **ANYTHING FOR THE GOOD OF THE ORDER**

- Add to next agenda:
  - Homeless Program Outcomes & Discussion on Gaps in Services

- **NEXT MEETING**

September 11, 2023, 9:30-11am