

COMMUNITY ACTION ADVISORY BOARD MEETING MINUTES

Meeting held remotely. Recording at: <https://clark.wa.gov/community-services/caab-community-action-advisory-board>

July 6, 2021

PRESENT	EXCUSED	ABSENT	STAFF
County Treasurer Alishia Topper, chair		Councilor Amy Boget	Rebecca Royce
David Poland, vice chair			Michael Torres
Bridget McLeman, secretary			Beth Landry
Amy Roark			
Melanie Green			
Karyn Kameroff			
Councilor Linda Glover			
Lance Carter			
Jamie Spinelli			
Erica Hefter			
Megan Mulsoff			
Rob Perkins			

Guests: CODAs Interpreters; Peggy Sheehan (City of Vancouver); Dale Whitley (Council for the Homeless); Glen Young (community member)

I. Roll Call

II. Approval of May 2021 Minutes

The minutes were approved following a motion by Bridget McLeman that was seconded by Melanie Green; motion passed.

III. Recommended Bylaw Updates for Adoption

Rob Perkins and Rebecca Royce gave a summary of the Bylaw Subcommittee activities and reviewed recommended changes/revisions.

A motion for an Amendment to Article IV, Section E, to remove 'other', was made by David Poland and seconded by Rob Perkins; motion passed.

Motion made to adopt the Bylaws as amended, by Melanie Green and seconded by Bridget McLeman; motion passed.

IV. Homeless Crisis Response System – COVID Request for Application Update

Michael Torres gave an application update. On June 1st, Alishia and Michael presented to the County Council the CAAB Review Committee's recommendations. The Council approved the recommendations of just over \$2 million, unanimously. The breakdown of funding is as follows:

- \$1,210,012 for Rapid Re-housing Programs split with Share RRH (\$836,253) and YWCA Safechoice RRH (\$373,759)
- \$507,808 for Outreach & Engagement will be split with Share (\$240,000) and a new program through Outsiders Inn called Project Hope (\$267,808)
- Council for the Homeless' Outreach & Engagement Assistance Project is funded at \$160,000
- Community Services NW Seamar SOAR Program, which helps with assistance for SSI/SSDI, is funded at \$73,000

All the contracts have been created; some are out for signature. All contracts are in affect as of July 1st.

V. July 2020 – March 2021 Outcomes Report (Org Standards 1.3, 4.4, 5.9, 8.7)

Rebecca Royce presented a review of the CAAB Program Summary Report. 8,098 surveys were sent out with an 11.4% response rate and 82% of those surveyed indicating an overall positive experience. As of July 1st, we begin the 3rd quarter.

Agencies are on track to spend-out their contracts; they should be billing at approximately 75% of their second-year allocations. Some programs received COVID-specific funding and had to spend those dollars first due to the limited timeframe for spending out the COVID funds. The pandemic is still posing some challenges for agencies, they are working through them. The CAAB Summary Report has been posted to the website for viewing.

VI. City of Vancouver Affordable Housing Fund and Homeless Services Updates (Org Standards 5.9)

The Community Roots Collaborative Fruity Valley Project expects to be moving units onto the site later this month. A grand opening is scheduled for September 22nd, and Peggy will see that all CAAB members get invites. This project was funded through the City and a modular home grant. All units are built by Wolf Industries in Battle Ground; all work and materials are Clark County specific. More information on this project can be found here: <https://www.c-roots.org/projects/>.

RFPs are out for supported campsites through the City's website. The City uses the "Be Heard" website and Peggy suggests visiting the site to provide feedback on their homeless response plan. The site is located here: <https://www.beheardvancouver.org/>. Peggy will send out to Board the updated information on encampment codes of conduct and/or rules for the encampments.

The City has contracted with Outsiders Inn for mail delivery for people experiencing homelessness due to the closing of the Navigation Center, which will expand to 5-days per week at two different locations.

VII. Legislative updates

Michael Torres provided a state legislative update. There is very little to report at the State level; most work deals with the Governor's eviction moratorium and "The Bridge". Community Services and Commerce are heavily engaged to ensure we are following the Governor's guidance. Michael, Rebecca, and the Prosecuting Attorney meet tomorrow to go over the guidance line-by-line to ensure moving forward effectively.

Federally, most activity this summer revolves around the President's budget and how that translates to actual appropriations, including regular spending and COVID emergency response funds. Regular funding includes a \$500 million proposed budget for homelessness, which is a significant increase (typically, it is only \$140 million). Regular funding also includes \$4.7 billion for TBRA and Housing Choice Vouchers.

Federal emergency spending includes \$2 billion for TBRA; \$318 billion to increase supply of affordable housing, which includes \$26 billion for new PSH, \$70 billion for public housing, and \$40 billion to the National Housing Trust Fund; also included is \$400 billion for Medicare to subsidize medical costs for low-income individuals.

VIII. 2021 Point-in-Time Count and Homeless Connect Reports (Org Standards 5.9)

Dale Whitley with Council for the Homeless presented information on the 2021 PIT counts. The PIT count takes place nationwide on the same night, annually. It is a single-night snapshot of homelessness and is required by both HUD and Washington's Department of Commerce. There are two categories: sheltered count and unsheltered counts.

Sheltered counts are obtained from shelter providers through the HMIS data reporting system and via paper reports from the non-HMIS shelters. Unsheltered counts are the most difficult and require the most effort. Unsheltered counts are obtained through outreach teams canvassing area homeless on the street; through the SafePark Program; through school district liaisons; through Project Homeless Connect; and through non-HMIS service locations.

Due to COVID, 2021 PIT counts were affected. There was only a sheltered count taken in 2021. Also, because of social-distancing requirements, there were fewer sheltered beds in 2021, and people were avoiding congregate shelters. HUD issued a waiver to COCs regarding 2021 PIT counts.

An overview of 2021 numbers indicated a 20% reduction of individuals in emergency shelters with a 22.73% increase of individuals in transitional type housing, for a combined total of 375 homeless individuals in 2021 compared to 400 in 2020.

Sheltered populations in 2021 included 69 chronic individuals, 4 chronic family households of 16, 16 Veterans, and 23 seniors aged 62 or older.

2022 PIT counts will take place January 27th, 2022, with planning beginning in Oct/Nov 2021.

Volunteers will be needed, if interested please let Dale know. Additional data sources for homelessness is available on the Council for the Homeless website at www.councilforthehomeless.org and then click the link at the top of the page, "About Homelessness".

IX. Open Forum
No discussions.

X. Other Business
Community Needs Assessment final report is almost ready, it will be available in English, Spanish, Russian, Vietnamese, and Chuukese.

Next meeting: 8-9:30am, September 6, 2021, via Webex.

Meeting adjourned.

Bridget McLeman, secretary
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