

**COMMUNITY ACTION ADVISORY BOARD MEETING MINUTES**

Hybrid Meeting: in-person at Center for Community Health and through Webex online platform  
July 2, 2025

<u>PRESENT</u>	<u>EXCUSED</u>	<u>ABSENT</u>	<u>STAFF</u>
Rob Perkins, Chair	Faye Solomone	Emily Wilson	Abby Molloy
Clover Spears	Lilly Pidhainyi	Megan Mulsoff	
Diana Perez	Melanie Green, Vice Chair		
Sandra Zavala-Ortega	Brittini Lasseigne		
Katie Favela	Nickeia Hunter		
Amy Roark, Secretary			
Brondalyn Clark			

Guests: Cara Kangas (21 I info), Samantha Whitley (City of Vancouver)

I. Welcome/Introductions

II. Approval of March and April Minutes

Following discussion, a motion to approve the May and June meeting minutes as presented was made by Clover Spears and seconded by Amy Roark. Motion approved unanimously.

III. 21 I information Specialist Presentation

Cara Kangas, Director of Partnerships for 21 I info, informed the board of 21 I info's mission to help community members navigate and connect with local resources. Community members can be connected to this free and confidential service through call, text, email, or website. Due to budget constraints, services will be provided 8 a.m.-6 p.m. Monday-Friday beginning July 7, 2025.

The top five needs that were identified by 21 I info in 2024 were housing, utility assistance, food, health care, and community support for families and individuals.

Questions and Comments:

Q: Does 21 I info still work with Council for the Homeless to take calls?

A: No.

Q: How are the differences between Washington and Oregon law handled by 21 I info staff?

A: If someone is seeking legal advice, they will be connected to a resource in their state.

Q: Is the data on the 21 I info website available to the public?

A: Yes, and it shows data from the past 13 months.

IV. July 2024-March 2025 Outcomes Report

Quarterly reports from quarters 1-3 of fiscal year 2025 for the Homeless Crisis Response System (HCRS) and Community Action Program (CAP) were presented to the board. Staff provided an overview of proposed goals and the percentage of said goal achieved by the CAP and HCRS contracting agencies.

Across programs, participant satisfaction was reported at 93.3% with a positive overall experience, and 1,427 volunteers provided \$595,359 worth of volunteer time. A total of 125 grievances were reported, with 42% of programs receiving at least one grievance. Of the 125 grievances received, 106 were able to be resolved. Race data showed that Asians are being proportionally underserved in Clark County.

Questions and Comments:

Q: Is data available for the number of Hispanic people served in this reporting period?

A: Not currently, but staff will see if they can provide this data in the future.

C: A reason why the Hispanic data may not be showing is because the 5 federal race categories are what the quarterly report shows, and Hispanic is considered an ethnicity and not a race.

Q: Why does the Outsiders Inn report show that they have a \$0 contract amount?

A: This was a formula mistake that will be corrected by staff.

V. City of Vancouver Affordable Housing and Homelessness Updates

The Vancouver city council has consented to the proposed Online Rental Registration program. The public hearing for this item will be on July 14. If approved as presented, registration will begin as soon as January 2026, with inspections to follow in 2027.

Share's WHAT Shelter and YWCA's SafeChoice Shelter were each awarded \$300,000 in Affordable Housing Funds (AHF) to run temporary 24/7 shelters.

Vancouver's AHF dollars will be allocated to production and preservation of housing units, rental assistance programs, and homeownership requests. The rolling application process for these funds will close at the end of July, with approximately \$4,000,000 available.

The city will be receiving \$25,000,000 in ARPA funding, \$9,000,00 of which will be dedicated to multifamily housing and unit acquisition, and \$500,000 dedicated to homeownership programs.

The 2025 Housing Action Plan is underway. Construction has been greatly impacted by interest rates and increased cost of labor and materials. City staff is implementing regulations that remove barriers and reduce costs for construction projects.

Questions and Comments:

Q: Is the Bridge Shelter funding so costly due to startup costs, or will this level of funding be needed annually?

A: The finance team has identified a need of \$1,000,000 per year for the Bridge Shelter.

Q: What would be the predicted cut to funding other shelters?

A: While city staff cannot predict the impact, it is expected that funding will need to be found elsewhere for many programs.

C: Brondalyn Clark spoke on behalf of Share regarding the lack of available funds. Share is partnering with local agencies to maximize their resources.

VI. Task Force Updates

Community Needs Assessment (CNA) Task Force:

- The task force has reviewed the previous CNA survey and made suggestions to improve accessibility and quality of data.
- Outreach efforts are being discussed, including attending events, community meetings, and more. Staff plan to attend a Clark County Food Bank meeting soon.
- The task force will have its next meeting in August.

Legislative Task Force:

- WSCAP is convening Community Action agencies across the state of Washington to work together to show support of the Community Service Block Grant (CSBG) which funds Clark County's CAP contracts. The County will be showing support for CSBG, SNAP, LIHEAP, Medicaid and other crucial programs. Advocacy efforts will be led by Council for the Homeless.
- HB1217, which established rent stabilization regulations, has passed, capping rent increases at 7%.
- Relationships need to be built between elected officials and task force members.
- Information on ICE detainment centers will be shared with CAAB members via email.

Questions and Comments:

Q: Who is on the CNA Task Force?

A: Staff shared the CAAB members that are currently part of the task force.

VII. Equity Training Debrief and Next Steps

With the CAAB Equity Training Sessions ending last month, board members want to ensure that what they have learned is integrated into the CAAB. Two proposals that came out of the training were to create an equity work group and to have designated time at the beginning of each meeting for public discussion.

The board discussed takeaways from the training, including relationship building and creating a safe space for difficult conversations. The main barrier for attending equity trainings was schedule conflicts. The board showed interest in having additional equity training held before or after scheduled CAAB meetings. A work group consisting of Rob Perkins, Brondalyn Clark, Amy Roark, and Clover Spears was created to focus on facilitating equity discussions. Abby Molloy will send out information regarding the work group as well as the equity tool kit that was provided by Ma. Caroline.

Staff and CAAB members will hold future discussions on how to make the next RFA process more appropriate and accessible for all applicants.

VIII. Open Forum

None presented.

IX. Other Business

- There is an open position for a District 4 elected official on the CAAB. Board members are encouraged to share this opportunity with their communities. Applications will be accepted until July 11.
- Next Meeting: September 3, 2025, 9-11 a.m., CFCH and Webex

Meeting adjourned.



09/03/25

Amy Roark, Board Secretary