

Homeless Strategies Workgroup

March 22, 2018 Meeting 5 Agenda

3:00 pm – 5:00 pm

Location Change: Whatcom County Civic Building, Garden Room
322 N Commercial Street, Bellingham, WA

1. **Welcome and Introductions**, HSW Chair WC Councilman Barry Buchanan

A 10-minute public comment period is provided at the end of the Homeless Strategies Workgroup (HSW) meetings, please sign up. Public comment letters have been distributed in advance of the meeting and are available on the [HSW Comments webpage](#).

2. **Update on Staff Analysis of Potential Sites Identified for Further Study**

Tara Sundin, City of Bellingham - Review memo outlining status of County and City staff site review and assessment

Related Information:

- See [Handout: HSW Meeting 5 City of Bellingham Memo](#)
- See [Handout: HSW Meeting 4 Summary Draft for Review](#)

3. **Alternative Strategies for Those Sleeping Outside in Whatcom County**

Introduction by HSW Chair WC Councilman Barry Buchanan

a. Review Compilation of Alternative Solutions from HSW discussions and plans

b. City and County Homeless Housing Recommended Strategies & Matrix

Presentations by Samya Lutz, City of Bellingham
& Anne Deacon, Whatcom County

Questions, Comments and Discussion of Additional Alternatives, Facilitated by Mary Dumas

c. Review alternative strategies and add to the HSW list of ideas

d. Identify top alternative strategies to explore further

Related Information:

- Page 4 of this Agenda provides a summary of Alternative Strategies identified by HSW members, attending public participants and the Community Solutions Workgroup.

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- See [HSW Meeting Information webpage for March 22 Meeting 5: Handout with Matrix](#)
- See [HSW Meeting Information webpage for February 22 Meeting 4: Handout with Matrix](#)
- See [HSW Meeting Information webpage for December 19, 2017 Meeting 2: Handout 2](#)
HomesNow Letter to City of Bellingham

4. Prepare for Meeting #6

- a. Workgroup Recommendations on 1-2 additional strategies and next steps.

5. Public Comment, Facilitated by Mary Dumas

Time will be divided equally among speakers with 3 minutes minimum per person.

Written input can also be submitted. Use index cards.
Give to staff or tape onto the Impacts & Effort Matrix of ideas.

Thank you for helping to end homelessness in Whatcom County.

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Alternative Solutions for those sleeping outside in Whatcom County will be identified as part of the HSW's work. Suggestions below were identified during HSW Meetings 1 & 2. Ideas will be added to this list at HSW meetings and discussed in Meetings 4 and 5.

- Tiny Homes.
- Establish a permitted camping area.
- Shower facility with 24 hour access for those who work shifts.
- Bathroom facilities with 24 hour access for those who work shifts.
- Lockers for storages of valuables with 24 hour access.
- Laundry facilities.

Other strategies proposed by groups working with the Community Solutions Workgroup: Continuum of Housing Options include the ideas listed below*.

Inventory Improvements: Acquire, preserve and improve existing affordable apartment blocks in the city (purchase units in gentrifying areas); Construction of new units; Change zoning to support more diversity of housing products in the market; Create new staff position with levy funds to leverage resources, funding and development deals more strategically and proactively; utilize innovative new funding models which are already being implemented elsewhere to build new housing; Create rental rehab program that makes funding available to landlords who rent to low-income tenants for upgrades required to pass inspections.

Cultural: Create an insurance or damage mitigation fund to minimize the risks to landlords renting to tenants with no/poor rental history; Housing equity audit by neighborhood; Increase programs that enable and empower tenants receiving subsidized housing to transition out and become integrated within the community.

Collaboration: Regular check-ins between local funders and service providers to adapt to changing needs and trends.

Services: Access and provide more funding for expanded case managers/ landlord liaisons; General transportation services (study options and decide if appropriate to integrate into other strategies or keep as standalone strategy; Expand mobile health services; Develop a community liaison or trained peer health worker to help keep people in housing and integrate with the broader community (with support from Opportunity Council, Whatcom Alliance for Healthcare Access, PeaceHealth & NWACH); Coordinate among services and programs to promote social inclusion and community building; Light-touch case management services available for those with lower vulnerability scores to get them housed quickly; Assess existing workforce development programs, and cultivate relationships with employers and/or develop linkages among programs to better serve homeless and formerly homeless, if necessary; Community-wide training about how to connect with and include homeless population.

* See [HSW Meeting Information webpage for February 22 Meeting 4: Handout](#) which presents this list in a Matrix of options with timeframe estimates, organizational leads and status.

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HSW members - Do you have additional strategies to add to this list? Bring ideas to Meeting 5.