



City of Tacoma Human Services Commission

Wednesday, April 13, 2022
6:00 p.m.
Virtual Meeting Minutes

Members Present: Chair Naomi Wilson, Vice Chair Marvin Cooks, Secretary Andee Walton, Laura Badeaux, Jason Grube, Nate Minor, Leslie Mintaraga, Amanda Scott-Thomas, Valentine Smith, and Wilton Waverly.

Members Absent:

Rahn Clayton, Rebecca Stith, and Noemi Cagatin-Porter.

Staff Present: Allyson Griffith (NCS)

1. Call to Order/Opening Remarks at 6:03.

- Meeting chaired by Chair Wilson.
- Roll call.

2. Approval of the April agenda at 6:05.

- Motion by Commissioner Mintaraga to approve, second by Commissioner Walton. Approved unanimously.

3. Review/Approval of March minutes at 6:06.

- Commissioner Grube motioned to accept minutes and Commissioner Waverly seconded. Approved unanimously.

4. Public Comment at 6:07.

- No members of the public in attendance and no written comments prior to meeting.

5. Introduction: Caleb Carbone, Homeless Systems, Services and Strategy Manager at 6:08.

- Caleb introduces himself to Commissioners.
- Commissioners introduce themselves to Caleb, individually.

6. Overview: Introduction of Pierce County Comprehensive Plan to End Homelessness at 6:24.

- Allyson Griffith guides discussion and answers questions of commissioners via directing them to the answers within the Pierce County Plan.
 - i. Chair Wilson requests more information on jurisdictional differences between Pierce County and Tacoma's homeless initiatives.
 1. Allyson Griffith explains how the addition of resources allocated by the City are advantageous and reminds Commission of Pierce County's scheduled conversation with the CVSC on June 9th.



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- ii. Chair Wilson asks for examples of a unified homelessness system and the by-name list suggested in the County's plan; particularly for clarification on coordinated entry intake versus recording of homeless during outreach attempts.
 1. Allyson Griffith explains dichotomy of City and County relations; adding that the City does not currently require the recording of an individual's data by emergency shelters due to reasons, especially racial disparities; a subject of which the City is working to correct.
- iii. Chair Wilson asks for future presentation on the by-name-list data tracking and how it is advantageous.
 1. Allyson Griffith explains data is not yet available, though has been projected to be available this month. Will provide data as soon as it is ready.
- iv. Secretary Walton provides opinion of benefits to intra-communication facilitated by records-keeping of the homeless population and expresses concern for the barriers to easily accessing information of available services and vacancies of shelters and housing for those experiencing homelessness and/or mental health issues.
 1. Allyson Griffith educates commissioners on the existence of the Homeless Management Information System already in place for entities that support homeless people to record. Allyson also conveyed the City and County's accord with simplifying access of resources to the public.
- v. Commissioner Mintaraga inquires about Pierce County's Comprehensive Plan's position on the expansion of coordinated entry, citing the current ineligibility of couch surfers as an example.
 1. Allyson Griffith acknowledges this disparity and cites the CVSC's future meeting at which the topic will be discussed.
- vi. Vice Chair Cook questions the role of current numbers for addressing homelessness; wondering if current data and financing is reflecting the current year, or if it has not been allocated/measured since the beginning of 2020/the COVID-19 pandemic.
 1. Allyson Griffith acknowledges concern and re-refers to point-in-time count data alleged to be released during this month. Allyson also cites the developmental estimation in the County's plan, in its appendix: Currently, there is an estimate of 2,287 people within Pierce County experiencing homelessness; 1,142 of whom reside in Tacoma.
- vii. Chair Wilson requests an overview of "Targeted Universalism" as addressed within the County's strategic plan.
 1. Allyson Griffith facilitates a general understanding and Chair Wilson extrapolates.

7. Overview: Recruitment for HSC at 7:05.

- Allyson Griffith presents news of 12 applicants, with six vacant positions.
- One additional position is allocated for Youth Commissioner, but now current applicants.



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- i. Youth Commissioner Minor volunteers to reach out to encourage youth recruitment.
 - Allyson Griffith points out that final decision by overseer of CVSC/Deputy Mayor Ushka for official interview of possible 12 candidates recommended for consideration is still required; with final interview date of candidates by CVSC set for May 12th.
- 8. Review/Excuse Absences at 7:09.**
- Commissioner Waverly motions to approve the absences of Commissioners Grube and Clayton. Motion approved unanimously.
- 9. Good of the Order at 7:10.**
- Allyson Griffith reminds commissioners that Neighborhood and Community Services staff will also be providing an update to the City Council on homelessness on April 19th at Council Study Session. Commissioners are invited to attend.
 - Commissioner Badeaux inquiries about timeline for HSC to return to in-person meetings.
 - i. Allyson Griffith explains that Commissions will transition to a hybrid model of in-person and virtual once committees do.
- 10. Closing Comments/Adjourn at 7:17**
- Allyson Griffith asks committee for consensus for request to review HSC candidates on a Saturday rather than during the week.
 - Commission, with specific feedback from Chair Wilson, Commissioner Valentine, Grube, and Mintaraga, are supportive of Saturday interviews, but request poll of Commissioners' availability for the two likely Saturdays in August that will be required.
 - Wilson adjourns meeting at 7:24.