



SUMMARY

Welcome, [Laura Ellsworth](#), Council for the Homeless

Pocket Guide Update, [Lois Smith](#), Pocket Guide Creator

Highlights of Lois' sharing:

- Lois works for the Campaign for Equal Justice and is the founder of the Pocket Guide Project.
- The first edition came out in 2017 and found that it makes sense to do this annually, which Lois does pro bono.
- All funds raised are used for printing on waterproof and tearproof paper for people who reside outside.
- A new version was just released providing viable information during this pandemic.
- Each new version has a new color. This version is RUSTY RED color.
- It offers regular operating hours and Covid hours denoted by an “*”.

2021 Legislative and Special Session Priorities, [Michele Thomas](#), Director of Policy and Advocacy and [Caroline Lopez](#), Director of Organizing, [Washington Low Income Housing Alliance](#)

The presenters shared a power point entitled: [Washington Low Income Housing Alliance Listening Tour 2020](#)

There are many advocacy opportunities. Here are the important links provided by WLIHA:

- RAP listening session on Wednesday 9/16 @ 4:30-6:30pm; contact: Kikis@wliha.org – Community Organizer, Resident Action Project
- Federal Action: <https://nlihc.secure.force.com/actions/TakeActionNew?actionId=AR00928>
- Progressive Revenue Board Resolution Reach out directly to John at johns@wliha.org or fill out this interest form: <https://bit.ly/2Z2u9mQ>
- LD Leads Program: <https://www.wliha.org/advocacy/legislative-district-leads-program>

WLIHA Listening Tour / CoC participant suggestions for legislative policy:

- Gaining identification cards for youth without parents. Those that are of color don't get as many "exceptions" as my white participants.
- More units that are affordable to people receiving SSI without having to wait in line for a housing subsidy/program.
- We also need a bridge or safety net for folks exiting systems of care...psychiatric facilities, hospitals, jail, etc. Many vulnerable people are being exited to the streets and then becoming unstable once again.
- People living together they are not qualify as homeless according to HUD so there are many services they don't qualify for.
- In regards to Covid, a lot of people need to exit certain places – where they have stabilized – but they are not allowed to leave to look for work.
- When a person comes from their country, their family and friends become their safety net. The amount of resources are limited. A person who is working and who could do well in their own income is now taking care of more people and their resources get depleted.
- There are no places for people to be and the longer people are outside, the harder it is to get them inside.

- Then, once they are in housing they pretty rapidly lose it. They need places to stabilize prior to stable housing. They need greater and more varied supports – sometimes almost daily support.
- At one point there was a halt on pulling vouchers – a lot of people were referred at one time – but there was not enough vouchers provided. Foundation Community Supports is a 5 year demonstration program. The State Health Care Authority to continue this Medicaid waiver and a significant investment from the state that is running an \$8.8 B deficit.
- We need a step down option for people who have mental health who are leaving supportive housing
- FCS: There are two different versions of FCS in Clark County. One is the model that most communities have with the Medicaid funded supported case management, which has multiple access points including CSNW/SeaMar, CRMH, and Lifeline. The other component is a research study with CFTH, CSNW, VHA, Core Research that has a HCV attached to it.
- With intermediate housing programs these people are expected to pay for their housing eventually. The cost of living right now is extremely high. The FMR for a one bedroom in Clark County is \$1,289 and when someone is looking to pay for their full rent on a minimum wage at \$13.50 an hour, even at full time will barely cover the cost of living. We are missing affordable housing.

DV Best Practices for Homeless Service Providers, [Olivia Riley](#), SafeChoice Housing and Economic Justice Advocacy Specialist and [Ana Sifuentes](#), Outreach Specialist & Legal Clinic Coordinator, [YWCA Clark County](#)

- Applying safety and planning protocols in serving survivors of DV experiencing homelessness
The presenters shared a presentation titled [Domestic Violence Best Practices for Homeless Service Providers](#)
 - DV is the leading cause of homelessness among women in the US. 45% of the 958 individuals are women and 6% identified as an adult survivor. Supporting Survivors: Listen to Learn. Believe. Empower. Connect. Logistically, try to access shelters and day centers, 911, safe parking, relocating, transportation.
 - Safe Choice has many services available: shelter, DV Hotline is available 24/7. 360-695-0501, advocacy, legal advocacy and legal clinic, support groups and classes, outreach & education, information & referral
 - There is a relationship with CFTH through the Prevention Consortium, which is helpful.

Project Homeless Connect/Point in Time Count Brainstorm, [Laura Ellsworth](#), Council for the Homeless

- One of the ideas is to have an indoor sort of fair at Immanuel Lutheran or a larger facility while following COVID protocols.
- The Veteran Stand Down is considering a drive through or walk through outside in like a large parking lot. Each vendor would be set far enough apart that people could walk or drive through. The stand down could be useful for lessons learned for the PIT Count event.

Other Updates/Announcements, [Laura Ellsworth](#), Council for the Homeless

- **Federal Advocacy:**
 - Keep up the federal advocacy! Send an email urging your Members of Congress **to resume negotiations to ensure stable housing during COVID-19 and other calls to action referenced here:** https://mailchi.mp/nlihc.org/cta_081920?e=e814653c2a
 - Submit a comment on HUD's harmful proposed rule removing anti-discrimination protections for trans and nonbinary people experiencing homelessness. You can take action by submitting a comment via the [#HousingSavesLives action page](#), <https://housingsaveslives.org/>
 - The National LGBTQ Taskforce has created a [Partner Toolkit](#) to assist in advocacy!

- **Census 2020:** Get the word out that it will be happening ... 75% response rate in Clark County. Last chance is Sept 22-24th. This is important for counting people who are at most risk not to be counted.

Conference on Ending Homelessness is being held virtually on October 7-8, 2020. Sign up at WLIHA.org.

[CFTH Resource Guide & Spanish Resource Guide](#)
[CFTH COVID-19 Web Page](#)

Next Coalition Meeting: November 11, 2020, from 10:00am-11:30am

The Coalition meets on the 2nd Wed, bi-monthly for planning to prevent and end homelessness in Clark County.

General Contact or Accessibility Needs: Council for the Homeless (360) 993-9561 or

bschallberger@councilforthehomeless.org

For more information on the Coalition, visit www.councilforthehomeless.org and click on Agency Resources.