



Meeting Summary

Project Homeless Connect 2022 Thoughts/Priorities, [Laura Ellsworth](#), Council for the Homeless

Thursday, January 27, 2022

Small groups discussed 2022 Project Homeless Connect ideas and reported back via email to Laura Ellsworth.

Pocket Guide Update, [Lois Smith](#)

It is a waterproof, tear proof resource for people who are living outside. It is practical, relevant, and a one on one conversation tool to hear someone's story. It provides need to know information especially for folks who are new to homelessness. The 6th edition is now being distributed in the community. This year the color is purple (previous year colors are no longer reliable.) 500 copies have been made and many partners are distributing them.

There are changes or additions on five of the ten panels. These are the significant changes:

- Street Outreach # is now manned by Outsiders Inn
- Recovery Care is now under Day Center
- Landry Love will re-open by October
- Fish of Orchards has been added as well as The Center (Adventist Church)
- Pulled resources are Memorial Lutheran and St. Luke's due to lack of resources/volunteers.

- **2022 Legislative Session Priorities Listening Session, [Michele Thomas](#)**, Washington Low Income Housing Alliance ... LOOK for a survey to have your voice heard regarding this upcoming sessions Housing Justice.
- We have three legislative districts representing in WA: 17, 18, 49. Coming up in January we need everyone to push forth a Housing Justice Session. It is a shorter session so it is important to be strategic.
- Today Michele was hearing what we think lawmakers need to know. Oct 6-8th is the Conference on Ending Homelessness. Check out who WLIHA has endorsed for candidacy.
- Tom B. County– TRAP, at one point we were getting close to spending \$1M a week in rental assistance. We have made great strides in spending out but we still have a ways to go. Every provider who can participate is participating. We have good numbers regarding BIPOC. Issues lie more around Federal level – with ERAP there was more self-declarations; but for this program it is paper intensive, which slows the process down. It also takes a lot of staff to get these funds. The need is much greater than what we are able to provide.
- Beth – Leasing up people is increasing trend for landlords to require 3-5x the income in rent. They are tiptoeing their way to disproportionate housing. They are barring people with low income from getting into new units. They also uphold restrictive administrative support to carry out these tasks. Work Force in Housing needs to be addressed.
- Siobhana – more effort to allow BIPOC community to be able to serve themselves. Esra - BIPOC orgs could benefit from direct funding rather than reimbursements – creates barriers to getting the funds out quickly. The capped 9-10% admin is a burden. More smaller NPOs could participate if it wasn't structured reimbursement. om from Clark County: Smaller agencies have limited funds to pay for upfront fees for services and have to wait to get reimbursement. This includes By and For agencies. Therefore, their participation is limited when it comes

to distribution of funds. It would be helpful to have a program that could assist these agencies, such as a loan, that would help pay up front costs so they can provide services to their clients.

- Youth – Terrell: Compounded issue for youth – more barriers due to credit scores, rental history, income
- Elderly and Mental Health housing access.
- More robust support to keep people in their units – job fairs and free daytime childcare. It would be helpful if job fairs would be set up on weekends when people are not working.
- Deplorable conditions in lower income apartments
- Increased funding for staff and administration in social services; the inability to pay our staff is our #1 barrier to providing services. Regarding the recent closure of mental health crisis beds, a recent conversation with Columbia River Mental Health Services was that they had to close because they couldn't find adequate clinical staffing to properly run the program.
- Continued lack of affordable housing.
- Laura – biggest challenge, the funding is necessary even though it is difficult to get it out.

9/17/21: Advancing Racial Equity, Diversity, & Inclusion (AREDI) Teach In: Immigrant Mental Health: Get tickets [here](#)
9/21/21 @ 2pm: Severe Weather Task Force Meeting 'All Call' Anyone interested planning efforts or who would like to be involved in partnering in severe weather shelter who would like to attend this meeting, please email Laura Ellsworth

Save the Date: Conference on Ending Homelessness October 6-8, 2021: <https://www.wliha.org/conference>

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

Next Coalition Meeting: November 10, 2021, from 10:00am-11:15am

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.

Individuals attending this meeting may have serious medical sensitivities to perfumes, colognes, scented lotions, aerosols, cleaning products, and scent-producing items, such as glue, markers, and scented candles. We ask that you respect their needs by voluntarily refraining from wearing or using scented products during the meeting. Thank you.