

Implementation Board

King County Regional Homelessness Authority

KCRHA Implementation Board Meeting Minutes

Wednesday,
September 29, 2021

1:00pm to 3:00pm

Virtual Meeting Link Available at
<https://regionalhomelessnessystem.org/>

Roll Call:

Last	First	Present	Absent	Notes
Anderson	Carey		X	
Caminos	Nate	X		
Carvalho	Paula	X		
Chelminiak	John	X		
McHenry	Gordon		X	
Odom	Harold		X	
Pattenaude	Damien		X	
Quinn	Adrienne	X		
Ramos	Michael	X		
Rankin	Sara		X	
Reddy	Simha	X		
Green	Lamont	X		<i>On behalf of Juanita Spotted Elk</i>

(Quorum NOT present at roll call)

A quorum is present.

Record of Discussion and Decisions

Land Acknowledgement

Adrienne Quinn conducts a land acknowledgement.

Approval of Minutes

Nate Caminos postpones consent approval of August Implementation Board meeting notes due to not having quorum present at the time. Approval of August Notes to be voted on at the Next Implementation Board Meeting.

Sub-Regional Planning Snapshot

Alexis Mercedes-Rinck – Sub-Regional Planning Manager

Alexis provides an overview of the Snapshot Sub-Regional Planning Draft. While the full report is expected early next year (2022), this snapshot will provide an update of the work Alexis has compiled thus far.

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Alexis speaks; This overview consists of:

- **Defined Regions**

As KCRHA continues to engage across the County, we are learning more about the service landscape and impracticality of how folks are accessing services via service hubs that do exist around the county.

KCRHA has identified seven subregions: South King County, North King County, South/Southeast Valley King County, Seattle, East King County, Urban Unincorporated King County, and Snoqualmie Valley.

- **Regional Engagement**

Alexis has met with 206 different stakeholders that represent 127 organizations/entities around the County. These entities represent Government, Service Providers, Faith Based Partners, Regional Coalitions, Businesses and Community Based Partners. Included in this presentation is the breakdown of stakeholders across the sub region as follows: (North King County 12.7%, County Wide 15.1%, Snoqualmie Valley 8.3%, East King County 29.3% and South & Southeast King County 34.6%).

With the new South King County Sub-Regional Planner coming on this week, we will be engaging with Public Safety, Law Enforcement, School Districts, Parks, Unincorporated Area Councils, Business' and Hospitals.

We have identified the following engagement pathways:

Sub-Regional Meetings: 17 Sub-Regional Tables

Site Visits: Visited 20 different Service Providers

Council Presentations - Spoken to/with nine Councils

Weekly Email Update – Alexis sends weekly communications to engage stakeholders.

What we're hearing:

- Staffing shortages and burnout
- Concerns about public discourse and community support for our homelessness services around permanent supportive housing
- Desire for a comprehensive outreach strategy
- Improved understanding and clarity of the Sub-Regional landscape.
- Issues and methodology with the P.I.T. (Point in Time) count
- Desire to uplift the perspective of the people with lived experience in the Sub-Regions and outside of the Metropolitan area.
- Behavioral Health Support services that don't meet the needs.

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- A lack of services in each sub-region means that someone experiencing homelessness and/or home insecurities will often need to leave their home community to get/receive existing services and how this can further destabilize them.

- **Progress on Key Component 1 – Landscape of Services by Sub-Region:**

This includes an analysis of the 2020 HMIS data on bed types by sub-region.

- KCRHA will be issuing a survey to all our providers across all the sub regions to identify services based on 17 identified categories.
- We are in collaboration with our Acting Community Chief Impact Officer to put together that survey.
- One of the key findings in this initial bed type analysis is also what we are hearing from providers, there is a need for infrastructure development across our rural and sub-regions.

- **Progress on Key Component 2 – Funding and Investments:**

- Identification that 21 cities in King County are putting funding towards homelessness response.
- Details reports identifying the scale of response needed to build, preserve and subsidize housing for folks 0-30% AMI.
- Next Steps for level and type of funding information we are seeking, this includes analysis of State and Federal funding, Private and Philanthropic Investments funding scale and clarifying investments from the Faith Community as well as identifying in-kind donations.

- **Progress on Key Component 3 – Centering Lived Experience**

- The Sub-Regional Staff work with the Lived Experience Coalition on a weekly basis
- Provide updates at LEC general meeting every Friday
- Regular workgroup feedback

- **Updated Timeline:**

The Revised Timeline - The Sub-Regional timeline has four (4) Phases:

- Phase 1 –Initial Information Gathering and Relationship Building -(June 2021 – December 2021)
- Phase 2 – Analysis and Continued Engagement (January 2022 – March 2022)
- Phase 3 – Sub-Regional Action Plan Development (April 2022 – June 2022)
- Phase 4 – Drafting & Development of Sub-Regional Plans (July 2022 – August 2022)

- **Closing – Time for questions/comments from Board:**

Sarah Rankin- Acknowledges that the written report to be received at a later date. Asks if there was a specific definition used to quantify the data around Permanent Supportive Housing?

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Alexis Rinck- confirms that the definition of PSH for this snapshot came from HMIS and we are looking at the landscape and how we are defining a number of these things like PSH, for the purpose of this snapshot the definition is from HMIS and how HMIS defined it. But as we look at the landscape, we want to re-evaluate how we are defining PSH.

Acknowledgement – Board Member(s) Simha Reddy and Michael Ramos who were not present at roll call and have now joined the meeting. The board now has quorum.

Adrienne Quinn – Asks if the perspective in each Sub-Region is consistent with the perspective of unhoused/homeless or is it a range of perspectives.

Marc Dones - Speaks to the robust alignment across elected leadership, service providers and folks experiencing homelessness and a dis-joint in the public narrative.

Nate Caminos- Asks if there are any other questions or comments from the Board? (No comments/questions from Board).

Nate Caminos responds- Nate states he would be interested in a more in-depth conversation with regard to findings, especially hearing directly from the provider agencies in a study session that includes the Implementation board along with Governing Committee members as early as the beginning of 2022 as things get into action.

Nate Caminos- Postpones the approval of the September meeting notes to the October meeting to go to public comment.

Public Comment

No Public Comment. Nate Caminos states that public comment may be reopened at a later time in the meeting.

Budget Overview

Introduction

KCRHA will maintain level funding and current scopes of work for programs currently operated by the City of Seattle and King County.

- KCRHA will assess the homelessness services system broadly and recommend changes to the Implementation Board in early 2022 to re-procure the entire system.
- KCRHA has identified additional needs beyond funding currently proposed by the City of Seattle and King County and is actively working to identify funding sources in collaboration with Seattle's City Council and other partners.

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For KCRHA 2022 Policy and Program Priorities outside of the level funding we are focused on:

- Downtown Recovery Plan – KCRHA has identified that there are likely 800 people living unsheltered in the Downtown Core. KCRHA has developed a plan that can house these individuals.
- High Acuity Response and Community Safety – KCRHA is working on a community response for people experiencing significant co-occurring disorders, a psychotic spectrum illness, and amphetamine usage. Our current system does not have a place where these individuals can receive an appropriate level of care and healing support inside the homelessness response system. KCRHA is working on a system response to high acuity individuals.
- Regional Infrastructure – KCRHA recognizes the need to rapidly increase regional infrastructure.
- Vehicle Residency – KCRHA has done outreach with the Scofflaw teams and other Safe Parking teams around the region, had conversations with those folks who are currently living in their cars, RV's etc. and have developed the beginnings of a more comprehensive strategy to respond to vehicle residency based on what we heard from folks currently living in their vehicles.
- Catalytic Portfolio - That includes our Peer Navigation work, our By- Name Lists, Granular Data work and our Bridge Housing strategy. Those are the things you will hear from us consistently both in the development of potentially new funds and as we work to structure public/private partnerships and partnerships with other jurisdictions that are not subscribed to the ILA.

Marc turns over to Meg Barclay who will provide an overview of the 2022 Budget:

- Meg Barclay introduces herself; she will provide an overview of the proposed 2022 budget and a little bit more detail on some of the priority program details Marc Dones mentioned. The presentation consists of a high-level overview of costs KCRHA is expecting to incur in 2022.
- The City of Seattle and King County's contribution to KCRHA includes approximately \$119M worth of programs that are currently being operated.
- KCRHA will be taking on and executing those contracts to continue services at the level and scope of that work currently being implemented
- The City of Seattle has a number of incremental budget changes in the Mayor's Proposed Budget at about \$34M.
- There is expected 2021-22 AARPA-Recovery Act carry forward in programs that KCRHA will be taking on
- Meg provides an overview of KCRHA's operating costs.

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2022 Workload

- In 2022, KCRHA will assume responsibility for as many as 219 contracts amounting to \$119.2M. These contracts are currently administered by the City of Seattle and King County.
- The proposed 2022 budget also requests funding to implement critical initiatives:
 - Downtown Recovery Plan
 - Establish 150 beds of non-congregate shelter for high acuity customers.

Contracts Coming over to The Authority:

- Meg describes the number of projects currently funded by the City of Seattle and King County and the amount of funding that is currently anticipated.

2022 Priority – Peer Navigation

- KCRHA intends to create a Peer Navigation workforce to work with people through all stages of the housing process. People would be assigned to a Peer Navigator who would be the constant contact for the customer throughout the entire housing process.
- Workforce Design:
 - KCRHA uplifts the need for living wages and benefits for peer navigators
 - Peer Navigators will be supported with:
 - Dedicated staff for logistics, deployment and other operational needs
 - Team Leads to help ensure successful outcome for Peer Navigators and Customers
 - Dedicated program directors

2022 Priority – High Acuity Response

- Objective: To ensure high acuity clients exit to permanent supportive housing or other housing services.
- KCRHA is looking to create 150 new beds
- Dedicated medical and behavioral health staff to meet the needs of high acuity customers.

Current FY22 Program Funding Gap – New Programs

- Approximately \$27M is needed for:
 - Peer Navigation Workforce
 - Non-Congregate Shelter for High Acuity Customers

2022 Operations

- Based on staffing plan presented to the Implementation Board and Governing Committee in July 2021
- KCRHA has a Living wage policy for all staff
- Total staffing amounts to **5.68%** of total budget
- Currently the KCRHA operational budget has a \$712K gap.

This concludes the 2022 Proposed KCRHA Budget. – Questions from Board Members

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Adrienne Quinn - Mentions that, after coming from the public sector, she knows that staffing at less than 6% is extraordinarily low. She mentions that HUD and other federally funded programs usually target at 10%. Asks if there any flexible funds to cover additional administrative costs in the current program funding.

Marc Dones- No. There is no flexibility in the current program budget.

Simha Reddy- Simha asks about the high acuity shelter program model. Specifically, Simha asks in what the referral process and turnover of services look like?

Marc Dones- KCRHA is targeting a level of staffing to be appropriately responsive, including a psychiatric nurse practitioner, at least one broader primary care family doctor and social work support. KCRHA has identified a ratio of 3 for every 15-20 customers.

Simha Reddy- Asks how will people move on from the shelter.

Marc Dones- States that, at a system level, we can manage. References to the permanent supportive housing coming online in the community in the next year. States that flow through will likely be between 1-2 months for high acuity bed turnover. KCRHA wants to provide an opportunity for people to truly stabilize. The program is also meant to provide a buffer where people can stabilize before they make a decision about the next stage of their life.

Public Comment opens back up.

Nate Caminos states that each person will have one minute for public comment.

Tye Whitfield- Community connector for the City of Kent. Thank KCRHA for the opportunity to speak on homelessness. Speaks to the various areas of need in Kent and the availability of only two shelters in Kent. Talks about discussions to bring a tiny house village to Kent. States that faith-based leaders, councils, and community leaders are interested in bringing a tiny house village to Kent.

Bill Kirlin Hackett- Talks about vehicle residency programs being cut from the Mayor's budget. Unsheltered homelessness is 50% of people living in vehicles. Knows that RHA has their back. Will continue putting people into HMIS. Grateful to RHA staff for accompanying them on outreach.

Carol- An advocate for the Tiny House Villages. People are thrilled to be able to get the services they get and have their own space at Christ the Spirit Tiny House Villages. Wants to advocate for more tiny house villages and services at the tiny house villages.

Pastor Willis- President of United Black Christian Clergy. His church has sponsored two tiny house villages. We know it takes a village to help people in the village. Church supports the village with resources. Supporting tiny house villages is important. We built tiny house villages. Students 18- 27 have been able to build houses and give back to the community. Tiny house villages have support from the community and need to be expanded.

Tracy Williams- Speaks in support of tiny house villages.

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Next Meeting

The next meeting will be: Wednesday November , from 2PM-4PM

Nate Caminos adjourns the meeting at 2:55pm

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