

Kitsap Housing and Homeless Coalition – January 18, 2022, 2-4pm
Zoom link: <https://krl.zoom.us/j/82262235936>, Meeting ID: 822 6223 5936

Link to recorded meeting (courtesy of The Conduit): <https://youtu.be/Jb07NzyPElw>

COMMUNITY BUILDER:

STATEMENT OF KHHC VISION, MISSION, VALUES – Read by Lisa Lechuga

GROUP COMMUNITY BUILDER

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE: Introduction: Lisa Lechuga (Chair), Matt Garrett (Vice Chair), Priya Charry (Secretary), with support from: Bridget Glasspoole (KMHS), Katie Sharp (BHA), Leif Wagner (KMHS), and Kirstin Jewell (Kitsap County)

AGENCY PRESENTATION: Working Families Tax Credit – Aminta Spencer, Outreach Specialist, Working Families Tax Credit Division, amintas@dor.wa.gov, 360-628-3049; Perla Gamboa, Outreach Manager, perlag@dor.wa.gov

The Working Families Tax Credit (WFTC) is a credit of retail sales or use tax for low-to-moderate income Washington residents who meet certain eligibility requirements. It was enacted by HB 1297. Payments are based on income level and number of qualifying children.

You qualify if you:

- Filed a federal income tax return as an individuals or joint filer
- Have a valid SSN or ITIN
- Qualified for federal earned income tax credit
- Lived in WA State for more than 183 days of the year
- Are at least 25 years old and less than 65

Applications open on Feb. 1, 2023 through the end of the year and are available in 17 languages:

- Online: <https://workingfamiliescredit.wa.gov/>
- Paper application, available on the website or local DOR field office
- Through external tax preparation software and providers

Outreach staff are asking that service organizations help promote WFTC and drive awareness. WFTC staff can provide speaking engagements, attend events, and provide training materials and resources. The WFTC website also has informational resources including an eligibility checker, partner toolkit and training materials.

Email follow-up questions to DORWFTC@dor.wa.gov

PRESENTATION: Project Connect and Point-in-Time Count – Kirstin Jewell, Shannon Turner, and Terry Schroeder

Project Connect: one-stop free service and resource fair. It will be held at three locations across the county Jan. 24-26:

- *NK Project Connect*: Tues, Jan. 24, 10am-2pm – Gateway Fellowship Church, 18901 8th Ave NE, Poulsbo
- *Bremerton Project Connect*: Wed, Jan. 25, 10am-2pm – Salvation Army, 832 6th St
- *SK Project Connect*: Thurs, Jan. 26, 10am-2pm – Port Orchard Methodist Church, 725 Kitsap St, Port Orchard

A meal will be provided as well. Project Connect is not just for people experiencing homelessness, but also for low-income folks and those experiencing housing insecurity. Please distribute flyers to all your clients and guests so as many people as possible can attend.

Project Connect is still looking for volunteers for each event. Email Kirsten Jewell with questions: kjewell@kitsap.gov

Point-in-Time Count: survey of people living homeless at one time in Kitsap County. We are still looking for volunteers for outreach surveying, especially if you know of any encampments that are harder to find. Register to volunteer:

https://www.cognitofirms.com/KitsapCounty1/_2023WinterPointinTimeCount

Get in touch with Cory or Kirsten with questions: cderenbu@kitsap.gov and kjewell@kitsap.gov

KITSAP COUNTY/STATE UPDATES: Kirsten Jewell, Kitsap County Housing and Homelessness Division

The County is wrapping up the end of fiscal year, so we've been busy.

Pacific Building shelter project: We got the last of the big permits submitted (Commercial Tenant Improvement permit). Now waiting for those to be approved, then will move on to finding a general contractor.

Currently working on renewals for the 2-year homeless services and housing grant. We need to get all the reimbursement requests processed for 2022, then ready to move on to 2023.

AGENCY UPDATES:

Eric Harrold, Salvation Army – Starting May 1 and running through December, Salvation Army will close its overnight shelter and resume serving breakfast and lunch and providing social services in the morning and afternoon. This is a return to their pre-pandemic schedule; normal winter shelter dates have been December-March, and they added an extra month this year. They are working with KCR and DSHS to get people situated before the closure date.

Salvation Army is looking for partners to provide evening and weekend meals after they end evening service on April 30. Contact Eric.harrold@usw.salvationarmy.org with any potential leads.

They are also working to purchase Monica's next door as an opportunity to expand into a food bank facility for client-choice food distribution, as well as a community garden in the back.

Salvation Army will be hosting Bremerton's Project Connect on January 25.

Katie Sharp, Bremerton Housing Authority – BHA’s Project Based Voucher (PBV) waitlist is opening Jan 27 from 7am-3pm. The number of properties is limited; this is not like the Housing Choice voucher— there are only about 250 units available. To apply, log into your RentCafe account; you can and should create your account ahead of time: <https://bremertonhousing.org/index.php/about-rentcafe>

BHA just issued an RFP for any agency who has units they want to be subsidized. We’re offering 50 in Bremerton and 40 in Kitsap. We have PBVs and are offering them to the community. Contact Katie with any questions: ksharp@bremertonhousing.org

Shannon Turner, Peninsula Community Health Services – PCHS moving forward with their planned medical respite center. They aim for planning to be done by end of January, and for the facility to open in March-April 2024. Contact Shannon with questions: sturner@pchsweb.org

Also, PCHS is looking for parking spaces to house some of their large vehicles. Please reach out if you have space or recommendations to offer.

Roland Arper, Project Share – We are looking for a location to rehouse our tiny houses/cabins (9x12’). They are unfinished and come with basic electricity capability. Contact Roland with any suggestions or resources: jarper@wavecable.com

Robert Wilson, Eagle’s Wings Coordinated Care – The resident application is available online for anyone to apply: <https://www.eagleswingscc.net/>

Jeff Coughlin, Bremerton City Council – Noted that Bremerton did commit funds to the PCHS respite center last year. Sharing an update on affordable housing development: City Council approved \$500,000 of American Rescue Plan funds to provide permanent supportive housing for 50 residents at Miller’s Crossing condos.

Anna Mockler, Bremerton City Council – Continuing Jeff’s update, including working with an “affordable housing coalition” comprised of KCR, BHA, Kitsap County Housing and Human Services Division. The priority for these placements will be low-income families.

Kitsap Transit’s director will pitch a “Dial a Ride” pilot project expanded to Bremerton. This already exists throughout Kitsap. The pilot would be planned for Sunday service. Kitsap Transit wants to know if people are interested in this service in Bremerton: <https://www.kitsaptransit.com/form/contact-us>

Matt Garrett, Kitsap Community Resources – Continuing Jeff and Anna’s comments. The Miller’s Crossing project would be half homeless service project, half low-income: 36 units total, 18 for permanent supportive housing for families and 18 for low-income families. The low-income units would be preferences for Housing Choice vouchers. We’re waiting for housing trust funds to come through; hoping to have news in March. This “affordable housing coalition” (name is still in development) is open to those seeking to create/develop more affordable housing; it has complementary interests to KHHC.

Questions:

- Would tenants have access to services 24/7? – No case managers will be onsite 24/7, but will be available about 8-10 hours a day. Maintenance staff may be available as needed. This project is more intensive than some of our long-term clients, but not like Pendleton Place. The priority is homeless/low-income families where the head of household has a long-term need.
- This project is an acquisition, not originally developed as affordable housing. If we get the grant in March, hopefully we can get folks moving in in the summer, definitely this year (if we get funding and if the purchase goes through).

Marwan Cameron, Gather Together Grow Together – Starting in February, G2 is going to be visiting BKAT studios with the goal of capturing elders’ stories. If you know of any interested elders or volunteers, get in touch with Marwan: gather2grow@g2g2.org

We are one of the agencies partnering for the WFTC outreach. Their computer labs are open to support community members.

We are looking for volunteers to help with the Conduit podcast. We want to elevate and share as much community information as possible, especially things like getting out to vote. Get in touch with Marwan if you or anyone you know wants to volunteer.

Feb. 4 is Transit Equity Day, and we’ll have a day of programming centered around transportation. We are also still providing free rides for vaccines and boosters; call our office at 360-373-3000.

Meeting ended at 3:20pm. Next meeting Feb. 15, 2-4pm (virtual)

In attendance:

Aminta Spencer, WFTCD
Ami Leach
Anna Mockler, Bremerton City Council
Bernice Petty, WDVA, Building 10 transitional housing for veterans in Port Orchard
Brenda Johnson, Kitsap Community Resources
Brick Kawabata, Northwest Justice Project
Bridget Glasspool, Kitsap Mental Health Services
Candice Corey, Veterans Housing Retention Program with WDVA
Carla Foster, Kitsap Community Resources
Carrie Cooke
Chris, DSHS
Chuck Svac
Cory Derenburger, Kitsap County Housing and Homelessness Division
Daniel Gardner, Eagles Wings Coordinated Care
Deanna Conger, Kitsap Regional Library (Port Orchard)
Demian Putzke
Dennis Brown
Eric Harrold, Salvation Army
Jasmine Castorena, Kitsap Community Resources
Jason Doty, Kitsap County Aging and Long-Term Care
Jay Averill, Kitsap Regional Library (Downtown Bremerton)
Jeff Coughlin, Bremerton City Council
Jeri Delaney, Coffee Oasis
Jessica Campbell, Housing Resources Bainbridge
Katie Sharp, Bremerton Housing Authority
Kirsten Jewell, Kitsap County Housing and Homelessness Division
Leah Noldan, Kitsap County Housing and Homelessness Division
Linda Hollingsworth, WorkSource Kitsap Veterans

Lisa Lechuga, Kitsap Regional Library (Downtown Bremerton)
Madison Roszak, Kitsap Homes of Compassion
Maria Fergus, Kitsap Public Health District
Marwan Cameron, Gather Together Grow Together and the Conduit
Matt Garrett, Kitsap Community Resources
Michael Achey, Housing Resources Bainbridge
Michelle Jayroe, Kitsap Transit
Nicole Oberg, Salish BH-ASO Behavioral Health Housing Program
Priya Charry, Kitsap Regional Library (Downtown Bremerton)
Rev. Susie Bell
Robert Wilson
Rochelle Karlsen, League of Women Voters Housing Committee
Roland Arper, Severe Weather Shelter (Port Orchard)
Shannon Turner, Peninsula Community Health Services
Shawn Nigh
Terry Schroeder
Vernalisa Colon, Agape Unlimited
Virginia McCaslin, Kitsap County Housing and Homelessness Division

Notes: Priya Charry