

KITSAP HOUSING AND HOMELESSNESS COALITION – August 16, 2023, 2-4pm

Video and registration link: <https://krl.zoom.us/meeting/register/tZYvceuqrT4jGdKwPgSrFqd-FIBHVoHrOxB8>

Zoom link: <https://krl.zoom.us/j/82262235936>, Meeting ID: 822 6223 5936

Link to recorded meeting (courtesy of The Conduit):

<https://www.youtube.com/live/dMQA4fFoT9c?feature=share>

STATEMENT OF KHHC VISION, MISSION, VALUES: Read by Katie Sharp

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE: Lisa Lechuga (Chair), Katie Sharp (Vice Chair), Priya Charry (Secretary), with support from: Bridget Glasspoole (KMHS), Leif Wagner (KMHS), Carl Borg (Kitsap County)

MINUTES: Moved by Morgan Duffy, seconded by Molly Brooks

COMMUNITY BUILDER: Something you've enjoyed this summer

KHHC UPDATES: Lisa Lechuga, KHHC Executive Team

Executive Team updates: There will be a new addition to the team: John Nickerson (KCR)

Current Secretary Priya Charry is leaving KHHC and Kitsap Regional Library due to a family move cross-country. [Note: She will miss you all!]

The Exec Team is seeking a new Secretary. You will learn about housing and homelessness in Kitsap on a deeper level and work alongside the knowledgeable and supportive Exec Team. Email

Admin@KitsapHHC.org if you would like to volunteer. Responsibilities include:

- Participation and notetaking for monthly Executive Committee meetings and KHHC meetings
- Support KHHC special events
- Estimated monthly time commitment: about 5 hours
- Qualities: strong work ethic, attention to detail, helpful, smart and friendly

Project Connect: The Planning team is looking to solicit donations (like giveaway items). Keep an eye out for the next KHHC newsletter and next month's meeting for more information. This annual event provides helpful services to low-income Kitsap residents and serves as Point-in-Time count centers.

Today's agenda: We'll be collaboratively editing some core KHHC documents.

September meeting: We'll be meeting in person at Salvation Army in Bremerton. Lisa won't be there but the Exec team will lead.

PRESENTATION: Pallet Homes – Ben Simons: <https://palletshelter.com/>

Pallet Homes is based in Everett, in business for about 6.5 years. They have built 120 individual rapid, dignified shelter communities, mostly for homeless individuals but also for disaster response and quick workforce housing. They are a public benefit corporation, aiming to end homelessness and provide employment for people with lived experience. They are paid a living wage with benefits and brought on to share their experience.

“Dignity standards”: attributes a shelter needs to help people stay long enough to benefit from the pathway towards housing. They can build a full shelter community along with bathrooms within a week and a half. For infrastructure, they just require a land parcel with relatively flat ground and access to utilities. They stockpile units in their manufacturing center in Everett and can send out quickly to work with local contractors.

In Pallet home communities, they haven’t seen the negative impacts to local communities that might be present with congregate shelters. Instead, they see drops in crime as well as high rates of people transitioning out of shelter housing into stable housing.

Product:

- The base is a 64 square foot rapid shelter that can be built in about 45 minutes, with all the safety features you would see in permanent shelters.
- There are a variety of insulation and climate control options, meaning they can use them across the county and different climate needs. They typically include 1 bunk, with flexibility for 2.
- They also manufacture larger facilities to be used for families or service offices for providers.
Bathrooms
- Bathrooms have 2 stall, plus accessible options. They just need to hook up to water, sewer, and power connections. A laundry unit is available as well.
- A larger community room becomes the hub of the community.

All of these facilities are available to see at the Everett Gospel Mission, as well as their manufacturing facility. The site in Longview is managed by the Salvation Army, with an available impact report.

Documents, press, and case studies: <https://docsend.com/view/s/b24fttjnajbjrtz>

Questions:

- *Are units wheelchair accessible?* – Yes, both main structures are easily modified to include a ramp. Accessible bathrooms are available as well.
- *Who determines where sites are located?* – Depends on the community, typically the city or county. They provide the land and contract with a service provider to manage it. It usually includes collaboration with the city/county for zoning. Pallet can help liaise and get quotes.
- *What is the cost?* – Depends: if you want to house 50 people with all facilities, product-wise that’s about \$1 million. Site costs are variable depending on the parcel and cost of labor. Pallet can share budget estimates and are happy to work with a general contractor.
- *How long do these last?* – Units are fiberglass reinforced plastic. The oldest community is 6.5 years old, in Tacoma. Based on new material testing, they should last at least 20 years (depending on use). Pallet rarely has to replace large parts like walls. They have a 2-year warranty.

KHHC GROUP BRAINSTORM:

Select a breakout room to discuss and edit the following core KHHC documents:

- Free Meal Guide
- Sally’s Guide/Homeless and Low-Income Resource Guide
- How You Can Help People Living Homeless
- Resource Guide for Pet Owners

Add notes to the collaborative Google Doc: https://docs.google.com/document/d/1-kKOwJPbbdluX1NLZrfBa6Yq868zX_DWgzmuYUxj24E/edit?usp=sharing

Send any additional updates to the KHHC Admin email.

KITSAP COUNTY UPDATES: Carl Borg and Virginia McCaslin, Kitsap County Housing and Homelessness Division

Pacific Building: We are getting close to hiring a construction company for the Pacific Building Shelter, hoping to be ready to open next fall. We have received applications and will be doing agency interviews soon.

Coordinated grant applications: The interview schedules will be sent out in the next couple days; keep an eye on your email for those.

Cooling shelters: These are currently open through Thursday 8/17. Daily updates can be found here (211 will also have information about the closest cooling centers): <https://www.kitsapdem.com/cooling-centers/>

Note from Morgan Duffy: KPHD is looking to give out clean air resources to organizations serving high-risk groups; share your interest here: https://forms.office.com/pages/responsepage.aspx?id=4SPqY8DG_kOHVFFciaoXmuUjflU2uZNlaFSL73b0VBUQ0INNEtDSUxXRDA2Qkk3N0k0RzdaU1IHQI4u

AGENCY UPDATES:

Lisa Lechuga, Kitsap Regional Library – The Downtown Bremerton Library is closed temporarily for HVAC installation. This impacts people living in the downtown area and unsheltered folks. You can use any other KRL location to access library services (almost all other locations are cooling centers).

Shoutout to Kitsap ERACE housing equity committee for their advocacy regarding the folks in the MLK Way encampment at a July Bremerton City Council meeting.

The Kitsap Sun is doing a great job covering housing and homelessness in Kitsap. Since our last meeting they've published several articles about county resources and social service organizations. Articles are available for free through KRL (with a library card): <https://www.krl.org/resources/news/>. You can sign up for a digital library card here: <https://www.krl.org/cards/>

- July 20: "On MLK Way, the frustration and futility of trying to address a complex problem", Phillip Chin
- July 21: "The nearly impossible challenge of unexpected homelessness", Charmaine Doherty and Ruth Westergaard
- July 24: "New Poulsbo Health and Resource Center to offer treatment resource for addiction", Phillip Chin
- July 30: "Poulsbo Mobile Home Park gets makeover from Bluebills, volunteer handymen", Phillip Chin
- Aug. 2: "Volunteers bring BBQ to MLK Way, providing some hope as Bremerton encampment seeks solutions", Phillip Chin

- Aug. 7: “In Silverdale, a county team continues to address encampments in compassionate way”, Phillip Chin

Sandra Paulino-Winborn, Bremerton CSO DSHS – DSHS’s new intake hours are 8am-2pm, for the foreseeable future (short staff and backlog). The contact center hours are the same.

Once we receive a food stamps application, we date stamp the day we get it and will back date it from that date. If individuals do the intake and are approved, they could be ready that same day (expedited) or first thing next morning. TANF and ABD cash are ready from the date eligibility is approved.

There’s been a lot of skimming going on (when card is swiped, tampered readers steal funds from it). Affected individuals can call our contact center and report it to get the card replaced. We can issue cards up to about 4pm depending on the day.

Jenny Berthelsen, Coffee Oasis – Next week Wednesday we are having our annual Back to School Bash for ages 13-25, offering school supplies at each of our centers. Youth can get shoes too but need to fill out a form by Friday (at each of the centers). For more details, see:

- Bremerton: <https://www.facebook.com/events/294771463057613>
- Port Orchard: <https://www.facebook.com/events/1713454075805153>
- Poulsbo: <https://www.facebook.com/events/299816842494796>
- Kingston: <https://www.facebook.com/events/1026417408355417>

Maria Fergus, Kitsap Public Health District – Upcoming community events:

- August 19, 10am-9pm: Unda 1 Sun Islander Festival, Pendergast Regional Park in Bremerton.
- August 26, 12pm-3pm: DocLuvTheKids Day. Free backpacks, school supplies, food, drinks, and more. 1748 NE Riddell Rd., Bremerton.

Brenda Bright, Kitsap Aging and Long-Term Care - Kitsap ALTC’s Information & Assistance team will be staffing the Senior Lounge in the Pavilion at the Kitsap County Fair next week, August 23-27. Resources and rest areas will be available for seniors.

Meeting ended at 3:45pm. Next meeting September 20, 2-4pm, in person at Salvation Army.

In attendance: 55

Alec Bellis, Catholic Housing Services/Max Hale Center

Ali Moyer, HSC Lead Navigator

Angela Boyer, PCHS

Annette Houchin

Branden Davis

Brenda Johnson, Kitsap Community Resources

Brenda Bright, Kitsap ALTC

Brian Olson

Ben Simons

Beverly Maine

Candace Corey, WDVA Housing Retention Program

Carl Borg, Kitsap County Housing and Homelessness Division

Charlene Marshall-Hicks

Chryselyn Callo
Chuck Svac, Kitsap County Central Labor Council
Cory Derenburger, Kitsap County Housing and Homelessness Division
Dana Emley
Deanna Conger, Kitsap Regional Library (Port Orchard)
Emily Larson, Kitsap Rescue Mission
Erica Kommuri
Frankie Coleman, Coordinated Care Community Relations
Gail Misner
Heather Blough, Housing Kitsap
James Crawford, Bremerton School District Superintendent
Janae Jenkins, Benedict House
Jason Doty, Kitsap Aging and Long-Term Care
Jeff Coughlin, Bremerton City Council
Jenny Berthelson, Coffee Oasis
Jessica Campbell, Housing Resources Bainbridge
Jill Stanton, Bremerton Housing Authority
Joanna Hayes, Kitsap Homes of Compassion
Joie Hayes, Kitsap ERACE Housing Equity Committee
Karisha Stanley, Bremerton Housing Authority
Kathleen Knutsen, Catholic Community Services
Kathleen Kottey, Housing Solutions Center
Leah Noldan, Kitsap County
Leif Wagner, Kitsap Mental Health Services
Lisa Lechuga, Kitsap Regional Library (Downtown Bremerton)
Lorie Flatray, Northwest Justice Project
Maria Fergus, Kitsap Public Health District
Marlee, PCAP
Marwan Cameron, Gather Together Grow Together and the Conduit
Michael Achey
Michelle Richardson
Molly Brooks, Kitsap ERACE Housing Equity Committee
Morgan Duffy, Bremerton Housing Authority
Nicole Vaughn, Housing and Essential Needs
Priya Charry, Kitsap Regional Library (Downtown Bremerton)
Rae Hill, Kitsap Community Resources Rental Assistance Program
Sandra paulino-Winborn
Setareh Phillips-Dwyer
Shawn Nigh, Helpline House
Tiphany Turnley, Agape Unlimited
Tugba Odell
Virginia McCaslin, Kitsap County Housing and Homelessness Division

Notes: Priya Charry