



ECHO convened at the Clark County Public Service Center, 6<sup>th</sup> Floor, Hearing Conference Room, also via WebEx Online.

## Clark County ECHO

*(Ending Community Homelessness Organization)*

### Meeting Minutes –February 14, 2023

ECHO Chair, Clark County Councilor, Gary Medvigy, opened-up the ECHO meeting with a warm welcome, introductions.

**ACTION:** Councilor Stober moved to **APPROVE** the meeting minutes from January 10, 2023, seconded by Councilor Yung. All aye/ motion carried.

#### 1. COMMUNITY COURT PRESENTATION

- Presented by Kevin McClure, Todd George, and Christie Emrich
  - Many different cases are eligible for community court.
    - Criminal Trespass
    - Pedestrian Interference
    - Unlawful Bus Conduct
    - Unlawful Camping
    - And many more
  - Cases get assigned to Community Court a few different ways.
    - Police officers will cite eligible offenses into Community Court.
    - Prosecutor's will screen appropriate cases.
    - The arraignment docket can refer cases to Community Court.
  - There are different requirements for participants.
    - Work Crew (assigned by court)
    - After a needs assessment, relevant services will be provided.
      - Housing, Mental Health, Substance Abuse
      - Driver's license/Valid ID, Benefits help.
      - Medical Assistance.
  - Defense attorney will be court appointed.
  - There are benefits for participating in Community Court.
    - If conditions are successfully completed charges can be dropped.
    - Services for housing and treatment.
  - Community Court starts.
    - A trial run is scheduled for late March.
    - Court will be held at the Recovery Café.
    - Court will take place each Friday.
  - What other charges and treatments are available.
    - There is Substance Abuse Court, Mental Health Court, and Veteran's Court
  - Q & A / ECHO Discussion



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## 2. UPDATE ON DOCUMENT RECORDING FEES

- Presented by Michael Torres
  - Clark County saw a 47% drop-in recording fees collected in 2022, compared to the prior year.
  - RCW 43.185C.080 – Homeless Funding
    - Governs who receives Documents Recording Fees
    - Requires funds to go to a local government.
    - Cities can receive their portion of HB2163/1359 DRFs and be eligible for State funding.
    - Cities must adopt their own Homeless Plan and meet the state requirements.
  - Documents Recording Fees (DRF)
    - Fee collected locally by County Auditor
    - Approximately 60% of these fees are retained locally.
    - Approximately 40% of these fees are passed to the State which form the CHG.
    - These fees constitute majority of State and Local funding.
  - HB2060 and HB1359/HB2163 are DRF retained locally.
  - CHG (Consolidated Homelessness Grant)
    - Established by RCW 143.85C.
    - The Washington State Department of Commerce oversees the CHG.
    - Local Government with Homeless Plans are eligible.
  - Potential Shortfall of Revenue vs Expense
    - June 30, 2023, DRF revenue shortfall of \$2.4M to projected expenses.
    - End of year DRF revenue shortfall of \$3.4M to projected expenses.
  - If the backfill DRF revenue does not recover, staff will request Council to repurpose \$5M of ARPA funds.
  - Q & A / ECHO Discussion

## 3. SOLUTIONS CENTERED FIELD TRIP

- Tour potential Safe Park locations
  - County Manager, Kathleen Otto, will be amending Council Time agenda for 2/15/23 to bring this back before the council for their direction, as the council has no budget in place for this. Pursuing the field trip with staff to look at the property is still encouraged.

## 4. UPDATE FROM EACH ENTITY AND ANY SUGGESTED ACTION ITEMS

- Council for the Homeless: NONE
- Vancouver Housing Authority: NONE
- Community Foundation for Southwest Washington: NONE
- Clark County : NONE
- City of Vancouver: NONE
- City of Battle Ground: NONE



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- **City of Camas:**
  - Steve Hogan wanted to give a special thank you Vanessa Gaston and Michael Torres for their prompt response and answering his email questions.
- **City of La center : NONE**
- **City of Ridgefield: NONE**
- **City of Washougal:**
  - Julie Russell stated that in Washougal, volunteers have connected with the following:
    - Providing meals
    - Severe weather shelter
    - Salvation Army
    - ER hotel vouchers
    - Safe Stay at St. Annes Church parking lot
    - And partnered with the VHA to assist those with rent increases.

## 5. ANYTHING FOR THE GOOD OF THE ORDER

- Next meeting: Lifeline & Beacon | Health presenting on HOST program
- Council Member Ty Stober, requested that ECHO develop a structure, such as:
  - Starting Point.
  - Work Plan.
  - Community member needs.
  - What activities are happening.
- Council Member Diana Perez brought up her points from last the last meeting that she would like to see on the agenda:
  - Solutions Centered Leadership Forum.
  - Safe Stay/Safe Park sites in the County.
  - Childcare as a prevention to the homelessness.
  - Co-responder Model.

## 6. NEXT MEETING

- March 14, 2023, at 9:30 a.m.