



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

Clark County ECHO

(Ending Community Homelessness Organization)

Meeting Minutes – October 10, 2023

ECHO Chair, Clark County Councilor, Gary Medvigy, called the ECHO meeting to-order.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

- Meeting minutes were not approved, pending changes to the reports presented during ECHO, no motion was made, 9/12/23 minutes to be brought back at next ECHO meeting.

CITIES LEGISLATIVE AGENDA FOR HOMELESS SERVICES FOR LEGISLATURE

- Per Ridgefield: The CCFD (Clark County Fire Department) has received a grant from the “Cares Outreach Program”, this is a very effective and utilized grant, and should be on the list.
- Ty Stober suggested to invite all the legislation delegation to the next ECHO Meeting.

LACK OF CHILDCARE; IMPACTS ON THE UNHOUSED

- Presented by Jodi Wall and Debbie Ham, ESD 112
 - ESD 112 Provides ECE (Early Care & Education) services to over 1,000 children, birth to age 12 in SW WA
 - ESD 112 Manages the Child Care Aware program for the region.
 - ESD 112 is a local non-profit organization representing a diverse group of organizations and individuals committed to improving outcomes for young children growing up in SW WA.
 - Subsidized ECE Programs:
 - State and Federal Subsidized Programs.
 - Eligibility based on family need and risk factors.
 - ESD 112 ECE current program enrollment.
 - Clark County Child Care Data
 - 15% of Washington State residents are under 6 years of age.
 - There are only 178,000 childcare slots for approximately 300,000 Children statewide.
 - There are currently 200 licensed childcare providers and 8367 childcare slots.
 - 1 center (Little World) hosted within Open House Ministries prioritizes childcare for unhoused families.
 - Who Provides Homeless Navigation Services?
 - The Child Care Aware of Washington statewide Family Center. Operated by Bright Spark Early Learning Services/Child Care Aware of King & Pierce Counties, a partner organization.
 - The Family Center is funded by the Washington State Department of Children, Youth, and Families
 - How Families Qualify:
 - Live temporarily with family or friends
 - Do not have a home.
 - Live in a shelter, car or park.
 - Live in transitional housing.
 - Live in Domestic Violence program housing.
 - Are income eligible.
 - Other temporary situations could also qualify.
 - What can childcare offer?
 - Trained caregivers
 - Support for the whole family
 - Individualized care and attention
 - Healthy, nutritious meals



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- A stable environment with trusted adults
- Additional needs in Southwest WA.
 - Non-Standard Hours
 - Children with special needs.
 - School-Ages Care.
- WCCC Basic Eligibility.
 - Children who reside in Washington state regardless of citizenship are otherwise eligible (as of 10/1/23).
 - The family with whom the child resides must live in Washington state.
 - The family's income must be at or below 60% of the State Median Income (SMI) at application or 65% of SMI when reapplying.
 - The family must have resources under \$1 million.
- Policy Ideas
 - Improve Access & Affordability
 - Family of four should pay no more than \$115 a month in co-pay if they make \$64,248 or under a year.
 - Family of four should pay no more than \$90 a month in co-pay if they make \$53,544 or under a year.
 - Families experiencing homelessness may be approved for up to 12 months to help resolve issues surrounding homelessness.
- Clark County Children's Council
 - Local leaders convene in 2023 to help build solutions to childcare crisis.
 - Purpose: Build public awareness, identify solutions, advance policy initiatives to meet the needs children and families.
 - A unified, regional voice that elevates the childcare crisis while amplifying community needs for those who are furthest from opportunity, resulting in quality, affordable, accessible, and inclusive childcare for all.

SOLUTION CENTER MODEL DISCUSSION

- Presented by Diana Perez, City Councilor
 - How do we come together and be intentional about what ECHO can do.
 - One idea is to have a Solution Center Workshop, where we have a focused effort on a particular topic or issue, where we have a structured approach, and come together to have a collective critical thinking partnership that would lead to a solution.
 - This would be a separate time from ECHO for a structured, facilitated, and intentional set of time for 2-3 hours, with potential solutions as an outcome.

UPDATE FROM EACH ENTITY AND ANY SUGGESTED ACTION ITEMS

- Counsel for the Homeless: NONE
- Vancouver Housing Authority: NONE
- Community Foundation for SW WA: NONE
- Clark County: Councilor
- City of Vancouver:
- City of Battle Ground: NONE
- City of Camas: NONE
- City of La Center: NONE
- City of Ridgefield: NONE
- City of Washougal:

CLARK COUNTY WASHINGTON



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ANYTHING FOR THE GOOD OF THE ORDER

- Add to next agenda:
 - December – Year-End Round-Up Discussion (Michael Torres)
 - Next Meeting: What is ECHO?

NEXT MEETING

November 14, 2023; 9:30am – 11am

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