

**COMMISSIONERS' MINUTES
KITTITAS COUNTY, WASHINGTON
COMMISSIONERS CONFERENCE ROOM
SPECIAL MEETING**

THURSDAY

11:00 A.M.

MAY 12, 2011

Board members present: Commissioner Paul Jewell, Commissioner Alan Crankovich and Commissioner Obie O'Brien.

Others: Catherine Dunn, Deputy Clerk of the Board; Kim Tully, Consultant; Nancy Goodloe, Chair, Kittitas County Homelessness and Affordable Housing Committee; Carol Miller Rhodes, EnTrust; Perry Rowe, Housing Authority of Kittitas County; Susan Grindle and Jeff Crump; HopeSource; Sarah Bedsaul, Kittitas County Homelessness and Affordable Housing Committee and four persons representing the public.

SPECIAL MEETING HOMELESS COMMITTEE PRESENTATION COMMISSIONER

At 11:00 a.m. **Vice-Chairman Alan Crankovich** opened a Special Meeting to discuss the Kittitas County Homelessness and Affordable Housing Committee's upcoming Network meeting and because of the number of people attending, the Board moved it into the Commissioner's Auditorium.

Nancy Goodloe, Committee Chair, said she thought it would be helpful if everyone was on the same page. **Kim Tully, Network Consultant**, gave an overview of the funding for Homeless Networks. She said for Homeless funding, it is important to bring in funding from different sources such as mental health, alcohol and drug abuse, veteran's etc. and a network would allow discussions with all the agencies. She said the funding can be leveraged at the Federal and State level for more funds. She said without a formal infrastructure, the County would not be eligible for some funding.

Ms. Tully said the largest population of homeless people in the next few years will be those exiting foster care or juvenile facilities with children of their own. She said it's not the same as the 40+ year old, single man, who was formerly the largest population.

Commissioner Crankovich asked where would the employee for the Network that has been mentioned, be housed. **Ms. Tully** said that some counties have a Human Services Departments with advisory committees, or Homeless Networks. She said the network members support each other in soliciting grants and recommendations.

Commissioner O'Brien said that the scale of Kittitas County is different than Yakima County, in the number of homeless and number of agencies. He said the homeless persons are different in Kittitas County, as well. He said he didn't think the County could afford a permanent employee or the duplication of services.

Nancy Goodloe, said the concept behind the network is that each agency (mental health, veterans, etc.) would work within the network and apply for further funds. The Network would help to keep duplication down and would become a more efficient use of funds.

A discussion was held on jobs case management. **Ms. Tully** said the hardest part for the homeless is not to get a job, but to hold a job as they don't have the skills and habits for the long term.

Commissioner Crankovich said his frustration is the zoning in on the targeted population and passing over the others.

Commissioner O'Brien listed a number of issues he had including the designating over 21 year old persons living at their parent's home as homeless and foster care programs. He said the County isn't large enough for this sort of network design, and the County didn't need an additional layer of bureaucracy. He said he favored a regional network.

Ms. Tully said this was not an additional layer but a formalization of discussion groups and the Homelessness Committee.

Commissioner O'Brien asked if this network would be in place of the Homelessness Committee or in addition to it. **Ms. Tully** said it would be an addition to the Committee which would be geographically based, as well as provider based and would encourage transparent conversations and not be administratively burdensome. She said it would help the Commissioners determine which activities they should be focusing their time and resources on.

Commissioner O'Brien asked about streamlining the processes. **Ms. Tully** said if all the agencies are involved in the network, it eases the conversation to work on streamlining, and part of the conversation would be the difference between enabling and assisting the homeless. She said the creation of the network is not to take any support from people with specific funding, but to leverage funds and to show support for different agencies and groups. She said it is not the pooling of all the funds but

seeing what other funds are also available to serve people. She said the network gives a huge communication jump to the services in the area.

Nancy Goodloe said the network adds funding recommendations which conserves the resources of the County.

The meeting was adjourned at 12:15 p.m.

DEPUTY CLERK OF THE BOARD


Catherine Dunn

KITTITAS COUNTY COMMISSIONERS
KITTITAS COUNTY, WASHINGTON


Paul Jewell, Commissioner