

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

MONDAY

11:00 A.M.

JUNE 13, 2011

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

Others: Catherine Dunn, Deputy Clerk of the Board; Nancy Goodloe, Chair, Kittitas County Homelessness and Affordable Housing Committee; Sarah Bedsaul, Kelly Thielen, David Miller, Kittitas County Homelessness and Affordable Housing Committee; Carol Miller Rhodes, EnTrust; Perry Rowe, Housing Authority of Kittitas County; Susan Grindle and Geoff Crump, HopeSource; Linda Rush.

SPECIAL MEETING HOMELESS COMMITTEE PRESENTATION COMMISSIONER

At 11:00 a.m. **Chairman Paul Jewell** opened a Special Meeting to discuss the Kittitas County Homelessness and Affordable Housing Committee's first Network meeting. Due to the number of people attending, the Board moved it into the Commissioner's Auditorium.

Sarah Bedsaul said the first meeting had a good cross section of providers and community members, but there were some gaps in who attended. The committee has made contact with others they thought should have attended to invite them to the next meeting. She said they did in-depth introductions and they brainstormed the network concept and by the end of the meeting they wanted to pursue the discussion. She said the next step was to review the 10 year Homelessness Plan and talk about the missing pieces in the plan and decide where to go from there.

Nancy Goodloe said her vision is for a network of agencies and volunteers to determine where the Homeless and Affordable Housing grant monies would be best used and make recommendations to the Board.

Chairman Jewell said the process could be changed but he questioned the idea of "no progress being made". He asked what was being done in Kittitas County and what sort of network is present in the County. He asked if there was a problem here.

Sarah Bedsaul said they learned at the first meeting that the community wants this discussion and to have some sort of

network. She said when approaching private, philanthropic agencies for grants, they look for community collaboration when they award their grants.

Chairman Jewell said he felt unprepared for this subject matter and asked if the Providers Network or Continuum of Care was already performing the functions of a Homeless Network.

David Miller, Homelessness Committee, said his impression was that there is a wide range of service providers. He said the goal was to optimize care and become more efficient. He said the theory is when someone enters the network, the people they first speak with should be able to answer all of their questions and be a single point of contact.

Susan Grindle, HopeSource, said she was pleased with the enthusiasm shown by the committee, but she had some suggestions including: what the absolute parameters are for the decision-makers; the group needs to come together to get to know each other before decisions are made and understand the basic problems as a group; understand the definite criteria and guidelines for potential grants.

Commissioner O'Brien said Kittitas County is a limited size county with limited funds, much smaller than Yakima County but the County has in size and in number of people served. He said the Committee doesn't want to upset the processes, which are going well now.

Nancy Goodloe said the value of a network is to have agencies and people at the table together to gain an understanding of what they each do and can supply. She said people at the first meeting didn't have enough understanding to try to create ownership of the network concept.

Chairman Jewell said his concern is after the ownership part, the group comes before the Board who doesn't agree with the network concept or whether to have a network or not. He said the "or not" is important to consider too. He said that tax increases to fund this is not on the table nor is relinquishing control by the Board.

Commissioner O'Brien said grant funds are being cut and if people are thinking the Board will add .3% to the sales tax to fund the network, that needs to be part of the conversation, too.

Chairman Jewell said not investing into administration instead of personal service funds is important to him. He said the homeless in Kittitas County is more on the radar than ever before since the Committee has been so active and the Board is more aware. He said they have made advances in projects and it's time to take it to the next level but he said to remember the Committee has made great strides.

Susan Grindle said to have ownership in a community is a good thing but ownership without understanding is a lose-lose situation. She said if people are on a level of understanding and that understanding the parameters is a good thing. She said the committee has been working hard for five years and the law drives how to expend funds. She said the Committee should have an advisory group to help determine how to spend the funds.

Nancy Goodloe said she has thought about having an advisory group and the network could be that group. She said if you have more people thinking, they could have some different ideas.

Chairman Jewell said it had been building a good foundation and giving people a good, clear picture. He wondered what has been missing in the discussion.

Kelly Theilen, Homeless Committee member, said it is a positive thing to have the community coming together with the homeless and formerly homeless. **Linda Rush** said the interest is in improving services if all providers talked and worked together to counter abusers of the system as well as those who fall through the cracks.

Chairman Jewell said he needs to know how many homeless persons fall through the cracks. **Ms. Rush** said the current surveys are showing significant numbers.

Perry Rowe, Housing Authority Director, said the process has already brought about a community recognition of the program. **Carole Miller Rhodes** noted that some people were missing that she thought should be included.

Chairman Jewell noted again that it is important that the Board remains involved and part of the process.

The meeting was adjourned at 12:20 p.m.

DEPUTY CLERK OF THE BOARD


Catherine Dunn

KITTITAS COUNTY COMMISSIONERS
KITTITAS COUNTY, WASHINGTON


Paul Jewell, Commissioner