

*To advocate support for human services in North King County through
promotion of partnerships between communities and providers.*

**NUHSA Board Meeting Minutes**

June 20, 2018
Shoreline City Hall Room 301

 **Present:** Heidi Shepherd, Rob Beem, Tamara Piwen, Ed Sterner, Judy Parsons, Phillipa Kassover & Silje Sodal

**Absent:** Kerry Follis, Kelly Dahl-Oeth, Tamarah Lee, Jerry Carriveau, Denise Bugallo & Chris Bigelow

**Guests:** Karen de Guzman, St. Vincent de Paul; Kristin Joyner, Bothell United Methodist Church; Kimberly
 Sayaving, King County Housing Authority; Yi Zhao, King County Housing Authority; & Mike Dee

1. Judy called the meeting to order at 9:17 a.m.
2. Minutes
The May 16, 2018 Board meeting minutes were reviewed and approved as presented.
3. Financial Report
The May 2018 Financial Report was reviewed and accepted as presented. Rob noted that NUHSA has submitted a grant application to LFP Rotary for the online information resource project and he is checking with the HDC Consortium about partnering on the fall forums. If both of these potential partnerships (with funding attached) are successful, our budget would receive a significant boost.
4. Membership (Judy)
Judy and Heidi will be meeting with YouthCare tomorrow to share about NUHSA’s work and ask for membership. YouthCare has been a member in the past. Also, Lisa Surowiec is interested in joining the Board. She has extensive background in the Shoreline community as a neighborhood association leader and PTA leader (elementary through Council), and currently works for a local developer. She has received a membership packet and will attend the August meeting.
5. Rotary Grant Update
Heidi noted that the application for funding to support an online information and referral resource is being considered by LFP Rotary. The Eagle Scout who collected extensive data for Shoreline and Lake Forest Park presented his work to LFP Rotary earlier this month and has handed this information to Heidi and Silje for review. They will review the data and meet to discuss next steps. Ideally this information will be housed on the NUHSA website, but as it will need to be updated regularly, funding is being requested to support this work. Additional data will need to be collected for Kenmore, Bothell and Woodinville.
6. Task Force Updates
Heidi provided a written summary of the proposed seminar series that the Homelessness and Mental Illness Task Force is developing. The next meeting will be July 11, 4-5 p.m. at Shoreline City Hall.
7. Presentations:
a. Teena Ellison, Housing Services Manager & Ryan Mielcarek, Strategic Initiatives Director, Compass Housing Alliance

Compass Housing Alliance (CHA) is a Lutheran-affiliated organization that was created nearly 100 years ago to provide emergency and housing programs and serves over 10,000 men, women, families, seniors, the disabled and veterans. With over 500 community partners and 200 staff, CHA prioritizes creating housing that includes (either physically or programmatically) extensive support services. It is this collaborative approach and priority of bringing services onsite that makes CHA unique. Of their 23 locations across Puget Sound, two are cooperative models in the Bothell-Kenmore area (Northlake Gove and Easternwood).

CHA’s ‘theory of change’ includes a trauma informed care approach, focusing on building stability (housing and responsive services), supporting growth (improving quality of life) and engaging community (fostering places of belonging). Some residents age in place and others eventually move to other housing.

CHA also has a progressive R&D program that invests in alternative housing models, including a current project in Edmonds that includes a steel-modular housing solution in partnership with Edmonds Lutheran Church and Blokable, Inc. The project will introduce up to 60 affordable housing units a third of the time and a third of the cost of traditional construction.

b. Josh Little, Student Services Specialist & District Homeless Education Liaison, Shoreline School District

The District Homeless Liaison is a federally mandated position that ensures that students experiencing homelessness are identified and served. A child is considered homeless when they “lack a fixed, regular and adequate nighttime residence.” Often this occurs through “doubling up” or having shared housing (perhaps even up to 80% of the time for homeless Shoreline students). In the 2017-2018 school year, there were 321 homeless students (173 primary, 148 secondary; 174 female, 147 male). This number has likely remained fairly constant over the last few years.

The McKinney-Vento Homelessness Assistance Act, a federal law enacted in 1987 that ensures immediate enrollment and educational stability for homeless children and youth, enables schools to provide support in various ways, including ensuring transportation, free meals (free and reduced breakfast and lunch at school), waived costs (e.g. sports fees) and academic support (e.g. homework clubs). Each school has an identified Building Homeless Liaison (often the Family Advocate) and they initially identify homeless students through a residency questionnaire. Once these students have been identified, Josh works to ensure that these students, even if homeless for just one day, receive adequate support and services.

A majority of Josh’s time is spent on facilitating transportation for students, particularly for those who have moved outside of the district (e.g. a new foster family, transitional housing, etc.). It is important for these students to continue to attend their home schools, if at all possible, to ensure continued stability and support. In practice, districts agree to share transportation costs, often covering one leg of the trip rather than splitting costs. The Benevolent Fund, supported through charitable donations from the community, is used to purchase bus tickets, along with Fred Meyer gift cards and other miscellaneous items. Josh depends on local community and faith-based organizations, including The WORKS, LFP Rotary and Deseret Industries, to support homeless students and their families.

Outstanding challenges and ideas for the future include:
- improved protocols for partnering with other districts (such as with sharing transportation costs);
- a greater variety of transportation options (currently, the district’s car provider, ACL Transportation Services, is unable to keep up with the demand);
- increased before/after school activities and services;
- an expanded mobile online presence that is easy for homeless youth to communicate with school and access information and resources;
- creation of a community hub (central location for homeless resources, youth shelter referrals, resource for personal care and academic support, etc.)

Only 18 hours per week are dedicated to serving as the Homeless Liaison. The second half of Josh’s job is to support special education and secondary services.

b. Yichuan Zhao, Regional Manager, King County Housing Authority

King County Housing Authority provides rental housing and assistance to more than 55,000 people. Some units are market rate/moderate income (about 4,400 across King County), others are heavily subsidized (about 4,100 units). The public housing waiting list is 2-5 years, although the moderate housing waiting list isn’t as long, and the section 8 housing vouchers are tiered in order to encourage moving into “high opportunity” areas (e.g. communities with good school districts). Many vouchers stay with the unit and not the person. Last year, KCHA only had three physical evictions. KCHA is the largest landlord in Bellevue and possibly in Shoreline with close to 2,000 units. KCHA recently acquired 24 acres and 509 units at Ballinger Commons.

KCHA’s model has become to not build units but instead opportunistically purchase units that are for sale or in need of redevelopment. In one instance, a property went to auction and KCHA was the sole bidder. In another, the Bellevue School District approached KCHA to help preserve a development that was home to many district students. KCHA relies on partnerships with community organizations, such as Compass Housing Alliance, to provide surrounding support services. KCHA also has several innovative programs, such as a weatherization department that helps with insulation, energy efficiency, windows, etc. so people, and especially seniors, are able to stay in their homes.
8. Meeting adjourned at approximately 11:50 a.m.

***Next Board meeting: August 15th, 9:30 – 11:00 a.m. Shoreline City Hall Rm. 301

Upcoming meetings: Sep 19, Oct 17, Nov 21, Dec 4***