

# Homelessness Policy Advisory Committee Implementation Work Report – May 2020

## **Partners, Support Services & Prevention:**

### **County Collaboration**

The City of Monroe was invited to participate in the May 14, 2020 meeting of the Homelessness Policy Task Force along with partners in Snohomish County, the City of Everett, the City Edmonds, and other representatives from the community. The Task Force discussed how Federal, State, County, City Government, and social services resources are responding to covid19.

The City is now represented as part of the Partnership to End Homelessness – Continuum of Care. Rachel Adams, the Project Management Consultant, is serving on the communication committee. This opportunity furthers the connection of the City of Monroe with the Snohomish County Human Services Department.

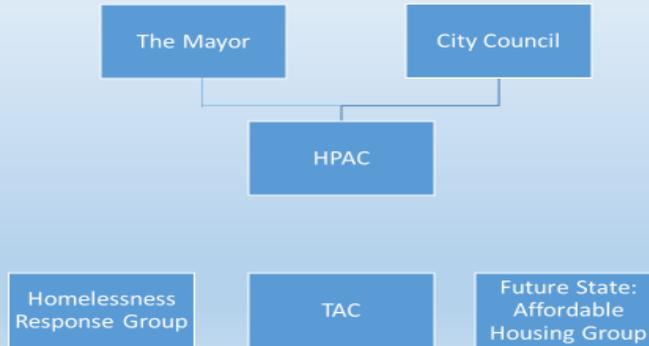
### **TAC**

The TAC team has begun facilitated meetings and is beginning to work out its Vision, Mission, and Values. The TAC has a working draft of *TAC Values: a relational, collaborative, and action-oriented approach to championing equity, empowerment, and learning throughout Sky Valley*. RFP production is beginning as a parallel track to forming the group's Vision, Mission, and Values. The TAC has agreed to move forward with selecting a “quick hit solution” from the HPAC recommended priorities adopted by the City Council: one-stop-shop, day center, rental assistance program, and temporary shelter. Funding awards are tentatively scheduled for the Mayor and Council to review in August.

The City would also like to take a moment to publicly honor and recognize the work of the Homelessness Response Group. The TAC has several members who organized and participate in the Homeless Response Group. The Homelessness Response Group has been meeting for about five years. The Group has laid the foundation for the work being done today. It has been a platform for information sharing, networking, inclusion, and community activism.

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## Engagement Flow Chart



### Service Providers and Resources

The service providers continue to meet weekly on a zoom call to share information and resources and have done an incredible job collaborating. Rachel Adams, the City Project Management Consultant has created a google drive to house and store all the shared service provider resources. This is a cloud-based, virtual version of binders and handouts for meetings. This may continue to be a way to share resources with each other even after the covid19 social distancing requirements end. It may also begin a collaboration toward a local shared data system. Below is a current map of where and when services are happening in Monroe during covid19.

### SERVICES EVENT MAP – DURING COVID19

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
TTNS Outreach	PM Showers YMCA	Food Bank DT Market – (2 <sup>nd</sup> & 4 <sup>th</sup> )	TTNS Outreach	Food Gleanings at The Rock Church
AM Showers YMCA			AM Showers YMCA	
			Food Bank Deliveries	
			MPD Outreach Team	



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The City sent out a new resources flyer in the June utility bill to share where to get help and ways to volunteer in the community.



The City partnered with the McKinney-Vento and the Prevention Specialist with the Monroe School District to advocate for mental health and had a meeting with the CEO of Compass Health to dispel concerns that the Monroe Compass Health location was closing. The City discovered that the intent is to switch continuing service over to telehealth with limited outpatient locations.

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## CFSC Grant and Response to Homelessness During Covid19

The City has distributed the \$10,000 grant funds from the Community Foundation of Snohomish County to assist in responding to those experiencing homelessness and poverty in our community. This money provided:

- The reopening of the YMCA showers program,
- Three separate housing assistance awards to local service providers,
- 100 PPE kits, food to be used for homeless specific needs
- Outreach, a laundry certificate program that also supports one of our local businesses the Monroe Laundry Company.



## MONROE LAUNDRY SERVICE

"I just want to share a little story with you all: When I went out with the SAFE Teams I got to meet a gentleman named S. who is new to our area and newly experiencing homeless. He was the first of several that listed Laundry as a service they were having a hard time accessing.

We were able to provide 100 PPE Kits from the grant funds we received from the Community Foundation of Snohomish County to go out with the SAFE Teams and to be distributed by agencies to people experiencing homelessness and poverty in Monroe. The PPE Kit assembly came in below my estimate for the scope of work and we had a remainder of about \$250. With the permission of the Community Foundation, we were then able to reassign that amount to providing laundry services. These services are now being contracted with the Monroe Laundry Co. to provide laundry services and remit the bill to the City using Laundry Certificates.

I got to have the experience of handing the very first Laundry Certificate to S. I let him know how it worked and that it being available as a service was a direct result of his feedback. Oh my gosh...he sobbed, he had an empowered moment and said something about the how now his old landlord could "finally see he did know something".... his gratitude was genuine and overwhelming.

I am so humbled to have been able to share that moment with him. I got a little way around the corner and shed some tears of my own. A great deal of behind the scenes time and work and support went into that moment of which the dedication of the HPAC is also a part of. I needed to bring that part back and share it with you and just say from the bottom of my heart: Thank you for blessing him and for graciously allowing me to be there." Rachel Adams – Project Management Consultant.

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## **Housing & Public Safety:**

### **Congregations for the Homeless Model Exploration**

One of the recommendations of the HPAC and priorities that the TAC is reviewing is Monroe's need for a shelter. Currently Monroe has the Monroe Women's Gospel Mission and a Monroe Cocoon House, but there is not a shelter for single men who are most of our homeless population seen in encampments and living in cars.

Monroe's Cold Weather Shelter operates seasonally and is open on the nights that are forecasted to drop below Freezing. It is a partnership between one of Monroe's Churches and the Medical Reserve Corps. The Cold Weather Shelter is financially managed in partnership with Take the Next Step. This past season the Cold Weather Shelter was open 25 nights and saw a total of 38 unduplicated visits on the nights that they were open. Of these 38 unduplicated visits 19 stayed 10 nights or more. From this data we estimate 10 -15 men in Monroe would utilize a year-round shelter and associated services in Monroe.

The City has been meeting with a group of local Clergy and sharing with them a model for expanding our current cold weather shelter into a year-round rotating model following the Congregations for the Homeless (CFH) model out of Bellevue Washington <https://www.cfhomeless.org/year-round-shelter/>. CHF has been successfully operating in Bellevue for the past 28 years. They have three programs that include outreach & a low barrier day center, a higher barrier rotating shelter with case management services and a path toward exiting into housing, and they also have a subsidized housing program. CFH has been consulting with the City and the local Clergy.

There seems to be enough interest and support to begin planning out a Monroe model. City staff has begun to draft the program proposal that includes budgeting, staffing, and scheduling. The City Project Management Consultant is reaching out to the County and State to learn about potential grant funding to assist in the expansion of the cold weather shelter.

The City is consulting with the city attorney to determine if this model will meet the Boise test.

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## **Policy & Budget:**

### **City Code**

The Project Management Consultant reviewed the interim Temporary Encampment Code with the Community Development department

### **HPAC**

On (date) the City presented an update to the HPAC committee on progress since the recommendations being adopted by resolution on implementation. Rachel Adams HPAC Update: [https://us02web.zoom.us/rec/play/vMB-dr-g\\_Gg3GtLE5QSDCvR7W9S8e6-sh3RNqfFbnkfhV3ZWZ1XzNbFAN-Z7Yz9FmoF2iyRe2iIY00C0?autoplay=true&startTime=1590776920000](https://us02web.zoom.us/rec/play/vMB-dr-g_Gg3GtLE5QSDCvR7W9S8e6-sh3RNqfFbnkfhV3ZWZ1XzNbFAN-Z7Yz9FmoF2iyRe2iIY00C0?autoplay=true&startTime=1590776920000)

### **Community Human Services Advisory Board (CHSAB)**

The City staff are preparing a resolution for council consideration to establish the HPAC as a standing committee and renaming it the Community Human Services Advisory Board (CHSAB). The new name broadens the committee's mission to consider policies that affect community members who are experiencing homelessness, who are at risk of becoming homeless, who are experiencing poverty, or are adversely impacted by a crisis.

	January 2020	February 2020	March 2020	April 2020	May 2020	June 2020	July 2020	August 2020	September 2020	October 2020	November 2020	December 2020
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**2020 HPAC Action Plan - Gantt Map Chart (X = Started O = Not Started) (CV – On hold due to Coronavirus)**

<b>A. Housing</b>												
Emergency Shelter and Transitional Housing (Crisis Housing, Rapid Rehousing and Permanent Supportive Housing)	O	O	CV	CV	X							
Evaluate Property Units			X	O	CV							
Negotiate Lease – Master Leasing				O	O							
Write RFP and Secure Program Manager through RFP				CV	O							
Develop criteria with TAC	O	O	CV	CV	X							
Provide Rental Assistance through RFP	O	O	O	X	X							
Establish Sky Valley Housing Consortium	X	O	CV	X	O							
Inventory Surplus Property			X	X	X							
Identify Housing Needs	O	X	X	X	X							
Work with TAC to identify partners and available funding		X	X	X	X							
<b>B. Partners</b>												
Form a TAC	X	X	X	CV	X							
Identify non-profit stakeholders and partners	X	X	X	X	X							
Determine shared mission and vision		O	O	O	X							
Evaluate needs and resources for one-stop shop			X	CV	O							
Write scope of work for RFP for one-stop shop				CV	O							
Establish Transportation service between Sky Valley and Everett	O	O	O	O	O							
Evaluate transportation needs with partners	X	O	O									
Evaluate existing transportation contracts with non-profits	X	O	O									
Apply for Transit Go (grant) program			X	X	O							
Provide information about services to remain housed, financial training, and incentives for businesses to hire employees with entry level skills, information about mental and behavioral health services	O	O	O	X	X							

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Work with partners to develop and promote annual “human	O	O	CV	CV	O							
<b>C. Prevention</b>												
Educational Campaign (Enviroissues Contract)	X	X	X	X	X							
Develop education and outreach communication plan	X	X	X	X	X							
Educate Property Owners about laws, enforcement, trespass – Chamber of Commerce &		O	O	CV	X							
Educate public about aggressive panhandling, property crime,		O	O	CV	O							
Educate public about safety regarding vigilantism and		O	O	CV	O							
Develop and implement Block Watch Program – residential and business buy in/ education/					X							
Develop working relationship with McKinney Vento liaison at				X	X							
Identify needs of homeless families	O	X	X	X	X							
Work with McKinney-Vento Family Liaisons in the Monroe School District to distribute flyers of local and county services for homeless students and families and encourage MSD to post flyers on school			X	X	CV							
<b>D. Public Safety</b>												
Implement law enforcement strategies	O	O	O	X	X							
Review Solicitation Regulations		O	O	CV								
Evaluate Bail Fees				CV	O							
Develop and implement Block Watch Program – residential and business buy in/ education/					X							
Continue Embedded Social Worker Program	X	X	X	X	X							

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Police Department (Existing Program)	X	X	X	X	X							
Public Defender (New level of services)			X	X	X							
Install Cameras in Parks	O	O	O	O	O							
Collect data on court cases. Determine with Monroe Municipal Court the costs/benefits of community												
Identify partners to develop community court model												
Determine with Monroe Municipal Court and partners the cost/benefits of community court model												

**E. Support Services**

Coordinated Services – One Stop Shop				CV	O							
Develop scope of work with TAC	X	X	CV	CV	O							
Issue RFP			CV	CV	O							
Award RFP												
Establish Homeless HMIS/by name lists												
Work with TAC and Snohomish County to identify resources to provide housing and mental health navigators in the Sky Valley	X	X	CV	X	O							
Provide facilities and funding for non- profits	O	O	CV	X	X							
Work with Take the Next Step and Volunteers of America to designate a family resource center and/or services in Monroe			O	O	O							

**F. Policy & Budget**

Define 2021 Work Plan, Priorities, and implementation												
Identify performance measures, and a full HMIS utilized by service providers												
Lobby for changes to State and Federal law	X	O	O	O								
Collaborate with Affordable Housing Consortium (AHC) on												

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housing chapter for the city's comprehensive plan update.												
Continue HPAC as a standing committee	X	O	CV	CV								
Implement HB1406 and explore all revenue options for housing, mental health and chemical dependency	X	X	X	X								
Identify needs			X	X								
Develop criteria with TAC												
Provide Rental Assistance through RFP	O	O	O	CV								
Evaluate Program												