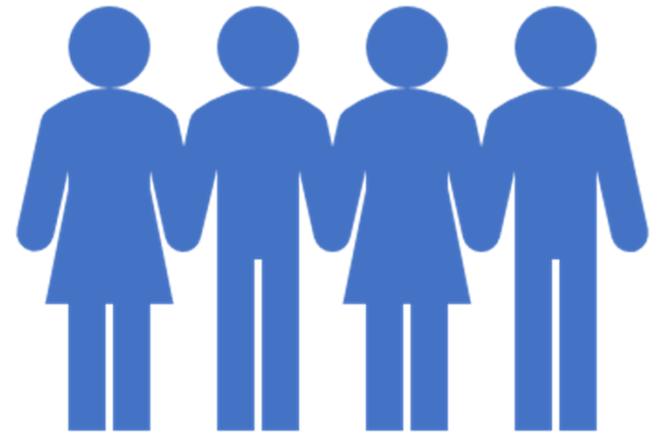


# Homelessness Policy Advisory Committee

*Open House  
November 14, 2019*



## Origin of Homelessness Policy Advisory Committee (HPAC)

- Recognition that homelessness is a crisis in Monroe and throughout the region
- Mayor and Council created a committee to coordinate information among citizens and stakeholders
- Seeking thoughtful, effective and lasting solutions to homelessness in our community
- The Committee was assigned four goals and asked to present non-binding recommendations to Mayor and City Council.

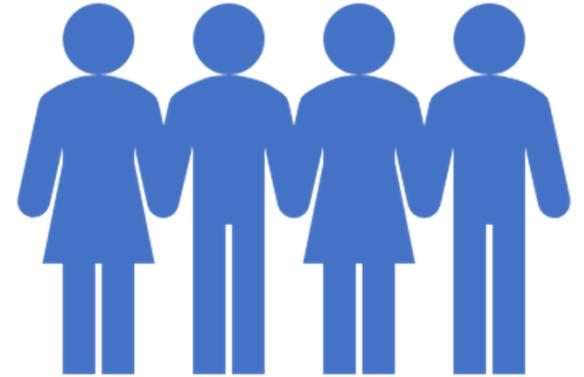
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## HPAC Goals

- **Provide a forum** for the coordination of information about homelessness among residents, businesses, and support services
- **Seek thoughtful, effective, and lasting solutions** to the City of Monroe's homeless crisis
- **Facilitate assistance for unsheltered persons** in Monroe's communities by identifying strategies for ending homelessness
- **Provide the Mayor and the City Council with nonbinding advice** recommendations regarding issues related to homelessness

## Committee Members – Volunteers

- Rachel Adams
- Jim Bloss
- Jennifer Chavez
- Sean Cramer
- Kyle Fisher
- Geoffrey Godfrey
- Todd Strickler
- Bridgette Tuttle
- Heidi Waxham
- Mary Wysocki
- Ad-Hoc Jason Gamble and Phil Spirito
- Staff: Mayor Geoffrey Thomas, City Administrator  
Deborah Knight, Police Chief Jeff Jolley



## HPAC Committee Work and Assignments

- **The first meeting** was April 4, 2019.
- **Committee members met twice a month** for two hours on Thursdays
- **Committee members were assigned homework**, reading materials to review, and encouraged to research relevant materials
- **Professionals with expertise in homelessness** presented information to the committee
- **Committee members visited temporary housing and homeless shelters**, the Carnegie Center, and the Snohomish County's Diversion Center
- **Final Recommendations** to Mayor and Council are scheduled for January 16, 2020.

## Presentations

Presenters	Agency	Topic
Monroe Police Department	Embedded Social Worker and Community Outreach Officers	Overview of Monroe's embedded social worker program
Michael Lario, Navigator Mary Wysocki, Executive Director	Take The Next Step	Causes of homelessness in Monroe and the Sky Valley
Mary Jane Brell-Vujovic Executive Director	Snohomish County Human Services	Overview of homelessness in Snohomish County
Allison Warren-Barbour Executive Director	United Way Snohomish County	Collective Impact Model for lasting change
Dave Somers, Executive	Snohomish County	Housing alternatives in Snohomish County
Mark Smith, Director	Housing Consortium Everett and Snohomish County	Permanent housing alternatives
John Hull Director of Strategic Initiatives	Everett Gospel Mission	Temporary and transitional housing models
Recovering addict and homeless person	N/A	Personal testimony of recovery
MRSC Staff via webinars	Municipal Research Services (MRSC)	Laws, land-use regulations, and legislation specific to homelessness

## Definitions

Term	Definition
<b>Affordable Housing</b>	housing that consumes < 30% of the household income
<b>Carnegie Center (Everett)</b>	a centralized support services facility in Everett that provides addiction and mental health services to the homeless
<b>Diversion Center</b>	a program that offers addiction or mental health treatment as an alternative to jail
<b>Family Wage</b>	same criteria as the living wage, but the costs are calculated based on what is needed for a family to live and be housed
<b>Living Wage</b>	is the hourly wages needed to pay for rent, food, transportation, childcare, health care, and taxes for a single person to live and be housed
<b>Homeless</b>	individuals who lack a fixed, regular, and adequate nighttime residence
<b>Risk of Homelessness</b>	persons that have an annual household income that is < 30% of the median family income in the area and cannot afford both housing and the basic necessities such as food, clothing, transportation, and medical care
<b>Subsidized Housing</b>	government sponsored housing provided to those with limited income
<b>Temporary Housing</b>	housing and support services that help persons move to independence
<b>Transitional Housing</b>	living in temporary housing for 90+ days so the person can achieve financial independent

# Questions We Asked Ourselves



- **What concerns and issues does the community have** about homelessness within the City of Monroe?
- **What are the underlying causes**, solutions, and resources to end homelessness in Monroe?
- **What do we need to know** about the causes, resources, and strategies in Monroe and Sky Valley that can reduce homelessness?

# What We Discovered

## **Homelessness is a very complex issue:**

Mental health, addiction, domestic violence, and rising housing costs are underlying causes

## **Solutions will require multiple partners:**

Business, government, community, and service providers need to work together

## **A percentage of the homeless do not choose to be homeless:**

Absent treatment, affordable housing, and jobs, some individuals will remain homeless

## **Those homeless who refuse help will need to be held accountable for their behavior:**

Through the criminal justice system, and the use of other compliance strategies

## **Additional funding, resources, approaches, and policies will be needed:**

City, county, state, and federal govts. need to work together

# What We Discovered



It is not illegal to be homeless



Mandatory temporary housing cannot require a person to participate in religious practices to receive housing



Lack of accurate, real time data about the number of homeless in Monroe and the underlying causes



Limited housing resources for adult males, youth, and families in the Sky Valley

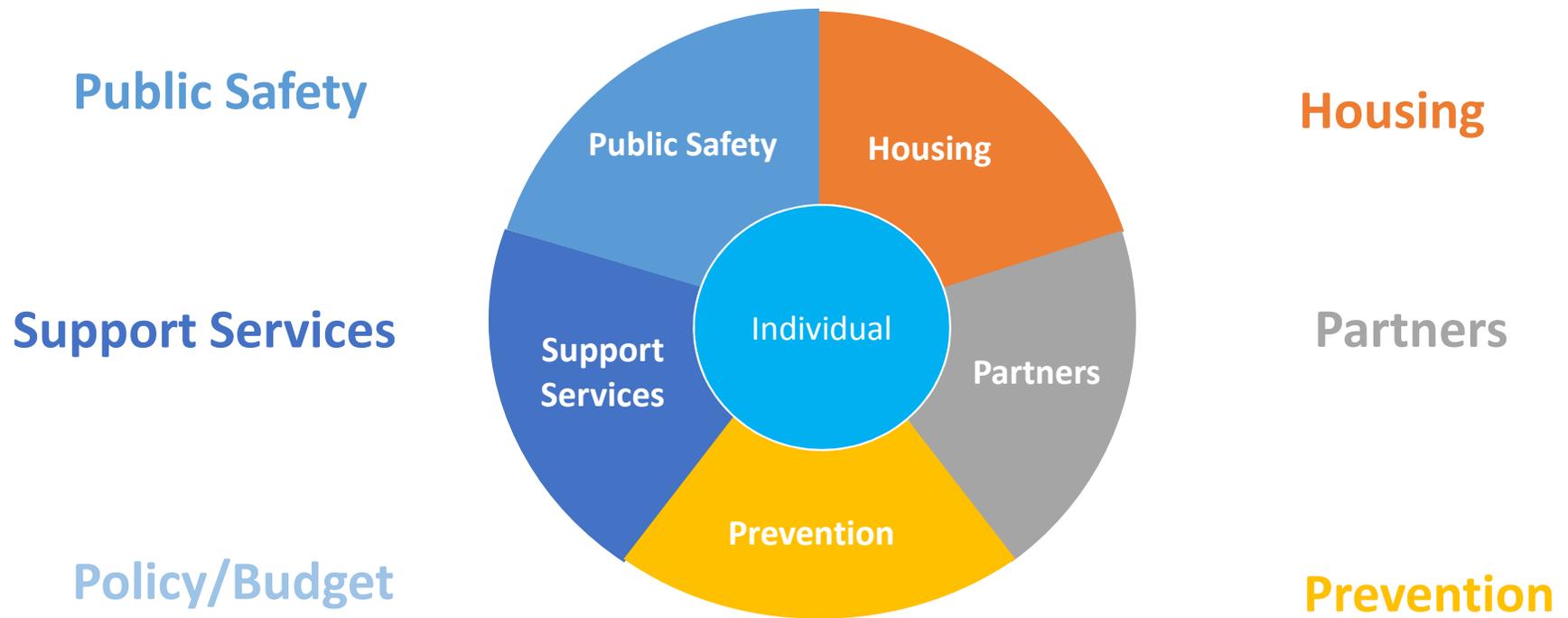


Lack of a cohesive network of service providers in the Sky Valley



Lack of affordable/accessible transportation options to treatment/social services between Everett and Sky Valley

# What We Considered





# Housing

Permanent , Emergency, Alternative Housing

- **Paths to permanent housing** – resources/solutions - maintain human dignity
- **Emergency and temporary housing** – overnight or sleep centers
- **Survey of affordable** and available housing in Monroe and Sky Valley
- **Affordable and subsidized housing**
- **Mixed income housing** – smaller homes, accessory dwellings, tiny home communities
- **Programs that support the nearly homeless**, i.e., assistance with rent
- **“Housing First”** approach to ending homelessness
- **Lack of support services** near housing sources (“One-Stop-Shop Services”)
- **Designated camping areas** and secured parking lots
- **Lack of housing** for adult males, LGBTQ, families, youth
- **Temporary hygiene centers**
- **Housing density**



# Partners

Business, Non-Profit, Community, Faith  
Communities , Government Entities

- Business and Corporation support
- Non-Profit, Community Agencies and Organizations
- Faith-Based Community
- Government Entities – WDOT, Depart of Corrections, Fish and Wildlife, Fairgrounds
- Public Transportation - Everett, Community Transit
- Evergreen Hospital Mental Health and Compass Mental Health
- Schools
- Everett Gospel Mission
- Work Source - Job training and job placement
- Everett Community College
- Snohomish County
- *Take the Next Step* and similar support services providers
- Sky Valley Cities
- State's 211 phone number that identifies resources for homeless



# Prevention

## Information/Education Campaign

- **Information / Education** Crime Prevention Campaign for Residential/Business Community
- **National Crime Prevention**
- **Law enforcement resources** – Monroe PD’s Community Outreach program
- **Engage the community** to get involved in the issue of homelessness
- **Information about support services** resources and the personal accountability of the homeless to choose an alternative to homelessness
- **Safety of customers** that frequent area businesses
- **Information about burglaries** and car prowls in residential areas
- **Safety of children** near schools



# Support Services

Mental Health, Addiction/Treatment,  
Transportation

- **Itemized list and communications network** of all city and regional support services
- **Budget and resources** for mental health and addiction treatment services
- **Diversion Center in Everett** and list of known resources in Sky Valley
- **Centralized “One-Stop-Shop”** or Wrap-Around of Services (24/7 drop-in single location)
- **Navigation of services** to lead and increase accountability within the homeless population (a person that serves as the Navigator between a person and services)
- **Cold weather shelter**
- **Job readiness/employment** opportunities
- **NAMI** (National Alliance on Mental Health)
- **Youth** and pregnant teen centers, daycare co-ops for low income
- **Accessible transportation** between Sky Valley, Monroe and Everett
- **Real-time information** about shelter availability
- **Hygiene Centers** – Storage of personal property of homeless
- **Availability of support services** in Sky Valley dedicated to homeless



# Public Safety

Residential – Businesses  
Public Spaces

- **Tools for law enforcement**, new enforcement strategies
- **Embedded Social Worker/Community Outreach**
- **Factual data about crime**
- **Cameras in public places**
- **Education/Information** Crime Prevention Campaign
- **Needs Assessment** of Homelessness
- **Landscape in public spaces** maintained to prevent camping and drug activity
- **Community Court** – diversion program
- **Community awareness** about current crime trends/ prevention strategies
- **Transportation to Everett** jail without impacting officers available to respond to calls for service



## Policy/Budget

- **Role of local, county, state, and federal government** in providing treatment resources and new law enforcement strategies
- **Role of employers** in creating jobs that offer living and family wages
- **Developers** encouraged to build affordable and subsidized housing
- **Aggressive panhandling** and stay out of drug areas(SODA) ordinances on a local level
- **House Bill 1406** allows local government to use a small percentage of State tax funds to develop affordable housing

# Homeless Policy Advisory Council Draft Recommendations

## Public Safety

Focus on Law Enforcement Strategies, Personal Accountability and Complies with Civil Rights

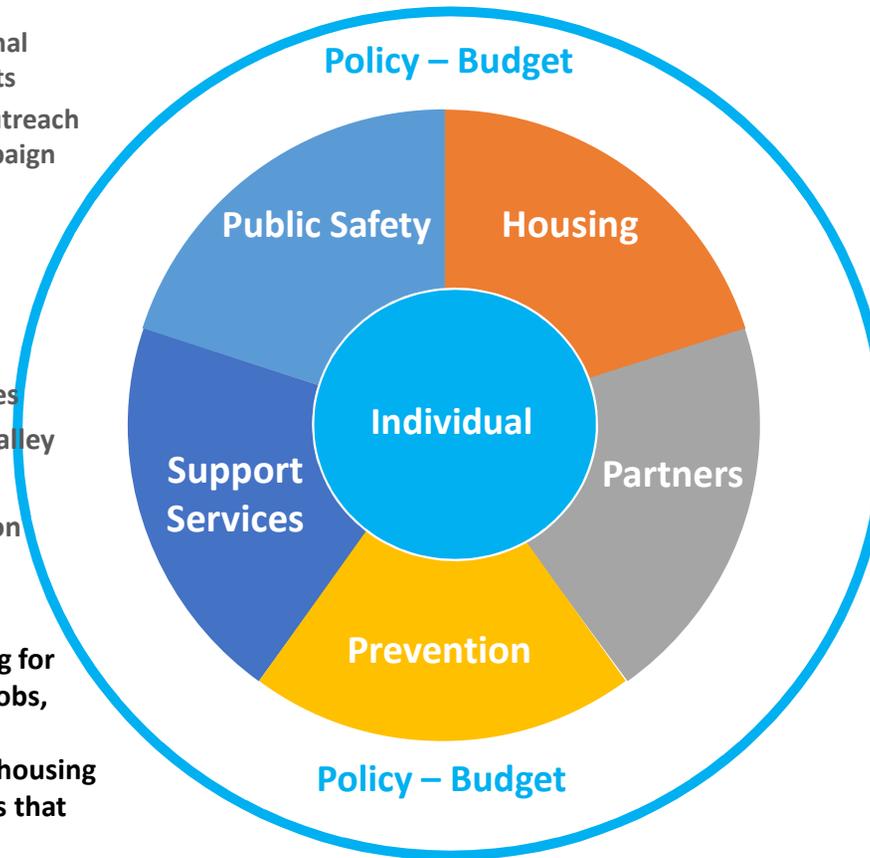
- Sustain Embedded Social Worker/Community Outreach
- Residential & Business Crime Prevention Campaign
- Implement Community Court
- Factual Data Collection /Analysis

## Support Services

- Centralize and Provide 24/7 Support Services
- Increase Treatment Services in Monroe/ Sky Valley
- Create a Navigator to Coordinate Services
- Increase Accessibility to Public Transportation

## Policy/Budget

- Lobby Legislators to increase the funding for treatment (mental health /addiction), jobs, housing, social services
- Include developers in providing affordable housing
- Lobby for new law enforcement strategies that focuses on personal accountability
- Enact HB 1406



## Housing

- Establish Temporary Housing Facility with Secured Parking of Vehicle (RV) Parking
- Establish Sky Valley Housing Consortium Focused on Housing Resources
- Increase Alternative Housing for Adult Males, Youth and Families

## Partners

- Create a Sky Valley Service Provider Network
- Involve Public Entities in Reducing Homelessness
- Education Campaign that Supports Affordable Housing, Job training and Treatment Resources

## Prevention

- Educational Campaign About Homelessness
- Initiate a Residential & Business Crime Prevention Program
- Adopt/Fund Six-Year Plan for Implementing HPAC's Recommendations



# HPAC *Draft* Recommendations

## Housing

- **Establish Temporary-Housing** in permanent facility with adjacent secured parking for those living in vehicles and RVs for overnight stay
- **Establish a Sky Valley Housing Consortium** to establish short, long-term, and alternative housing
- **Increase alternative housing for males, youth, LGBTQ, and families**

# HPAC Draft Recommendations

## Partners

- **Establish Service Provider Network** to provide services and housing 24/7 in Sky Valley
- **Increase public transportation** between Monroe & Everett
- **Involve other public entities** in a network to prevent and end homelessness in Sky Valley
- **Create an education campaign** that supports affordable housing, job training, and treatment options

# HPAC Draft Recommendations

## Prevention

- **Create an education campaign** about homelessness: causes, prevention strategies, and alternatives
- **Initiate a residential and business** crime prevention program
- **Promote social services network** focused on youth and families
- **Adopt and fund a Six-Year Plan** to fulfill HPAC's recommendations

# HPAC Draft Recommendations

## Policy/Budget

- **Lobby legislators** at all levels to increase funding for addiction and mental health treatment, affordable housing, job training, and support services
- **Engage developers** in building affordable and subsidized housing
- **Identify and lobby for new law enforcement** strategies focused on personal accountability of homeless
- **Implement HB 1406** – 1<sup>st</sup> reading by City Council on 11-12-2019

# HPAC Draft Recommendations

## Support Services

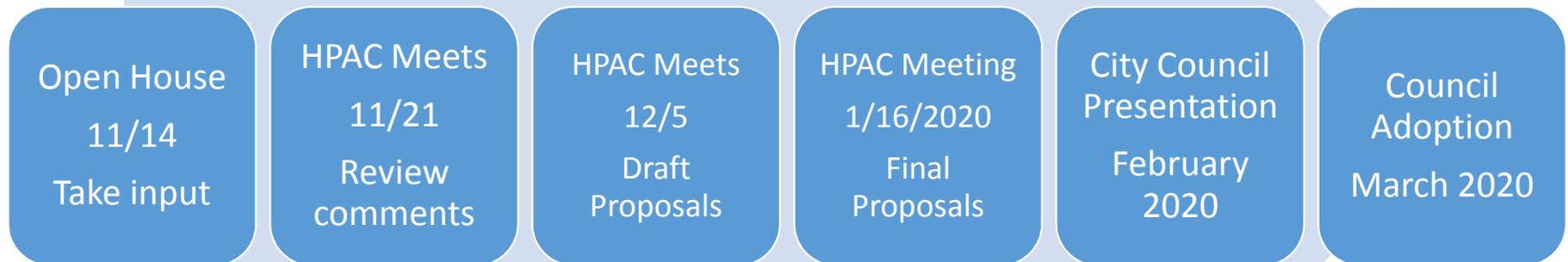
- **Centralized delivery of services** to the homeless: treatment, housing, services
- **Establish a Navigator position** that connects the homeless with resources
- **Create a system of services** that responds to the homeless crisis 24/7
- **Establish more accessible mental health and addiction services** in Monroe & Sky Valley
- **Support agencies that serve & promote self reliance** among youth, children, families i.e., YMCA, Boys & Girls Club

# HPAC Draft Recommendations

## Public Safety

- **Implement laws enforcement strategies** and regulations that increase personal accountability among the homeless and adhere to civil and personal rights
- **Continue to budget** for the Embedded Social Worker/Community Outreach
- **Place cameras in public spaces**
- **Implement Community Court** so treatment for addiction and mental health can be offered as an alternative to jail
- **Gather and analyze accurate data** about crime and homelessness in Monroe

# Next Steps



HPAC meetings are open to the public

For more information visit

[www.monroewa.gov/801/Homelessness-Policy-Advisory-Committee](http://www.monroewa.gov/801/Homelessness-Policy-Advisory-Committee)



# Community Input

November 14, 2019