

**RECORD OF PROCEEDINGS OF THE
COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT ADVISORY BOARD (CDAB)
CITY OF BELLINGHAM, WASHINGTON**

**THURSDAY
May 12, 2022**
Audio-recorded

6:00 P.M.
Online - Zoom Meeting
www.cob.org

CALL TO ORDER: The meeting was called to order by Aran Clauson

Members Present: Aran Clauson (Chair), Brien Thane, Jennifer Miles, Kaylee Galloway; Pierce Bock, Rachel Jewell, Shannon Laws, Suneeta Eisenberg; Victor Crosetti and Yin-Ho Lai
Kristina Martens (City Council)

Absent: Elizabeth Jennings and Karin Jones

Guests: Elizabeth Maynard, Bellingham Childcare and Early Learning Center and Heather Powell, Whatcom County Boys and Girls Club

Staff (PCDD): Samya Lutz, Housing & Services Program Manager; Kate Bartholomew, Development Specialist, Katy Sullivan, Development Specialist and Heather Aven, Recording Secretary

APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

Minutes from April 14, 2022 were approved by general consensus.

AGENDA ITEMS:

Presentations – Bellingham Childcare / Boys and Girls Club

Elizabeth Maynard shared how the Bellingham Childcare and Early Learning Center is serving the community, and how City funds are assisting families.

Heather Powell shared how the Boys and Girls Club acquired the Kids World daycare centers and what they are doing to serve the community with the assistance of City funding.

Staff shared a couple of pertinent links regarding the need for childcare in Whatcom County:

- <https://www.chuckanuthealthfoundation.org/every-child-initiative>
- <https://cbe.wvu.edu/files/2021-11/2021%20Whatcom%20Child%20Care%20Demand%20Report.pdf>

HOME-ARP Allocation Plan (2021 Action Plan Amendment) Discussion / Recommendation

Samya provided a brief background on the HOME-ARP funding and reminded the members that an allocation plan is required prior to allocating the funding.

Katy Sullivan presented the updates on staff's allocation plan based on CDAB's recommendations. There were two options for members to review and recommend one to move forward.

There was a conversation about which version is likely to lead to more successful outcomes. Staff pointed out that the two plans would provide different outcomes and cannot be compared. However, plan 1's focus on prevention and diversion services would enable more people to be helped with this funding compared to building new units.

There was general agreement among member's that staff's plan option 1 was the method that members would like to see used for this funding source.

MOTION: Rachel Jewell / Victor Crosetti moved to adopt the Option 1 Plan, including the appropriate edits discussed by members.
VOTE: Motion carries 9-1 (Bock opposed)

Housing Equity Data Presentation

Kate shared a presentation and spoke to some of the ways that Bellingham differs from the State of Washington and shared some data on income inequities within the population. Kate asked members for suggestions of other data they'd like to see.

There was interest in finding data about the highest level of education by head of household, the bedroom count within our housing stock, the different languages spoken in the home, and a chart showing the race/ethnicity of those earning above 50% of the area median income. Kate will gather that data and share with the board before our next meeting.

Staff Updates

Samya Lutz shared that the action plan was presented to the City Council and they approved the plan and it will be forwarded to HUD.

Kristina Martens (City Council) stated that there has not been a final decision on boards and commissions returning to in-person; however, the council members seem to be leaning to a hybrid option. The issue will go to a vote shortly.

Blake Lyon advised that the Mayor will be making a decision on how the City's Boards and Commissions will be moving forward after Governor Inslee rescinded his emergency order that amended the open public meetings act during the pandemic.

Samya shared that Lydia Place's Heart House will have it's grand opening celebration on Thursday, May 26th (4:00-6:00pm). Please visit <https://lydiaplace.org/events/> for details.

What's the Buzz

Kristina Martens stated that there is a survey on Engage Bellingham related to what should be happening in our libraries. The survey can be taken here: <https://engagebellingham.org/library-services>

Kate Bartholomew shared the link for the survey for the Consolidated Plan outreach. The survey can be taken here: <https://engagebellingham.org/cp-equity>

Future Agenda Items

- Wrap-around funding (State level)
- Enforcement for Air BnB
- 2022 state legislative session – specifically renter protections
- A speaker on the business side of housing and real estate development (Kate suggested members watch the recent Housing Week session on “Making Affordable Housing Pencil” and shared link). Let staff know if there is still interest in this topic.
- A policy discussion in light of the close defeat of recent City Ballot Initiative 1.
- A staff presentation from BHA about how the voucher system works (Section 8 and local forms of rent assistance)

- Presentation on role of non-profit vs role of government entity and ways they overlap and how they differ.
- Balance homeownership and the gap in funding.
- Additional discussion on ways to measure equity.

Adjourned

Minutes prepared by:

Heather Aven, Administrative Secretary

Minutes edited by Kate Bartholomew, Development Specialist II