



# Community Human Services Advisory Board

Regular Business Meeting  
Thursday, March 18, 2021, 6:00 PM  
Zoom Online Meeting Platform

**Chair**  
James Harrigan  
**Voting Members**  
Tony, Balk (Chair Pro-Tem);  
Amber Mehta;  
Bryan Lipsy; Jim Bloss;  
Sarah Lundstrum, Jose Luis Nino  
de Guzman;  
Lynsey Gagnon; Bridget Tuttle,  
Aisha Sial; James Harrigan; &  
Roger Evans  
**Members**  
Amy Plumb & Todd Strickler

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## 1. CALL TO ORDER

Virtual Participation Information:

The Community Human Services Advisory Board meeting will be held virtually via the Zoom Meeting Platform. Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, and [Proclamation 20-28.14](#) issued by Governor Jay Inslee, in-person attendance is not permitted at this time.

Join Zoom Meeting:

- Click link: [Click Here](#)
- Dial in: (253) 215-8782
- Meeting ID: 811 5110 2695
- Passcode: 068189

## 2. ROLL CALL

## 3. PUBLIC COMMENTS

*(This time is set aside for members of the public to speak to the Community Human Services Advisory Board on any issue related to Human Services. Three minutes will be allowed per speaker.)*

## 4. CONSENT AGENDA

- 4.1. Community Human Service Advisory Board Minutes from March 4, 2021 3 - 9  
[CHSAB 03.04.2021 Meeting Minutes](#)

## 5. ANNOUNCEMENTS/PRESENTATIONS

- 5.1. Presentation and Discussion with Mr. Jim Dean of Interfaith Family Shelter on their Cars to Housing program. - (Rachel Adams) 10 - 11

ACCOMMODATIONS FOR PEOPLE WITH DISABILITIES WILL BE PROVIDED UPON REQUEST.  
For assistance, please contact the City Clerk's Office at 360-794-7400 in advance of the meeting.

[Agenda Bill - Presentation and Discussion with Mr. Jim Dean of Interfaith Family Shelter on their Cars to Housing program. - Pdf](#)

- 5.2. Presentation by Mr. Roger Evans on his local sheltering efforts. - (Rachel Adams)

12 - 13

[Agenda Bill - Presentation by Mr. Roger Evans on his local sheltering efforts. - Pdf](#)

## **6. BOARDMEMBER REPORTS**

## **7. STAFF/DEPARTMENT REPORTS**

## **8. ADJOURNMENT**

Majority vote to extend past 8:00 p.m.

Next Meeting April 1, 2021 at 6:00 p.m.

# COMMUNITY HUMAN SERVICES ADVISORY BORAD

March 4, 2021



## CALL TO ORDER AND ROLL CALL

The March 4, 2021 Community Human Services Advisory Board (CHSAB) meeting was called to order at 6:01PM by Chair Harrigan. Mr. Tyler Christian facilitated roll call.

### Attendees:

#### Board Members

Tony Balk  
Jim Bloss

Roger Evans

Lynsey Gagnon

James Harrigan

#### Members

Amy Plumb

Bryan Lipsy

Sarah Lunstrum(*arrived at 6:03pm*)

Amber Mehta(*arrived at 6:05pm*)

Bridgette Tuttle  
Aisha Sial

Todd Strickler

#### City of Monroe

Rachel Adams  
Tyler Christian

Deborah Knight

Mayor Geoffrey Thomas

### Absent:

Jose Luis Nino De Guzman

### Community Members:

None

## PUBLIC COMMENT

None.

## APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Board Member Bloss made the motion to approve the 02.18.2021 CHSAB Meeting Minutes. Chair Pro-tem Balk seconded. Motion carried: 8-0 w/1 abstention

## DISCUSSION

### Housing Options Discussion Continued from 2/18/2021 CHSAB Meeting. (Rachel Adams)

Ms. Adams reviewed the survey results with the group. The survey indicated a tie in the short-term housing option between prevention policies and safe parking sites. In the mid-term options the Congregations for the Homeless option is the most preferred. In the long-term option the response given most was other. Ms. Adams shared the "other" responses from the long-term option. Ms. Adams indicated that this was the time

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for the board to continue their discussion and that she did not have a process planned out for the board.

Chair Harrigan added that he sat in on the Everett City Council meeting about the proposed pallet shelter village. Mr. Harrigan remarked that the community also responded with negative feedback about the sit lie ordinance attached to implementing the pallet shelter village. Chair Harrigan mentioned that one Everett City Councilmember said "Housing is our NorthStar" and he appreciated that.

Ms. Adams asked what the RTF Model referred to from the "other" responses in the long-term options.

Board Member Bloss explained that RTF stands for Residential Treatment Facility. These facilities specialize in treatment of co-occurring disorders. There are very few of these facilities around. The closest thing to an RTF is a large facility that is going to open in Everett.

Chair Harrigan stated that he would encourage us to focus on: what is the one thing we can do.

Member Plum shared that she had also worked at an RTF and would be willing to share that as her experience.

Board Member Evans expressed his desire to get behind something and just do something. He gave the example of safe parking and then to build on that. Board Member Evans believes that it is better to have people all in one place. Mr. Evans also expressed his favor for the Congregations for the Homeless model and getting the churches behind it. Board Member Evans shared that hopefully next month will have really good news to bring to the table on the group home model.

Board Member Gagnon stated that it appears the low hanging fruit in the short-term option is safe parking and eviction policies. Ms. Gagnon agrees that there are willing churches to support the Congregations for the Homeless model.

Board Member Lunstrum agrees that safe parking could be a low hanging fruit. Ms. Lunstrum also encouraged that once there is a successful program that she believes that will build trust in the community.

Chair Harrigan volunteered that if Sarah's vote was added for safe parking it is the clear board preference for the short-term option. Mr. Harrigan then asked which of these categories the board would like to start with.

Board Member Lunstrum offered that the short term is the low hanging fruit and what she believes can be implemented most successfully.

Board Member Sial clarified that what the board was doing now was preparing their thoughts and that this would eventually lead to a recommendation. Ms. Sial questioned if this recommendation was to be made untried?

Chair Harrigan replied that this was just a temperature check to get a feel for where everyone landed and what can be communicated.

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Board Member Sial inquired if that meant Council might get something reported back to them on the board's preference.

Ms. Knight offered that this might be a good time to consider getting started with a communications plan. She followed up by saying that safe parking would fall under the temporary encampment code.

Chair Harrigan asked if safe parking falls under the temporary encampment code, is it possible to get a permit to extend?

Ms. Knight replied that not under the current code. That this model would also involve a partnership to involve wrap around services.

Chair Pro-tem Balk offered that the board is not choosing one or another right now. That they are in the process of letting City Council know what is acceptable to them and that City Council can then enact laws to support that. Chair Pro-tem Balk stated that he preferred prevention methods and mentioned that there is money coming in from the Federal Government to support this.

Board Member Tuttle stated that even though currently the board is talking about safe parking with a program, she knows people who just sleep in their cars. What happens if a church just lets people park in an informal way? Would they get ticketed?

Ms. Knight replied that City Staff will research that and come back with an answer. Ms. Knight ventured a guessing that its private property but wonders where the tipping point is.

Board Member Sial brought up the recent efforts toward a One Stop Shop at the St. Vincent de Paul. She expressed that her vision included some kind of temporary encampment or safe parking. Board Member Sial asked about the temporary encampment code being associated only with faith-based organizations.

Ms. Adams offered that the current temporary encampment code does only apply to faith-based organizations. She asked if Planning Commission was still considering looking into a separate code for non-religious organizations?

Board Member Tuttle replied that the Planning Commission decided not to comingle the two, and that this board could recommend that that be something the Planning Commission take a look at.

Board Member Bloss asked if we needed or had the right data to make this recommendation.

Ms. Adams shared that request for production for the Community Asset Mapping had just been released to Public.

Board Member Sial observed that the nature of homeless is fluidity.

Board Member Bloss expressed interest in taking a look at the spectrum of housing along the continuum. He expressed that the big issue seems to be the availability of property. He also asked if there had been an inventory of ava property.

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Chair Harrigan observed that one of the issues was how to identify if there is a larger community opinion that would support a Safe Parking Program.

Board Member Tuttle expressed that there is an ever-present struggle in our government about communicating with the community. She also mentioned that this concern has been going on a long time now. This group is responding to the concern, this is the positive element of it. We know what the arguments will be. Come to it with all the information to effect the change.

Board Member Gagnon mentioned that it would be good for the community to know more facts about what our service providers are seeing.

Chair Pro-tem Balk agrees with Board Member Tuttle that we need to make sure we've done our homework and get out a positive message so that people can join us.

Board Member Sial asked if this was something we could distill it down to a slogan or an ad campaign.

Chair Harrigan mentioned being in favor of more information and putting that information in front of people. He would like to see more regular communication to the City Council.

Chair Pro-tem Balk mentioned that the community members and business owners who are impacted directly by the effects of homelessness. He stressed the importance of making sure their voices are out there saying: this is important, that they feel safe in their community. He also observed that many times, people do the right thing for less noble reasons: there are other interests in this issue and those are important too.

Chair Harrigan offered up looking for something easy to start, staying positive in our outlook, and sharing more well researched facts and education with community and City government.

Board Member Tuttle said from the business owner's perspective that people are responding to the most negatively impactful side of things.

Board Member Evans asked if there are any rules and regulations for shared housing.

Ms. Knight replied that she was not aware of anything through the City. The Department of Health maybe, but City Staff would have to follow up on that.

Board Member Evans If all goes well, shared his hopes to have a house next month. Homelessness is a problem and if we can help the ones that are easiest to help, then we can work our ways down to the harder ones. Mr. Evans doesn't like to see panhandling and is concerned about what the money is being used for. Mr. Evans observed that being actively homeless means being totally in survival realm.

Chair Harrigan suggested to think about the population that is being served.

Board Member Tuttle considered that prevention is better: Something to keep people in their homes.

Ms. Knight observed that prevention may also be the low hanging fruit. Ms. Knight referenced eviction

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mediation program with landlords and proposed bringing that that program out to the Sky Valley. Ms. Knight asked what we can get done relatively easily and quickly with community support.

Board Member Lunstrum likes both the idea of prevention and likes the idea of safe parking.

Chair Pro-tem Balk replied that the thing about prevention that makes it low hanging fruit is the legislation that is happening right now. HE suggested that perhaps this group could have a study session to guide how that money is being used.

Board Member Bloss expressed that he has been working with people with mental illness for years. HE offered that Bridgeways may have some thoughts for us and how they approach housing and that he would volunteer himself to do some outreach with that group.

Board Member Sail observed that the CHSAB is a group of people who meet and talk, and the CHSAB is going to reach out to a group of people who meet and talk but also have a budget. She asked about people who can make action items.

Ms. Knight responded that yes this group is forming value statements and perspectives to be brought to the City Council. The City Council then does have the budget behind them to take action and that they are also policy makers. Ms. Knight suggested that the CHSAB bring this temperature check back to City Council.

Board Member Tuttle asked about low hanging fruit of the funding and if any of the programs come with grants or funding associated with them.

Ms. Knight replied that we also need to have that passionate partner and the right policies in place to support that work.

Chair Harrigan spoke about communicating the urgency to the City Council to get them to turn our attention and energy towards it.

Board Member Sial expressed the desire to do something. She asked if maybe members of this group should organize or individually go speak at the Public Comment sections of council meetings.

Chair Pro-tem Balk encouraged that any member of the public can go to any City Council meeting and express their personal views. Mr. Balk then turned his attention to the low hanging fruit of two documents coming forward to give feedback to the City Council on. The RFP for the Community Asset Mapping & Affordable Housing Study. He suggested that the CHSAB should review and share their thoughts with the City Council.

Chair Harrigan observed that if we are able to say as a committee has a little more punch to it.

Board Member Bloss recalled that at the last meeting the discussion came up that there was a comment that the City Council thought Monroe had enough affordable housing. Mr. Bloss asked to know why they feel that way.

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Chair Harrigan stressed the importance of bringing forward facts instead of making decisions off of how someone is feeling.

Board Member Tuttle emphasized that the comment of “We don’t need more low-income housing” was said by multiple council members. Ms. Tuttle agreed that it is important to communicate what the facts are and not the feelings.

Ms. Knight reflected back that she was hearing the groups desire to share with the City Council some of the information on affordable housing. Ms. Knight mentioned that Sarah did a great job in her presentation. Ms. Knight asked if we could wrap that into the direction we would like to go and give an update to Council on the work that CHSAB is doing. Ms. Knight offered the possibility of adding that into Rachel’s Monthly Report. Ms. Knight suggested that City Staff try to pull a draft of that report together for the group to review and then get it in front of City Council at the end of March or Early April.

Chair Pro-tem Balk made the observation that having affordable housing is about having a functional society. Mr. Balk also said that not all affordable housing is low-income housing.

Board Member Mehta asked about the average income for people who live in Monroe.

Ms. Knight responded with the information from a recent presentation she gave that it is \$46,000 on average a year per person.

Board Member Mehta mentioned that the conversation about take home income doesn’t also account for the out take in peoples pay checks. Ms. Mehta gave the example of debt specifically.

Chair Harrigan observed that Monroe is changing. He expressed that there are also kind and caring people who are invested in the way the City is being developed.

Board Member Gagnon asked Ms. Knight for more information and data about what the reality is.

Ms. Knight offered to share the recent presentation and the power point.

Board Member Sial asked about the CHSAB supporting Roger’s efforts.

## DISCUSSION BY BOARDMEMBERS AND STAFF

Board Member Tuttle requested Roger and his work be added to the agenda.

Board Member Evans was favorable to help get things moving forward.

Board Member Tuttle reported that MEC had started a movie night. The Monroe theater is donating the 1<sup>st</sup> Sunday of every month. Free admission.

Chair Pro-tem Balk Thanked Tyler for helping meetings run smoothly. He also emphasized getting the City to have the right policies to encourage affordable housing.

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Board Member Lunstrum observed that the Housing Module could be the board's focus perpetually and still have work to do. She also expressed the need for more mental health services in Monroe.

## ADJOURNMENT

At 8:02pm Board Member Bloss made the motion to adjourn. Board Member Mehta seconded. Motion carried: 10-0.



## AGENDA BILL

**Meeting Date:** March 18, 2021

**Staff Contact:** Rachel Adams, Project Management Consultant

**Department:** Executive

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**SUBJECT: Presentation and Discussion with Mr. Jim Dean of Interfaith Family Shelter on their Cars to Housing program.**

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### REQUESTED ACTION:

Discussion.

### POLICY CONSIDERATIONS:

It is the responsibility of the CHSAB: to coordinate information among stakeholders to seek lasting solutions; adopt a multi-year implementation strategy; and implement the HPAC recommendations. This group is also responsible for advising the Mayor and Monroe City Council on human services policy issues.

The CHSAB has reviewed the housing category of the HPAC recommendations. In a recent survey, the board members have indicated a strong preference toward recommending that a safe parking site and program be implemented. The board feels that this would be an acceptable way to fulfil a short-term housing solution.

This meeting is the CHSAB's opportunity to explore this model further with a subject matter expert, and ask questions about a successfully established program.

### DESCRIPTION/BACKGROUND:

Mr. Jim Dean is the Executive Director of The Interfaith Association of Northwest Washington. Mr. Dean will share with the CHSAB information about the Cars to Housing program that Interfaith offers.

Cars to Housing is an innovative 90-day safe-parking and rehousing program for families experiencing homelessness. The Cars to Housing program provides families with the valuable combination of safe parking and case management services.

The Cars to Housing program is currently hosted at a local church. All personnel and case management services are provided by Interfaith Family Shelter staff. There are five designated parking spots for families, with at least one vacant spot between parked vehicles.

This service is only available to families with children. During enrollment, the clients are issued a parking permit to validate their participation. Interfaith also provide a portable toilet for the clients' convenience. Case management services – including screening, intake, parking resident affairs and rehousing plans – are provided onsite. Pets are allowed, but must remain under their owner's control at all times.

**FISCAL IMPACTS:**

None at this time.

According to the Interfaith website a Cars to Housing piolet program requires a \$25,000 grant. The majority of this funding would go toward the Interfaith Family Shelter's case management and rehousing services.

The Community Human Services Advisory Board may want to ask Mr. Dean for more information on this cost.

**TIME CONSTRAINTS:**

None at this time.

**ALTERNATIVES TO REQUESTED ACTION:**

None.



## AGENDA BILL

**Meeting Date:** March 18, 2021

**Staff Contact:** Rachel Adams, Project Management Consultant

**Department:** Executive

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**SUBJECT: Presentation by Mr. Roger Evans on his local sheltering efforts.**

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### PREVIOUS DISCUSSION:

3/4/2021

### REQUESTED ACTION:

None Presentation and Discussion

### POLICY CONSIDERATIONS:

This is the board's opportunity to be updated by an internal subject matter expert on his local efforts to provide assistance and find housing for people in the Skykomish Valley. It is up to the board to consider how to support Mr. Evans and the proposed sheltering plans he is working to implement in Monroe.

### DESCRIPTION/BACKGROUND:

At the March 4, 2021 meeting Roger Evans updated the board on the current grass root efforts towards implementing the Congregations for the Homeless model and the Group Home model in Monroe. Board members requested city staff add a presentation to the next meeting agenda to hear more from Mr. Evans.

Mr. Evans has been a volunteer for the Take the Next Step (TTNS) outreach team over the past two years. Mr. Evans was recently hired as a contractor by TTNS, using CARES Act funding, to continue his outreach efforts. Mr. Evans has volunteered at the Monroe Cold Weather Shelter for the last two seasons. This season, Mr. Evans was hired by Volunteers of America (VOA) to staff the Sky Valley Cold Weather Shelter. Mr. Evans currently serves as the Community Outreach Director for the New Hope Fellowship Church and is taking steps to start his own nonprofit to assist those experiencing homelessness in our community.

Mr. Evans is a CHSAB board member, and a subject matter expert in homeless outreach. He knows many of the local homeless individuals, their stories, and their needs. Mr. Evans speaks from the perspective of lived experience.

Mr. Evans is soliciting support from this board and from the local faith community to partner with him in his efforts toward implementing a new shelter program in Monroe.

**FISCAL IMPACTS:**

Currently none.

**TIME CONSTRAINTS:**

Currently none.

**ALTERNATIVES TO REQUESTED ACTION:**

None.