

EVERETT COMMUNITY STREETS INITIATIVE TASK FORCE

Permanent Housing and Wrap-Around/Supportive Services Subcommittee Recommendations

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Outlined below is a list of recommendations for consideration by the Everett Community Streets Initiative Task Force regarding strategies that might be implemented to improve the permanent housing and wrap-around/supportive services options for individuals in need of these services in Everett.

Creation of Drop in Center(s): Given that many individuals in Everett without a stable nighttime residence need a place to go during the day, the Permanent Housing and Wrap-Around/Supportive Services Subcommittee recommends that the Task Force consider a strategy to develop a daytime drop in center or centers located near transit lines and/or other services. The center(s) could include facilities for showering; washing clothes; having meals (which might be served by various congregations currently providing scatter site meals throughout the week); and access to telephones, computers, the internet, and charging stations. Navigators and other helping professionals could meet with individuals utilizing the center(s) in private counseling rooms to help them develop and act on personal plans. There is currently a youth/young adult drop in center and the Task Force might consider supporting and expanding the services at that center as well as establishing a center for the adult population. The expansion and establishment of these centers would reduce the use of other public spaces that do not offer these amenities by chronically homeless individuals. Categories: 1,2,3 Term: ST and LT Expense: Inexpensive and Expensive

Creation of Additional Triage/Medical Detox Facilities: Given that many individuals who experience chronic homelessness have chemical dependency, mental health, and/or co-occurring conditions and that the current 16-bed Triage facility operated by Compass Health in downtown Everett is consistently full with a waiting list, the Permanent Housing and Wrap-Around/Supportive Services Subcommittee recommends that the Task Force consider a strategy to develop one or more additional facilities in Everett and/or supporting the establishment of an additional facility or facilities in neighboring jurisdictions. These facilities would reduce the number of individuals who are taken to either the Snohomish County Jail or a local Emergency Department and facilitate the receipt of appropriate and needed services. Categories: 1,2,5 Term: LT Expense: Inexpensive and Expensive (cost may not be to City of Everett depending on location)

Establishment of a Diversion/Discharge Facility at the Carnegie Building: Given that many individuals who experience homelessness and are in need of behavioral health services are being taken to the Snohomish County Jail and local Emergency Departments not designed to address their needs, the Permanent Housing and Wrap-Around/Supportive Services Subcommittee recommends supporting the establishment of a diversion/discharge facility in the Carnegie Building which is located on the Snohomish County campus in close proximity to the Snohomish County Jail. The facility would house a wide array of wrap-around services on the main floor that could be utilized by individuals being diverted from the Jail as well as those being released from the Jail. Additionally, the facility would contain 20 beds of time limited housing on the first floor which could be used by individuals without a nighttime address from being released from the Jail back into homelessness. This facility would reduce the

number of individuals who are taken to the Snohomish County Jail as well as the number released from the Jail onto the streets while providing critical needed services. Categories: 1,2,3,5 Term: LT Expense: Inexpensive (cost is not to City of Everett)

Expanded Encampment and Street Outreach Response Services: Given that chronically homeless individuals sleeping in encampments and on the streets continue to present health and safety challenges to the individuals themselves as well as the surrounding area, the Permanent Housing and Wrap-Around/Supportive Services Subcommittee recommends that the Task Force consider expansion of the current encampment and street outreach response efforts coupled with access to housing and wrap-around/supportive services. Under an expanded system, a response team member(s) would visit an encampment site or conduct street outreach to assess the situation following a call from law enforcement, public works, or other public official. Based on the assessment, other members of the team would be called to the encampment site or street location to offer services and assistance that helps stabilize the individuals with no stable residence. The expansion could include both expansion of the current encampment response system and youth street outreach efforts already in place with youth response teams continuing to be staffed by specialists in youth services. Expansion of this process would reduce the length of time encampments are in place, reduce the length of time and number of individuals sleeping in the streets, and increase the provision of appropriate services to the individuals served. Categories: 1,2,3,5 Term: Short Term Expense: Inexpensive

Increased Funding for Low-Cost and Non-Traditional Housing: Given the cost of rehabilitating and constructing housing and the impact on the ability of agencies to finance the ongoing operations of that housing, the Permanent Housing and Wrap-Around/Supportive Services Subcommittee recommends that the Task Force examine additional options for low-cost and non-traditional housing to meet the short-term and/or permanent housing needs of chronically homeless individuals. This could include single resident occupancy facilities, shared housing, park home and container housing, and other options. The housing could include both scatter site and small community housing with services attached. Increased low-cost and/or non-traditional housing would allow chronically homeless individuals to have a stable home and focus on other recovery and stability issues, thereby both decreasing the number of individuals living on the streets and increasing the number of individuals who can effectively benefit from the wrap-around/supportive services that can be provided. Categories: 1,2,3 Term: Long Term Expense: Expensive

Establishment of a Flex Fund: Given the promise of having a flexible fund for meeting myriad one-time and short-term needs of individuals without a stable nighttime residence, the Permanent Housing and Wrap-Around/Supportive Services Subcommittee recommends that the Task Force consider establishing a flex fund that could be used by multiple helping professionals to address those needs that can be addressed quickly, reducing the need for longer-term and/or more costly interventions. Categories: 2,3 Term: Short Term Expense: Inexpensive and Expensive

Additionally, the Permanent Housing and Wrap-Around/Supportive Services Subcommittee recommends that the impact of chronic homelessness and these potential initiatives be analyzed and prioritized from a systems perspective. Business and community members of the Community Streets Initiative Task Force may want to consider coordinating with the Snohomish County Partnership to End Homelessness and may want to consider serving on the Partnership Board, Committees, Subcommittees, and/or Work Groups as this work moves forward both in the City of Everett and throughout Snohomish County.