

# OCEANSIDE HOMELESS TASK FORCE BOARD MEETING MINUTES

OHTF

OCEANSIDE

**DATE:** January 9 , 2025  
**TIME:** 10:00 AM  
**LOCATION:** SOS  
**CHAIR:** Shayla Day  
**NEXT MEETING:** February 6 , 2026 Location: SOS (245 Hirst Ave, W)

**ATTENDANCE:** Susanna N (SOS), Sean Wood (Parkville), Jamie B (OCAT), Brandon R (Island Health), Tina (Peer Support), Shane W (RCMP), Shayla D (DayHomes)

**REGRETS:** Scott H (Qualicum Beach), Traci (MSDPR ), MLA Stephanie Higginson, Jason H (CMHA), , Elizabeth D (MHSU-Island Health), Melissa (RiseBridge)

## 1. Welcome & Land Acknowledgment

Chair Shayla Day opened the meeting with a welcome and acknowledgment that the Task Force operates on the unceded traditional territory of the Snaw-Naw-As First Nation and Kwalikum First Nation. Respect was given to Elders and Knowledge Keepers past and present.

## 2. Approval of Previous Minutes

### 2.1) Election of Co-Chair

The election of a Co-Chair was deferred due to capacity constraints and will be carried forward to the next meeting.

### 2.2) Task Force Name – Decision & Closure

The Task Force discussed the name previously raised at earlier meetings. Members expressed support for retaining the existing name, acknowledging its history and accountability.

**Decision:** The name **Oceanside Homeless Task Force Board** will remain.

## 3. Business Arising

### 3.1) Gabriel Project – Phase Overview & Handout Review

The Chair reviewed the Gabriel Project phases and accompanying handout previously circulated. Discussion focused on alignment with community awareness, advocacy, and service-delivery goals.

Key points:

- Recognition that the Oceanside Non-Market Housing Table has relevant infrastructure already in place, including trauma-informed writing capacity.
- Emphasis on changing dominant community narratives around homelessness by pairing lived-experience stories with broader systemic issues such as lack of affordable housing.
- Agreement that collaboration would strengthen both advocacy and service-delivery efforts.

### 3.2) Task Force Logo Refresh

Two logo versions were reviewed.

Discussion highlights:

- Preference expressed for the white-background version.
- Suggested refinements include minor font adjustments, replacing the window frame with a heart symbol, simplifying elements for scalability, and removing the word “Board” from the logo.

**Decision:** White-background logo approved in principle, pending minor edits. Updated version to be circulated for final confirmation.

## 4. Updates & Reports

### SOS – Susanna

- Provided update on the Oceanside Non-Market Housing Table.
- Confirmed need for connection between OHTF / DayHomes and the Non-Market Housing Table.
- Noted availability of outreach supplies (e.g., military meals, warming supplies) funded through prior Task Force allocations; emphasis placed on distribution to frontline workers.

### DayHomes – Shayla

- Provided a update on the BC Housing Extreme Weather Response (EWR) activation process.
- Reported that while BC Housing indicated willingness to fund a shelter with a flexible activation threshold if classified as a shelter, municipal approval was not granted.
- Confirmed that Qualicum Beach Council has chosen to continue supporting the regional  $-4^{\circ}\text{C}$  RDN activation threshold.
- Noted that current weather forecasts suggest the  $-4^{\circ}\text{C}$  threshold is unlikely to be met this winter, meaning no EWR activation is anticipated.
- Emphasized that DayHomes pursued the application due to lack of other proponents and continues to advocate for longer-term, sustainable shelter solutions.

### Peer Support – Tina (Independent Outreach)

- Tina spoke to the importance of **mutual respect and accountability** when accessing services, emphasizing that service users are expected to behave respectfully so surrounding communities can feel confident that services do not create additional turmoil.
- Shared examples of practicing these expectations on the ground, reinforcing that community trust is built through consistent boundaries and respectful engagement.
- Tina also contributed to discussion around long-term planning considerations for a permanent shelter, including whether Regional District of Nanaimo (RDN) electoral areas may be appropriate to explore in the future.
- Tina offered to support the table by **compiling and coordinating access** to select outreach items, should this be helpful to frontline partners. This offer was extended to the table broadly, with the intent of supporting coordinated, practical responses where gaps exist.

### DayHomes – Shayla (follow-up within discussion)

- Shayla clarified that an olive branch has already been extended to RDN representatives **Charlene, Kate, and Jackie**, including the opportunity to collaborate and host a volunteer-supported shelter during the Christmas/holiday period.
- Shayla confirmed willingness to reach out again to RDN representatives to explore ways to bridge the gap of services.

### Island Health – Brandon (Population & Public Health)

- Brandon provided an update on his involvement with the **Non-Market Housing Table**, emphasizing the importance of partnering and aligning efforts across tables.
- Confirmed he will be attending the upcoming meeting on the **15th of this month** and will continue coordination and future collaboration.
- Contributed additional context on the **Gabriel Project**, including the value of storytelling and suggested that Shayla’s personal lived-experience story could be a meaningful component of the project’s narrative work.

### Sean Wood (Parksville Community Partner)

- Sean highlighted the importance of **proper delegation and coordination** among all formal parties involved in delivering services.
- Emphasized that **mutual respect** must be upheld not only by individuals accessing services, but also through having the **right service provider and operational structure** in place.
- Stressed the value of strong **good-neighbour agreements**, noting they are essential for community confidence and long-term success.
- Identified that the most effective path forward is to bring all elements, services, accountability, community engagement, and governance, together as **one coordinated action**, ensuring outcomes benefit service users, providers, and the broader community.

### 5. Action Items:

- Brandon (Island Health) to continue relationship-building with both the Market Housing Group and the Non-Market Housing Group.
- Susanna to facilitate connection between Shayla and Jane Vanette (Non-Market Housing Table). (**Newest update:** *email connection has now been made between Susanna, Jane Vanette, and Shayla.*)
- OHTF to explore formal collaboration with the Non-Market Housing Table to avoid duplication of community forums and align public-awareness efforts ahead of the municipal election.

### 6. Key Issue Summary

Members identified the following key themes and priorities arising from discussion:

- **Peer-Led Success & Community Impact:** The table acknowledged examples of peer-led success, including community clean-up initiatives undertaken by service users. These efforts were highlighted as positive neighborhood enhancements that build trust and demonstrate accountability when services are delivered respectfully.
- **RDN Roles & Long-Term Considerations:** Clarification was provided regarding the role and limitations of the RDN in relation to emergency responses. While an RDN-based approach may be worth exploring in the future, members recognized that any long-term solutions will be more realistically focused on preparation and planning for **next year’s implementation capacity**.

- **Frontline Engagement:** The table agreed, consistent with previous table discussions, that a more **collective and collaborative approach for next winter seasons** is the most appropriate path forward.
- **Municipal Engagement (Newest Update):** Following frontline work, **clients** asked whether the matter could still be brought forward to City Council for the **February 11th meeting**, in efforts to secure shelter options for this winter. **DayHomes** has submitted this request and is awaiting confirmation from the **Council of Qualicum Beach**. *(Side note: DayHomes has also taken initiative to request a five-minute public forum and introductory engagement with the City of Parksville.)*
- **Gabriel Project Development:** Continue building the Gabriel Project collaboratively, using storytelling and advocacy to support public understanding, while aligning with existing initiatives.
- **Avoiding Duplication:** Maintain coordination with the Non-Market Housing Table and other partners to avoid duplicating work and to strengthen shared outcomes.
- **Future Council Phase Planning:** Develop a unified, phased approach for future Council consideration that integrates services, accountability, community engagement, and governance.
- **Outreach Supplies:** Outreach supplies remain available through **SOS**. Peer support coordinators and outreach workers may contact **Susanna** or the **SOS front desk** to access available items.

## 7. Adjournment

Chair Shayla Day thanked members for attending and contributing to a deeply productive discussion.

Meeting adjourned.

**Next Meeting: February 6 -2026**