

OCEANSIDE HOMELESS TASK FORCE BOARD MEETING MINUTES

OHTF

OCEANSIDE

DATE:	December 5, 2025
TIME:	10:00 AM
LOCATION:	SOS
CHAIR:	Shayla Day
NEXT MEETING:	January 9, 2026 Location: SOS (245 Hirst Ave, W)
ATTENDANCE:	Susanna N (SOS), Jamie B (OCAT), Brandon R (Island Health), Melissa (RiseBridge), Tina (Peer Support), Shayla D (DayHomes)
REGRETS:	Scott H (Qualicum Beach), Traci (MSDPR), MLA Stephanie Higginson, Jason H (CMHA), Shane W (RCMP), Elizabeth D (MHSU-Island Health)

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 Kwilikum First Nation. Respect was given to Elders and Knowledge Keepers past and present.

2. Approval of Previous Minutes

Vice-Chair Nomination

Deferred again due to low attendance.

Task Force Name Discussion

- Members revisited whether to rename the Task Force.
- Strong mixed feedback in the community:
 - Some feel the name carries baggage.
 - Others strongly opposed to change.
- No decision made; item deferred until broader attendance is present.

Review of Previous Minutes

1. Revisited purpose of the Task Force, leadership roles, and responsibilities.
2. Clarified distinctions between OCAT, HOST, and this table's function.
3. Acknowledged that planning structure was requested last meeting to clarify governance, funding flow, and decision-making.

3. Business Arising

Community Action Plan & Coordinated Response Pyramid

- Members reviewed the previously circulated documents outlining:
 - Purpose of the table
 - Coordination vision for Oceanside
 - Role alignment among DayHomes, OCAT, HOST, SOS, RiseBridge, Island Health, RCMP, MSDPR, etc.
- Discussion highlighted:
 - Need for clarity on what this table actively does.
 - Desire for coordinated direction rather than individual agencies working in isolation.

4. Old Business

4.1 EWR Ticket, Thresholds & Activation Process

- Shayla submitted an **Extreme Weather Response** ticket to BC Housing as no active tickets existed.
- **BC Housing (Daisy Stapleton)** approved the plan at **-4°C**.
- Requirements reviewed:
 - Activation holder
 - Confirmed location
 - 48-hour activation plan
 - Staffing in place

Challenges:

- Zero available **locations** willing to host due to previous community conflicts.
- Churches and other potential sites not returning calls.

Operational notes from members:

- Threshold **can** be adjusted (e.g., 0°C + wind/rain).
- Historical EWR relied on unpredictable day-to-day weather calls, making staffing extremely difficult.
- Past challenges:
 - Reliance on volunteers
 - Weather changes after morning decisions
 - Sites with inadequate conditions (e.g., sleeping between church pews)

Conclusion:

Changing the threshold is possible, **but the primary barrier is securing a location.**

4.2 Location Barriers

- Conversation acknowledged:
 - Most historical locations (churches, community center) will not host again.
 - Bradley Centre not suitable based on past experience.
 - Arbutus Grove Church may be closing; uncertain opportunity.
- Members encouraged to share any leads on suitable sites.

5. New Business

5.1 Service Provider Introduction – Tina (Independent Peer Support Worker)

- Provides **~215 meals/week**:
 - 15L soup
 - 50–100 sandwiches
 - Hot meals + home-baked desserts
 - Fruit baskets
 - Snack/take-home emergency kits
- Supports:
 - Unhoused individuals
 - Food insecure individuals
 - Seniors in RVs
- Runs largely through volunteers, small grants, OCAT support, and donated food.
- Collects rescued food from Bradley Centre, Salvation Army, and local bakeries.
- Identified as a key voice in community-based outreach.

5.2 Advocacy Campaign Discussion (Gabriola Model)

- Brandon introduced the **Gabriola storytelling + media campaign**:
 - 8 published articles featuring lived experience and frontline workers
 - Media engagement with a dedicated reporter
 - Culminated with a community forum
- Discussion on applying the model in Oceanside:
 - Goal: shift public perception, reduce stigma, highlight diverse homelessness causes (seniors, medical issues, poverty).
 - Members agree public holds misconceptions:
 - Belief homelessness = addiction only
 - Lack of awareness about seniors living in RVs/cars, working poor, and hidden homelessness
 - Strong agreement that Oceanside needs an empathy-building narrative shift.

Potential collaboration:

- Non-Market Housing Task Force is planning a **public forum** within six months.
- Proposal: publish **3-4 articles** leading up to the forum.
- Themes could include:
 - Seniors in crisis
 - Underhoused working individuals
 - Poverty reduction lens
 - Lack of affordable rentals despite visible new builds
 - Structural barriers (taxes, pensions, health issues)

6. Key Issue Summary

Members agree top priorities are:

1. **Identify a viable location** for shelter, EWR, or warming center.
2. **Adjust EWR threshold** (if appropriate) once a site is found.
3. **Advance community advocacy** to shift perception and build public/political will.
4. **Align with non-market housing efforts** ahead of the municipal election cycle.

7. Updates & Reports

- No additional agency updates provided at this meeting.

8. Adjournment

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

Meeting adjourned.

Next Meeting: January 9-2026