

# OCEANSIDE HOMELESS TASK FORCE BOARD MEETING MINUTES

OHTF

OCEANSIDE

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

**ATTENDANCE:** Susanna N (SOS), John (Parksville), Shane W (RCMP), Sean Wood (Parksville), Piper & Jovonne (RiseBridge), Jamie B (OCAT), Shayla D (DayHomes)

**REGRETS:** Scott H (Qualicum Beach), Traci (MSDPR), MLA Stephanie Higginson, Jason H (CMHA), Elizabeth D (MHSU-Island Health), Brandon R (Island Health), Tina (Peer Support),

## 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. Opening & Introductions

- Meeting opened by the Chair.
- A round of introductions was completed by all attendees.

### 2.1) Terms of Reference & Co-Chair

- Terms of Reference were shared for reflection.
- Election of a co-chair remains deferred.

## 3. Business Arising: Gabriel Project Update

- Susanna provided an update on the Gabriel Project.
- A related presentation was previously delivered by Brandon at the Non-Market Housing Table.
- The presentation is evolving toward a broader “housing spectrum” approach, including homelessness, non-market housing, supportive housing, and related models.
- Follow-up with Brandon will occur for further clarity on next steps and involvement.

## 4. Updates & Reports

- SOS reported ongoing availability of supplies, including:
  - Tents, tarps, sleeping bags, sleeping pads, blankets
  - Hand/foot/body warmers
  - Hygiene kits, scarves, gloves, socks
  - Rain gear, bungee cords
  - Recently purchased gift cards (Save-On-Foods, Quality Foods, McDonald's, Tim Hortons)
  - Supplies are available for outreach workers to access and distribute.

- Clarification was provided that these supplies are **not funded through HPS/BCH funding**, but from legacy funds held in trust from the former Homelessness Task Force.
- Background was provided on the origin of the funds, including historical Island Health contributions, homeless count coordination, and prior task force decisions.
- The former Task Force had agreed to:
  - Set aside \$5,000 for a future community awareness forum
  - Use remaining funds for winter and summer supply distribution
  - Current focus is winter supplies, with consideration of cooling supplies in warmer months.

## **6. Discussion – Use of Legacy Funds**

- Questions were raised regarding:
  - Who currently accesses supplies
  - Whether funds should be held for future needs or alternative community initiatives
- It was reiterated that:
  - The table previously voted to use funds for supply distribution
  - Supplies are available to multiple outreach workers and organizations
  - The intention is to ensure funds are actively supporting people rather than remaining unused
- The Chair noted openness to new ideas for fund use if brought forward formally as agenda items.
- Commitment made to clarify fund use language in meeting minutes.

## **7. DayHomes / Community Updates**

- DayHomes continues Sunday outreach activities.
- An update was shared regarding Manna Van no longer being permitted to operate in Parksville in certain locations.
- Related community messaging and speaking engagements were noted. (Jerrold from Manna Van speaking at Knox Church this month, Feb.21<sup>st</sup> - from 1:00-3:00pm)

## **8. OCAT Updates**

- OCAT funding has been renewed for an additional three years province-wide.
- Provincial Peer Network funding is ending, raising concern among peer organizations.
- April 14 marks the 10-year anniversary of the declaration of the Toxic Drug Crisis.
- “Moms Stop the Harm” is organizing a provincial event in Victoria; interested participants were invited to connect for details.
- OCAT is developing:
  - A February activity calendar (draft stage)
  - A consolidated service and resource list for community distribution
- Discussion highlighted the ongoing challenge of effectively sharing information with people living outdoors and peers.

## **9. General Discussion**

- Discussion occurred regarding:
  - Outreach capacity in Oceanside
  - Coordination among agencies and peer supports
  - The importance of transparency, open participation, and constructive engagement
- Emphasis placed on productivity, collaboration, and forward-looking solutions.

## **10. Website & Communications**

- Clarification provided that:
  - The former Task Force website is no longer active
  - Current meeting minutes and public information are temporarily hosted on the DayHomes website to ensure transparency and public access

## **11. Meeting Close**

- No further formal business.
- Motion to close was called and supported.
- Meeting adjourned.

## **12. Next Meeting Date & Location**

Next Meeting: Friday, March 6, 2026