

# OCEANSIDE HOMELESS TASK FORCE BOARD MEETING MINUTES

OHTF

OCEANSIDE

**DATE:** September, Friday 5<sup>th</sup>, 2025  
**TIME:** 10:00 AM  
**LOCATION:** Virtual/Teams  
**CHAIR:** Shayla Day  
**NEXT MEETING:** October, Friday 3<sup>rd</sup>, 2025 Location: SOS (245 Hirst Ave, W)

**ATTENDANCE:** Traci (MSDPR ), Susanna N (SOS), Shayla D (DayHomes), Elizabeth D (MHSU-Island Health)

**REGRETS:** Brandon R (Island Health), Jamie B (OCAT), Jason H (CMHA), Scott H (Qualicum Beach), Shane W (RCMP)

## 1. Introductions & Opening Remarks

Shayla: Shared employment history, frontline experience, and role in multiple community initiatives. Expressed concern about lack of truth in public discourse around homelessness and emphasized the importance of unity and collaboration. Highlighted challenges with simple collaborations in town and the absence of a “real table” to convene service providers. Called for ongoing, consistent meetings (HOST, OCAT, OHTF) to align efforts. Acknowledged her strong personality and encouraged respectful collaboration.

Traci: Shared her experiences on the frontlines in Oceanside, highlighting the daily limitations and frustrations she faces.

Susanna: Shared 30+ years’ experience, from program coordinator to leadership roles. Explained SOS’s focus on homelessness prevention and acknowledged frustrations with systemic barriers. Stressed the importance of city council involvement and challenges of central location. Reported SOS has remaining funds, earmarked for winter gear distribution next season. Suggested a community forum in future to raise awareness.

### Ground Rules Set:

- **Zero Tolerance for Disrespect:** All members must engage respectfully; personal attacks, gossip, or dismissive behaviour will not be tolerated.
- **Open and Transparent Table:** This is a public-facing collaboration. No NDAs or closed-door agreements will be used to restrict information-sharing.
- **Accessible Meetings:** Meetings will be held both in-person and virtually to ensure full participation.
- **Posted Meeting Minutes:** Minutes will be drafted and shared publicly online within 7-10 business days of each meeting
- **Shared Responsibility:** Decision-making and follow-up tasks are distributed fairly; no one member is expected to carry the load.
- **Community First:** All discussions and decisions must center the needs of people experiencing or at risk of homelessness in Oceanside.
- **Conflict Resolution:** Disagreements are expected to be addressed constructively in the group setting, not through side conversations or external channels.

- **Attendance Commitment:** Members are expected to attend regularly or send a delegate to maintain continuity.
- **Accountability:** Actions, commitments, and outcomes are tracked and revisited at future meetings.

## **2. Political & Community Engagement**

Shayla: Shared insights from meetings with Councillor Sylvia Martin and MLA Stephanie Higginson. Stressed the need to speak truthfully about struggles rather than only showcasing successes. Highlighted the importance of acknowledging frontline workers' efforts. Emphasized the need for a united table for BC Housing, RDN, and City of Parksville to come directly to instead of siloed organizations.

## **3. Structure of Meetings**

Meetings confirmed for first Friday of each month, 10:00 AM.

Virtual meetings possible but preference expressed for in-person to build stronger connections.

This first meeting acknowledged as an orientation/meet-and-greet, with respect to prior sitting members.

Agenda items #5 and #7 deferred to future meetings.

## **4. Service Updates & Agency Reports**

Elizabeth (Island Health – MHSU):

Shared dual portfolios: Oceanside Mental Health & Substance Use, and Addiction Medicine. Provided update on new treatment centre in Parksville:

Scheduled opening: Fall 2026.

Construction to begin weekend of the 15th, with full interior demolition.

No pre-approved waitlist; intake will be Island-wide with assessment/placement required.

Highlighted importance of collective collaboration and aligning on shared values, goals, and roles.

Reported on SUIT (Substance Use Intervention Team): now running 7 days/week with strong community feedback, public health nurse outreach, and engagement after two years of setup.

## **5. Membership & Representation**

Traci: Asked if Colleen from CMHA would be invited.

Shayla: Reaffirmed this is an open table for service providers, nonprofits, and community members with relevant contributions.

Jason H. (CMHA) has been contacted multiple times with no response.

Moving forward, Colleen will be included in follow-up communications.

All members encouraged to extend meeting invitations. Susanna offered the use of SOS space for upcoming meetings

## **6. Closing Remarks**

Shayla acknowledged the struggle of “wearing many hats” and sometimes falling short in areas critical to community growth. Expressed gratitude for members' willingness to collaborate despite differences, and emphasized the hope of building a better future for both community members and the frontline workers supporting them.