

November 22, 2023

Dear colleagues,

For many months we have met regularly to refine our vision and approach to adopting a regional approach to addressing our homelessness crisis. These meetings recognized that an effective approach must be built on the support and collaboration of **all** our regions' City and County jurisdictions, as two or more elected representatives and key staff from eight separate jurisdictions began working through the many issues and details of our proposal. Along the way, essential leadership was also provided by our region's Continuum of Care Board, Experience Matters, Hello for Good, and other community members as they joined in the conversations and consensus building.

At last Thursday's meeting and following much deliberation and discussion in prior meetings, we arrived at consensus on the two remaining and closely interrelated issues undertaken by the group and including a general timeframe for moving forward:

- 1- Governing Board structure and composition, and
- 2- Adopting an alignment and structure between the Governing Board and the Regional Continuum of Care Board (COC) that leverages the COC's community representation, diversity and subject matter expertise across all of the Regional Authority's decision-making and work, and
- 3- Timeline: work within general timeframe of taking all necessary steps for forming the regional homelessness entity in the first quarter of 2024

Agreement on these issues builds on the group's earlier consensus on the following elements and priorities of the new regional entity:

- Legal structure
- Funding for the new entity
- Data, compliance and performance measurement priorities

Details of all of these items, together with related draft legal and other documents can be found on the SRC website: <https://spokaneunite.org/>

Given these cumulative decisions, the natural next step is for the SRC to work with its legal team to update the previously developed draft Interlocal Agreement, Charter, Resolution and other necessary formation documents and provide those documents to elected representatives for review and ratification.

As we move ahead, it is important to observe the foundational importance of public process and transparency. As you know, decisions were previously made to open our meetings to the public and to also host them on Zoom (recorded meetings on SRC website). The group also committed to significant further public outreach and

discussion preceding any final steps towards ratification. This will include a planned ad hoc meeting of the regional Council of Governments, regular public meetings of City Councils within the eight jurisdictions, neighborhood and Community Assembly meetings, guest editorials and many other community discussions.

Finally, based on our progress, and as mentioned during last Thursday's meeting, our path forward now will be ongoing ad hoc meetings on an as-needed basis, rather than maintaining our standing every other Thursday meeting cadence. I will therefore be sending out a cancellation notice of our bi-monthly Thursday meetings but rest assured that we will continue to share out information and updates with this group via email as they arise.

We thank you from the bottom of our hearts for your partnership and look forward to continuing conversations and progress well into the future.