

Listening session summary – Housing Action Team (HAT)

Meeting date: Wednesday, Jan. 8, 9 to 10 a.m.

Location: Thurston County Public Health and Social Services Building

DES provided an update on the rulemaking process, shared a rulemaking process map, and shared that concepts for future phases on the process map will be influenced by what DES hears at listening sessions and may be updated.

DES asked HAT what is important to them. Group discussed:

- DES's engagement of affected parkers in coordination with Olympia Downtown Ambassadors.
- Questions about an overall state approach.
- Possible benefits the rulemaking process may have in relation to regional efforts, including informing data needs.
- Issues related to sanitation and sewage dumping, RV parking in the county, registering vehicles and mitigation sites.
- Approaches other communities have taken to address people living in vehicles, such as "safe parking areas."
- Finding common ground among diverse interests.
- The opening of the Housing Authority wait list for Section 8 vouchers in mid-January.
- Census 2020 needs.

DES asked for thoughts and advice regarding additional engagements and information to consider. Group discussed:

- Possible partners for DES to explore working with as an implementation plan is drafted.
- The Regional Housing Council as an opportunity for DES engagement on issues more broadly.
- Recent efforts of Thurston County cities to engage the community.
- Helpful training available to DES staff.
- Additional community, social service and business groups that might have interest in engaging.
- The benefit of reviewing plans done by local jurisdictions like the City of Olympia's Homeless Response Plan, Thurston County's Comprehensive plan and plans on related issues like hazardous weather and opioids.
- How to stay engaged with HAT.