GRAYS HARBOR
**Public Health &
Social Services**

Homeless Housing Discussion

Homelessness: What do we know about this issue? June 1, 2021
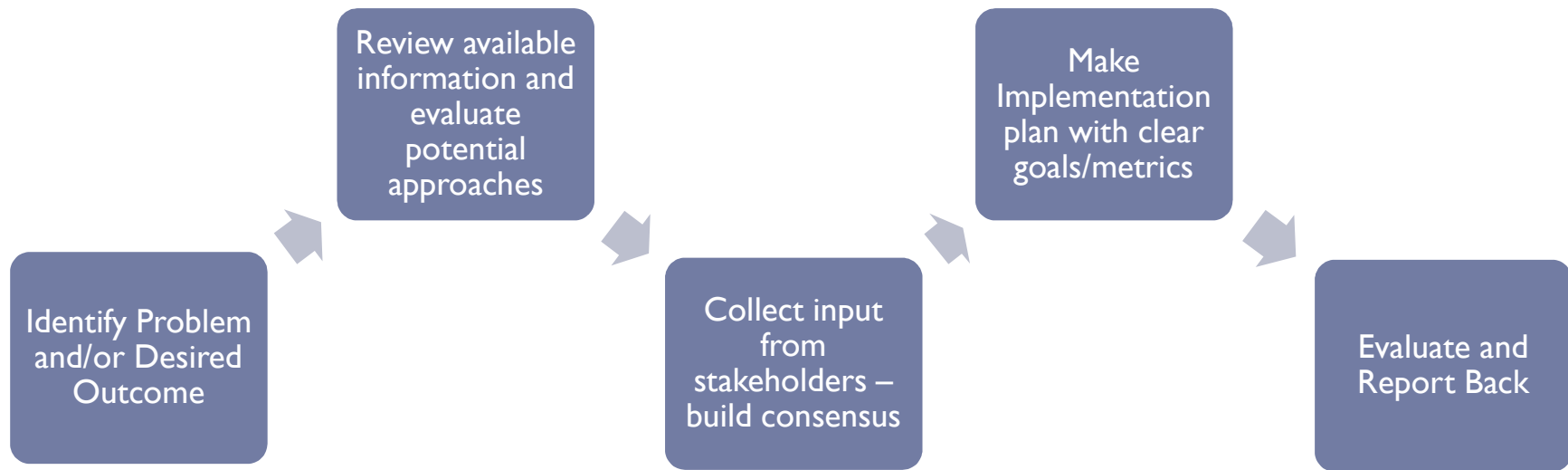
Goals of workshop:

▸ Provide information on issue of homelessness AND County/Community processes to evaluate and make decisions

 ▸ How do people become homeless in our community and what prevents them from achieving stable housing?

 ▸ How many people experience homelessness?

 ▸ How do we use this information to make decisions and evaluate programs?

▸ Get BOCC input on definitions of the challenge(s) and vision for the future

Public Health Approach to Complex Problems

Identify Problem and/or Desired Outcome

Review available information and evaluate potential approaches

Collect input from stakeholders – build consensus

Make Implementation plan with clear goals/metrics

Evaluate and Report Back

Building shared definition of challenge/vision of the goal

▸ Challenge:
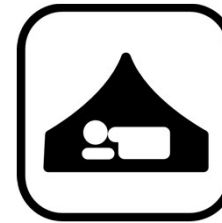
▸ Goal:

▸

What is Homelessness?

Unstably Housed

Fleeing Violence
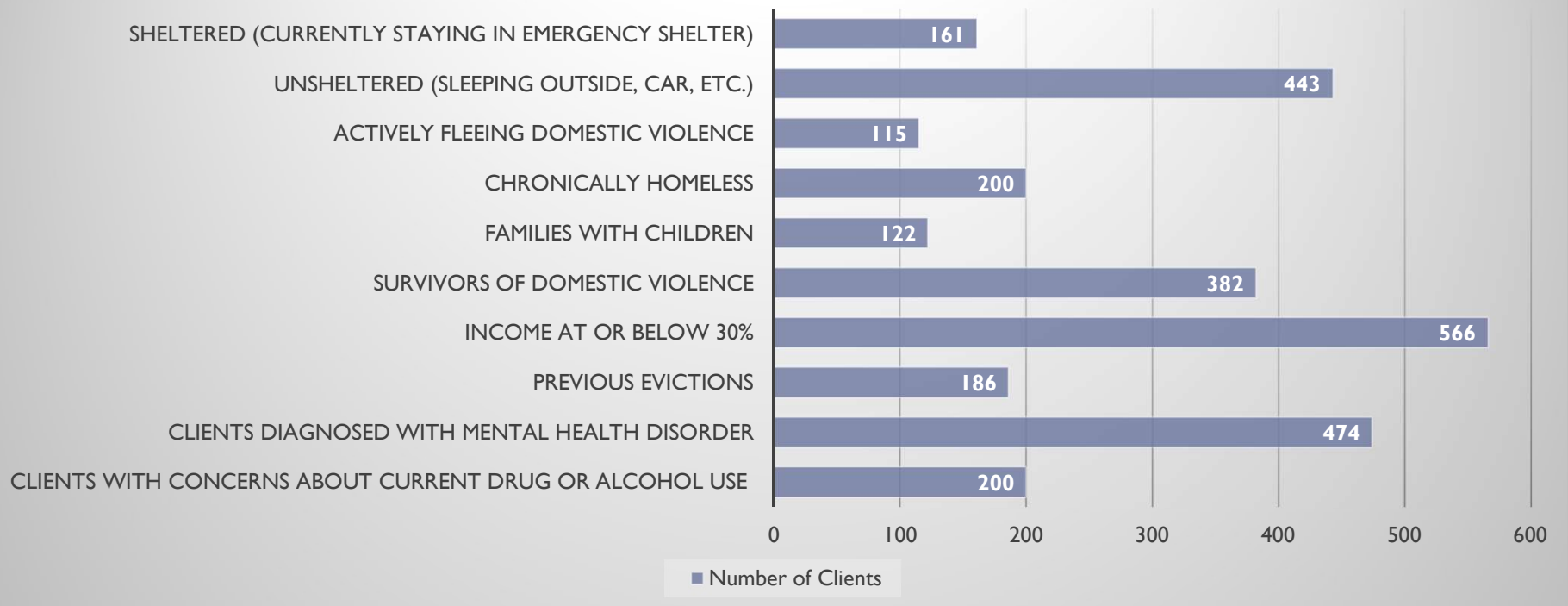
Types of
Homelessness

Chronically Homeless

Literally Homeless

Individual drivers of homelessness/barriers to housing stability

Between July 1, 2019 and June 30, 2020 646 clients sought help through Coordinated Entry in Grays Harbor

Category	Number of Clients
SHELTERED (CURRENTLY STAYING IN EMERGENCY SHELTER)	161
UNSHELTERED (SLEEPING OUTSIDE, CAR, ETC.)	443
ACTIVELY FLEEING DOMESTIC VIOLENCE	115
CHRONICALLY HOMELESS	200
FAMILIES WITH CHILDREN	122
SURVIVORS OF DOMESTIC VIOLENCE	382
INCOME AT OR BELOW 30%	566
PREVIOUS EVICTIONS	186
CLIENTS DIAGNOSED WITH MENTAL HEALTH DISORDER	474
CLIENTS WITH CONCERNS ABOUT CURRENT DRUG OR ALCOHOL USE	200

■ Number of Clients

Source: Client assessments at GH Coordinated Entry
Note: Clients may select more than one response (will not add up to totals)

Systemic drivers of homelessness/barriers to housing stability

Income Status	Definition	Annual Income range	Monthly affordable housing costs	Number of renter households	Estimated number of affordable rental units
Extremely low income	<30% Median Income	<$15,630 per year	$390 or less per month	1,775	615
Very Low Income	30% to 50% Median Income	$15,630 - $26,050 per year	$390 - $650 per month	1,715	605

- Social Security income: $823/month
    - Affordable Housing ≤ $247/month

- Full time worker @ minimum wage: $1,750/month take-home pay
    - Affordable Housing ≤ $525/month

Our Vision

Justice for all low-income people in Washington.

Our Mission

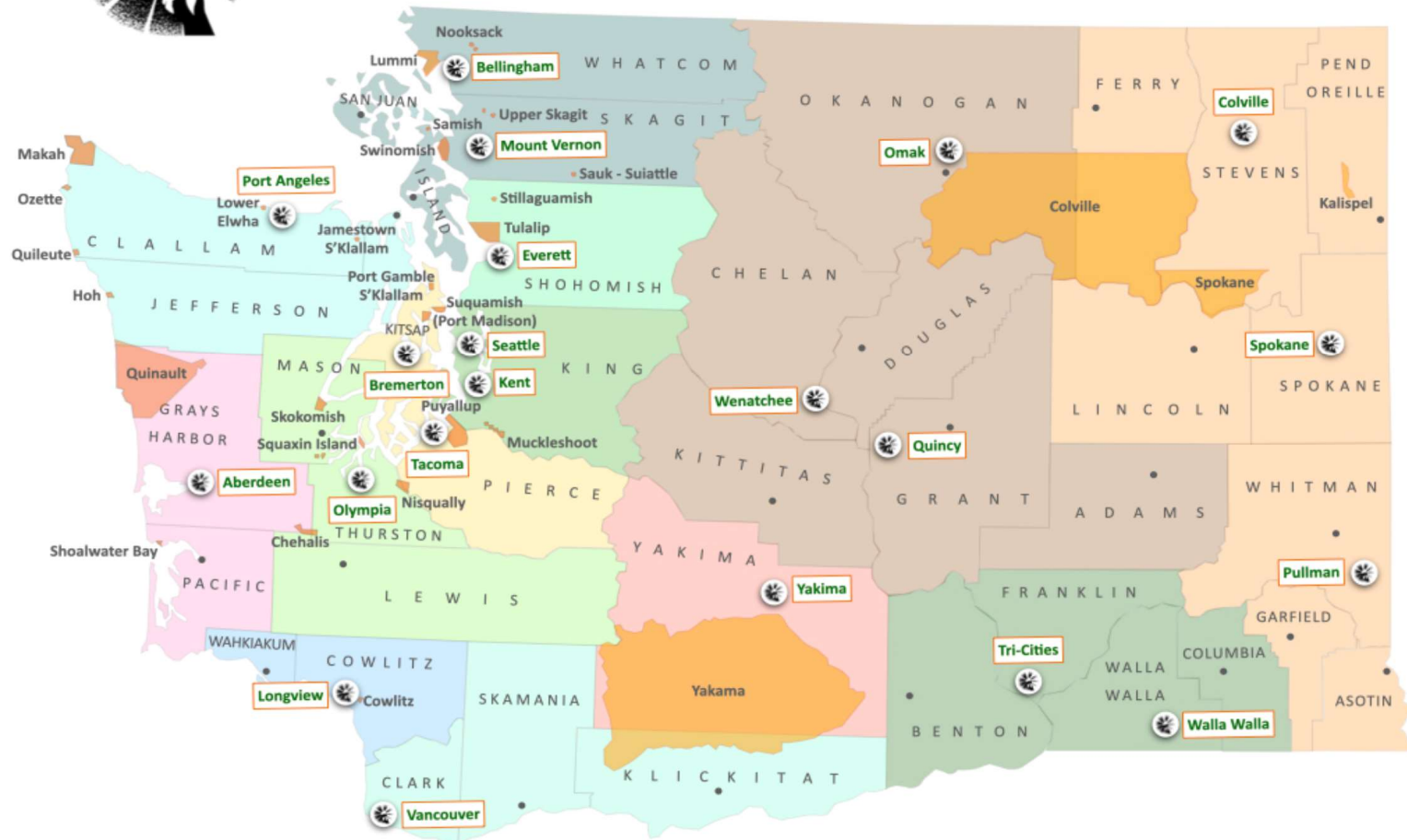Combating Injustice • Strengthening Communities • Protecting Human Dignity

Sarah Glorian MBA
Managing Attorney
Aberdeen

About Us | Northwest Justice Project (nwjustice.org)

Northwest Justice Project is Washington's largest publicly funded non-profit legal aid program. Each year it provides critical civil legal assistance and representation to thousands of low-income people in cases affecting basic human needs such as family safety and security, housing preservation, protection of income, access to health care, education and other basic needs.

IN 2019

- 17,500 requests for legal assistance
- 12,400 received assistance

Family 40%   Housing 30%   Consumer 15%

Contacts from Grays Harbor Residents resulting in a "case"

▸ 2019
  ▸ 344 total
  ▸ 94 relating to housing issues
▸ 2020
  ▸ 206 total
  ▸ 81 relating to housing issues
▸ through May 27, 2021
  ▸ 77 total
  ▸ 39 relating to housing issues

▸

How many people are experiencing homelessness in Grays Harbor?

Based on available data – it is reasonable to estimate there are as many as *4000 residents who are unstably housed* at any given time and –**between 500-700 who are literally homeless**

- 2020 Point in Time Count
  - 127 Homeless Households counted. 29 staying in shelters, 98 living unsheltered.
- 2019-2020 Coordinated Entry data
  - 584 literally homeless households assessed, 246 enrolled in programs, 338 unmet need.
- 2020 School District Data
  - 750 Homeless Students - 599 doubled-up, 66 hotels/motels, 29 shelters, and 61 unsheltered.
- 2021 Department of Social and Health Services Data
  - 912 clients literally homeless, 1,307 clients unstably housed, 9 clients in emergency housing/shelter, 1 client in DV shelter.

Yes AND….

- How is this data used?
  - Used to evaluate grant applications to State and Federal funders
  - Measure of success for 5 year plan
  - Review with providers for program planning
  - Resource for community partners for program planning/grant writing
  - Systems understanding

- Pros:
  - Allows for review of trends over time
  - Deepens understanding of issues
  - Gathered at common system entry points
  - Can drill down at local level

- Cons:
  - Used to evaluate our local impact on addressing homelessness – State/Fed
  - Numbers only tell a piece of the story
  - Span of control
  - Differing definitions and interpretations

Building shared definition of challenge/vision of the goal

- Challenge:
  - C. Pine:
    - Lack of housing at every price point
    - Defining priorities for assistance (all need assistance)
  - C. Warne:
    - Money/funding – flexible funds
    - Incentivizing/encouraging builders/investors
    - Discuss zoning/code complexity
  - C. Raines:
    - Adequate funding (right-sized to need) – flexibility for local needs
    - Local healthcare providers (MH/SUD) – access to care
    - Work with building/planning to encourage development

- Goal:
  - C. Pine:
    - Help those who need assistance the most (families)
    - Shelters/treatment first for those who have addiction challenges
  - C. Warne:
    - Help people that want assistance
    - Mental health resources (co-occurring)
  - C. Raines:
    - Assist the most vulnerable (including Veterans, families)
    - Address shortage of housing inventory
      - Encourage developers

Wrap up and next steps

▸ What are we missing? What else would you like to know?

▸ Next workshop will dive deeper into funding available to address homelessness

▸ THANK YOU!