

**KITSAP COUNTY
HOUSING AND HOMELESSNESS DIVISION
COMPLAINT POLICY AND PROCEDURE**

The Kitsap County Housing and Homelessness Division (“the County”) regularly monitors contracts with agencies, including periodic site visits, typically resolving administrative contract issues.

County contracting agencies are required to have in place a Grievance Policy that outlines:

- how the Agency provides information to their clients about how they can make a complaint about an Agency program, staff member, or operations;
- how a complaint or grievance can be submitted to the Agency;
- the various levels of leadership within the Agency that a complaint can be directed to (for example if the complaint is about a program manager, who can the complaint be given to?);
- what happens internally in the Agency when a complaint is received,
- how information about the response to the complaint is communicated to the client (if they identify themselves in the complaint);
- when and how the complaint is considered to be resolved; and
- how the Agency records and tracks complaints to identify any patterns of concern.

Kitsap County may request a copy of an Agency’s Grievance Policy at any time.

Complaints to the County

Sometimes complaints are made directly to the County. Whether or not the County takes action in a given instance will be at the sole discretion of the County and the County has the right, but not the duty or obligation, to take action.

In general, complaints about agencies contracted with the Housing and Homelessness Division that are submitted to Kitsap County or forwarded from a provider will be sent to the Kitsap County Housing and Homelessness Division Manager (hereafter “County Manager”).

Upon receiving a complaint, the County Manager may attempt to get the complaint in writing, if it is not already in that form.

The County Manager will forward the complaint or a summary of the complaint to the Agency for their information, redacting personally identifying information if the complainant does not wish to be known to the Agency.

The County Manager will record and track complaints to determine if multiple complaints about an Agency are forming a pattern of concern or if a complaint is of a nature to warrant further action. Further action may include requesting a response to the complaint from the Agency and/or initiating a Plan of Correction.

The County will determine when a Plan of Correction process should be undertaken with the Agency as follows:

Developing Findings

- a. The County Manager will notify the Agency in writing that there is concern about a pattern of complaints, send a brief summary of the complaints, and request a meeting regarding the complaints. The County Manager will request that the Agency designate an Agency representative who is not involved in the complaints to participate in this process.
- b. At the meeting, the County Manager will discuss the complaints with the Agency representative and gather any additional information about the situation.
- c. The County Manager will send a summary of findings to the Agency along with next steps.

Plan of Corrections Process

- d. If the Findings indicated a pattern of concern, then the Plan of Correction process will be initiated.
- e. The County Manager will send a list of Findings, a Plan of Correction template, and deadline for the Agency response to the Agency. If the findings involve the Agency Director, then the information will be sent to the Board Chair. The County Manager will be available to answer Agency questions during this process.
- f. The Agency will be required to submit a Plan of Correction to the County Manager for approval by the deadline provided.
- g. The County Manager has the authority to accept the Plan of Correction or send it back to the Agency for further work.
- h. Once a Plan of Correction has been approved by the County Manager, they will call a meeting of the Agency's representative to review the Agency's proposed Plan.
- i. Monitoring meetings will be held on a regular basis and will include the County Manager and the Agency representative(s) to review progress on the Plan. Coordination of these meetings, assessment of progress, and milestone completion will be the responsibility of the County Manager.
- j. When the County Manager determines that the appropriate milestones have been met and the Plan of Correction is complete, they will inform the Agency's in writing.
- k. If the Agency fails to cooperate with the Plan of Correction process or fails to complete the Plan of Correction in a timely manner, the County will consider taking further action, such as withholding grant funding until the Plan is completed or invoking a contract termination.