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MPA Policy Statement

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Introduction

The purpose of this memo is to provide a solution to remedy issues within the Skokomish Transitional (Tiny House) Program. A vast number of the Skokomish community is impacted by substance use disorder and oftentimes, when an individual returns home from an inpatient rehabilitation facility or incarceration, there isn't a safe and supportive place to rest at night. The intention of the Skokomish Transitional Housing Program is to aid the individuals experiencing housing instability during this transition period. With proper policy and management, this can be very beneficial for the Skokomish community.

Problem Statement

The Skokomish Tiny House Community is facing demolition if the Skokomish Housing Department doesn't develop and implement a management solution in a timely manner. Currently, it lacks enforceable guidelines for tenants to abide by. In addition, there's a dire need for case management that provides intensive goal setting focused on personal wellness and housing stability.

The Skokomish Housing Department has collected proof that the units have been exposed to drug use, which poses a health and safety risk for current and future tenants. The Housing Department must assess the extent of contamination and decide on a remediation plan.

Policy Approach

The policy recommendation is an outcomes-based regulatory approach. The efficiency of the Skokomish Transitional Housing program will be measured based on the number of successful tenants that secure stable housing. The allotted timeframe for a tenant to participate in the Skokomish Transitional Housing Program is suggested to be set by the case manager involved. The oversight of a case manager, in partnership with the Skokomish Housing Department, will encourage the tenant to make positive steps towards reaching goals. Furthermore, the oversight will provide documentation if the tenant fails to meet the expectations of the program. The risk involved is that not all tenants will want to abide by program guidelines, however, releasing tenants from the program will create a turnover in units.

Policy Objectives

1. Develop program guidelines that promote a supportive and healthy environment.
2. Collaborate with available community resources and establish case management systems that will oversee the progress of individual care plans.

3. Assess the damage done to the units, then develop and implement a remediation.

The outlined objectives will provide structure for the program and set boundaries for tenants. Providing effective case management will empower individuals to set their own attainable goals and provide the necessary support. By assessing the damage done, the Skokomish Housing Department will gain a clear picture of the work that must be done to reach maximum operational efficiency.

Conclusion

In summary, the Skokomish Transitional Housing Program is focused on providing a safe and supportive environment for individuals experiencing housing instability. The demolition of the Tiny House community would be counterproductive and ensure that the Skokomish Tribe doesn't receive the maximum possible return on the investment. By implementing this policy recommendation, the entire Skokomish community will benefit as individuals make positive life changes and reach personal and housing goals.