

**A Home for Everyone (HFE) Coordinating Board
Meeting Minutes – May 6, 2015**

**Facilitated by: Initiative Director, Marc Jolin
Prepared by: Carrie Young; Reviewed by: Jurisdictional Staff Members**

Members present: Michael Anderson-Nathe, Rihana Ansary, Commissioner Jules Bailey, Israel Bayer, Ed Blackburn, Stacy Borke, Shannon Callahan (Commissioner Saltzman rep.), Rachel Carlson (Carolyn Bateson rep.), Jean DeMaster, Jillian Detweiler (Mayor Hales rep.), Rene Dubois, Chair Deborah Kafoury, Alexa Mason, Matt Morton, Martha Strawn Morris, Cheryl Thompson, Derald Walker, Joe Walsh (Councilor Echols rep.), Bobby Weinstock (Susan Emmons rep.), Marisa Zapata, Ph.D. **Staff:** Caitlin Campbell, Mary Carroll, Jennifer Chang, Ryan Deibert, Rachael Duke, Sally Erickson, Debbie Fox, Torrey Giaquinta, Liv Jenssen, Tiffany Kingery, Maria Lamb, Christine Lewis, Mary Li, Javier Mena, Annie Neal, Antoinette Pietka, Bimal RajBhandary, Wendy Smith, Matthew Tschabold. **Guests:** Rebecca Bacon, Tony Bernal, Liora Berry, Becky Beyer, Kris Bilhardt, Dana Brandon, Anna Cale, Sam Chase, Doug Cooper, Susan D'Alessandro, Linda Jo Devlaeminck, Janet Hamilton, Suzanne Hayden, Raphael Goodblatt, Krístrún Gröndal, Susan Madar, Steve Rudman, Shannon Singleton, Mark Sturbois, Becky Straus, Nikolai Ursin, Mary Westfall, Vanessa Yarie.

Agenda Item	Discussion Points	Decision/Action
Welcome, Introductions, Approval of Minutes	Co-Chairs called meeting to order and commenced introductions. Minutes were approved by consent.	
Public Comment - Matt Morton, Co-chair	<p>Rebecca Bacon stated that a lot of funding for homelessness efforts is not directed efficiently and has not achieved the promised outcomes. She shared concerns about several specific projects as well as others that are working very well. She stated we should not criminalize being homeless.</p> <p>Richard Ruben provided written comment, summarized as: 1) For the Portland Police Department, Multnomah County Sheriffs, Portland Park Police, Portland Patrol, etc.: A hands-off attitude towards non-troublesome sleepers in various locations including streets and city parks has been evident through the past months. He believes this is in part a generous attitude through the cold/rainy season which will soon end. Will current folks who are homeless be disrupted from their current sleep spots? If so, where will they be able to stay?</p> <p>2) He strongly urges HFECB to consider a wide range of housing/housing models when trying to place those currently, and those needing housing assistance in the insecure future world we will share. Co-op and shared housing, interest- based houses, intentional and intergenerational housing, small community clusters of tiny houses, protected and supplemented campsites for true travelers all might be considered as models for the variety of types and needs of people trying to settle down.</p> <p>3) The homeless population has a significant number of older, mentally and physically capable, unimpaired and widely experienced members. They have unique obstacles, and need an innovative approach in aiding them to rediscover their contributory place in the world after disruption. To the effect of improved immediate income, increased income when truly retired, and improved</p>	

	<p>involvement with community and society in a time of increasing alienation.</p>	
<p>Report Back from Community Listening Session - Shannon Singleton, JOIN</p>	<p>In order to ensure better consumer voice in our processes, we are holding monthly community listening sessions. Shannon Singleton shared the following themes that came from the first listening session held at the Family Winter Shelter:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • There was gratitude to have the safe space to share comments. Some families reported struggling with access to services during the day, especially families whose children are not in school. • Some families explained they were doing housing work themselves and were relying on each other for information and support because they didn't have a good understanding of how the system could help them. • Other families with income can pay rent but lack funding for application fees and deposits. There were also families with no income or have TANF income, and it is not enough to cover rent. <p>Stacy reported the May listening session is still being finalized. The hope is to have the session the last week of May at Sisters of the Road Café, hopefully in partnership with Right 2 Survive.</p> <p>A board member asked “where will the recommendations from the community listening sessions go?”The goal is to report comments and feedback back to the board, and to use them going forward in the board’s planning process.</p>	<p>Send community listening session calendar when finalized to board members.</p>
<p>Mayor’s Budget - Jillian Detweiler, Office of Mayor Charlie Hales</p>	<p>Jillian Detweiler shared some of the significant investments related to the A Home for Everyone’s work in the FY 2015-16 Mayor’s proposed budget. She also provided ways that the public can provide feedback to City Hall.</p> <p>Co-chair Borke expressed appreciation that the hard work that was put into the action plans in a few short months is reflected in the proposed budget. She also thanked Jillian for her leadership and translating the board’s work back into the mayor’s office.</p>	
<p>Veterans Action Plan Status - Sally Erickson, Portland Housing Bureau</p>	<p>The community is now three months into the adopted plan to end Veterans' homelessness in our community by the end of this year. Sally shared that 537 veterans have been housed in the last year (April 2014-March 2015) and of these, 303 were chronically homeless and disabled. Community providers have housed an average of 51 veterans per month in January-March 2015, although the goal was 65 per month. Therefore, starting in May our community will need to house an average of 71 veterans per month. In order to achieve this goal, Sally highlighted the approaches on which Operation 424 is focusing on this month. Operation 424 and several sub-committees are implementing the strategies outlined in the HFE Veterans Action Plan and tracking outcomes on a monthly basis. Available units are the single biggest challenge. A letter will go in the next week to</p>	

	<p>hundreds of landlords within Multnomah County asking them to set aside units for homeless Veterans, including whether they'd be interested in project-basing VASH. HFE is leading discussions with non-profit housing providers about housing more veterans in their portfolios. A Home for Every Veteran webpage is now up on the HFE website. Jurisdictional staff will meet with the Public Information staff next week to discuss communications and media to publicize our landlord outreach. Jurisdiction staff will select an agency in the next week to launch an after-hours Landlord Response Team that would include access to a Veterans Risk Mitigation Fund, in the event of damage to a unit. Both items have been identified by landlords as a need, and they've been used successfully in Seattle. During the week of Memorial Day, teams of volunteers will be sent to places where Veterans were counted during the January Homeless Street Count to conduct short assessments to add homeless Veterans to a name registry. This month, dozens of HMIS users are also learning how to "unlock" Veteran records in HMIS so that homeless Veterans can be added to the name registry. Longer-term strategies include contacting property owners with project-based Section 8 funding to encourage them to launch a homeless Veteran preference, project-basing VASH at buildings in the planning stage. Sally also shared that the County Commission approved an additional \$375k to accelerate the pace of housing homeless Vets and families. The Portland City Council also supported an additional \$126k to extend women's winter shelter and \$150k of funds in the last 2 months of this fiscal year to accelerate the pace of Veterans housing placements and launch the Landlord Response Team. As reported by Jillian earlier, the Mayor's proposed FY 2015-16 budget includes \$500k in additional funding to fully implement the HFE Veterans Action Plan. At this time, any agency who is working with a veteran on obtaining or maintaining housing can access these funds for veterans; they are highly flexible and can be used for anything that facilitates a housing placement or allows a veteran to retain their housing.</p> <p>A board member asked how short the community is on finding private landlords to house veterans. Sally responded that it is estimated that there will need to be at least 500 placements between now and the end of the year. It was added that housing/placement specialists are having a tough time finding units to place veterans. The amount of time it takes to find housing has increased dramatically in the last six months and some are pushing 180 days to find a unit.</p> <p>A board member suggested coordinating outreach to the landlords and to preserve the resource for all populations struggling to find units. The goal is to not just tap into the same landlords that the community has been using historically, and to branch out to new landlords to offer some incentives and supports to those landlords that might otherwise have been reticent to participate. While initially these incentives are focused on the Veterans Initiative, the hope is that these tools become available more broadly to the community to encourage new landlords to come forward.</p> <p>It was asked if there were geographic restrictions for the vouchers. Local resources can easily be</p>	
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	<p>deployed outside the County. It is possible to move federal long-term rental subsidies to other counties but it is more difficult. There is a special communication between Multnomah County and Clackamas County, however there is paperwork and a process to go through if a person finds housing and wants to transfer the voucher to another county/area. It was added that there may be housing in other areas, and the challenge is access to services, long term retention, and not dismantling the support systems people have in an effort to get housing.</p> <p>A board member asked if funds will be rolled over if they are not spent or the goal [number of units needed to place veterans] is not reached. VASH vouchers can't be rolled over and go back if they are not leased up. If the vouchers are not leased up, it also makes the community less competitive for future allocations of VASH vouchers. Local funds, in most cases, do not carry over so the goal is to allocate and invest in that current budget year. The member further asked if that is a risk at this time. It is going to be challenging and is the reason for the creativity and the aggressiveness in terms of reaching out to the provider community for help.</p> <p>A member asked if the 500 units needed number includes people that are now in per diem units. Veterans that are in emergency shelter or transitional housing that need permanent placement are included. It was further asked if it was possible to exchange per diem units for project based housing. Home Forward is working with HUD to see if this would be possible.</p> <p>Sally also added for the board to think about, there is a number of lifetime registered sex offenders that are not eligible for VASH, Section 8 or subsidized housing. There are at least 70 veterans that fall under that category and it is a challenge that we will need to grapple with as a community.</p>	
<p>Coordinated Access to Homeless Services - Jennifer Chang, Portland Housing Bureau - Martha Strawn Morris, Gateway Center for Domestic Violence - Tiffany Kingery, Multnomah County - Caitlin Campbell, Multnomah County</p>	<p>Communities around the country are working to implement coordinated access to services, among other strategies. Ultimately, the board will be asked to adopt a set of coordinated access recommendations for the community. To set the stage for the creation of these recommendations, there are representatives working within the community's adult, family, youth and domestic violence (DV) systems to talk about what coordinated access is intended to accomplish.</p> <p><u>Coordinated Access:</u> Jennifer gave an overview of coordinated access, and of the HOPE collaborative, a coordinated access pilot, planned to launch in July 2015. Coordinated access is designed to streamline participant intake, assessment, and provision of referrals across programs.</p> <p>A board member asked if there was a timeline or deadline. The only firm deadline is for the HOPE Collaborative which needs to be implemented July 2015. HUD is strongly signaling that communities need to be moving down the path towards cross system coordinated access.</p>	

	<p><u>Domestic Violence Coordinated Access:</u> Martha delivered a presentation on DV coordinated access. The presentation provided the group with an understanding of the foundation and process, the assessment tool (Safety and Stabilization Assessment), the service categories, the shared decision making process, and the challenges, successes and vision for data collection.</p> <p><u>Homeless Families System of Care:</u> Tiffany provided a handout that maps the family system of care and briefly walked the attendees through the system. Services for families experiencing homelessness include emergency and transitional housing as well as support services to assist with permanent housing.</p> <p><u>Multnomah County Homeless Youth Continuum (HYC):</u> Caitlin provided attendees with a handout that illustrates the Multnomah County HYC. The HYC consists of services and supports geared toward helping youth. Services include a 24-hour access and assessment center, alcohol and drug services, emergency and short-term shelter, and transitional housing and related support-services.</p> <p>Board member asked if the goal was to have all four systems coordinated . The HUD directive, to the extent that it is understood, is that the community is supposed to be working toward a coordinated access system for the Continuum as a whole. Any program getting federal Continuum of Care (CoC) funds would need to be part of a single coordinated access system. There will be more guidance from HUD with further details. There is an opportunity to develop a community-wide coordinated access system built upon the values embraced in A Home for Everyone and on the learning from the processes already implemented in parts of our system.</p> <p>Marc stated that the goal is to come back to the board in three months with a set of recommendations about how to approach a community-wide coordinated access system. Board members who want to be engaged in the process should reach out to him, one of the co-chairs or a staff member.</p>	
<p>State of Housing Report - Matthew Tschabold, Portland Housing Bureau</p>	<p>Last week the City of Portland’s Housing Bureau released the State of Housing Report Phase 1 detailing the challenges that families face finding affordable housing in the community, and especially families of color. Given the central focus of the board’s work on housing and equity, the board asked Matthew Tschabold, Equity and Policy Manager for PHB, to give an overview. Matthew provided the attendees with a presentation outlining the report context, data and geography methods, report findings, and the next steps.</p> <p>A board member was curious if taxes are taken into consideration; given that seniors may not be able to stay in their respective neighborhoods due to high taxes. Property taxes were not factored into this report and the impact it has on displacement. Point in time data was used, and the Bureau</p>	

	<p>is looking at more dynamic data to include in the Fall report and if that data can be folded into the report.</p> <p>A guest commented that a summary page would be helpful, showing how the number of extremely low-income households and number of affordable housing units. The Bureau is looking at how to include this.</p> <p>A board member commented that he is finding that, as an employer, it is not possible to pay a livable wage to current employees as well as recruit out-of-state talent based on the fixed contracts and to break even. The member posed the question, how can an infrastructure be supported with the out of control housing costs that keep getting worse.</p> <p>A member commented that it would be prudent to figure out the nexus that will help guide policy makers and where to put wise investments in different neighborhoods. He further suggested that it would be helpful to track where people are being housed, saying that if the data is looked at in relationship to the equity agenda it would reflect a collision course, that the community is playing a role in displacing its own people.</p> <p>Commissioner Bailey commented that it would be interesting to see how the report updates over time, and based on the data sources. Currently, the market that we are in, it will be difficult to capture the speed with which things are changing out there. It would be great to see, over time, some comparisons year over year; some ability to see changes and to be able to understand, on a more granular level, what this actually means in terms of how the community is changing.</p> <p>Matt, co-chair, shared that, based on the Coalition of Communities of Color reports, for over a decade livability for white communities has continued an upward trajectory and livability for communities of color has been going down. He expects those trajectories to stay the same unless there is an intervention.</p>	
<p>Resource Advisory Committee and Continuum of Care - Stacy Borke, Co-Chair - Marc Jolin, Initiative Director</p>	<p>Last month, the board approved the formation of a new committee that will focus on advising the board on funding and resources, including our Continuum of Care (CoC) funds and also broader HFE efforts. Several members who don't have conflicts of interest with the CoC funding were solicited, and 11 individuals have agreed to be a part of the Resource Advisory Committee. Stacy asked for a motion to approve the HFE subcommittee.</p> <p>The first meeting is scheduled for next week, and one of our first items of business is this year's upcoming CoC notice of funding availability (NOFA). It is anticipated that the NOFA will be released sometime in early summer, and there are several actions needed in preparation, including</p>	<p>Motion to approve formation of the HFE subcommittee Resource Advisory Committee. All in favor.</p> <p>Motion to affirm the Portland Housing</p>

	<p>registering our community for the application and the CoC rating and ranking process. The board will need to approve a lead applicant of the CoC grant on behalf of the community. Marc called for a motion to approve the City of Portland, through the Portland Housing Bureau (PHB), as the Collaborative Applicant for OR-501 and authorize PHB staff to register the CoC for the HUD application process this year.</p>	<p>Bureau, as the Collaborative Applicant for OR-501 and authorize PHB staff to register the CoC for this year's HUD application process. All in favor.</p>
<p>Closing Comments/Next Meeting - Marc Jolin, Initiative Director</p>	<p>The next meeting will be Wednesday, June 3, 2015, from 3:00-5:00pm. Next meeting the board will discuss Point-in-Time Count, City and County Budgets, and Board Work Plan. Meeting is adjourned.</p>	