

A Home for Everyone (HFE) Coordinating Board

Meeting Minutes – March 4, 2015

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

Members present: Michael Anderson-Nathe, Raihana Ansary, Commissioner Jules Bailey, Carolyn Bateson, Israel Bayer, Stacy Borke, Beth Burns, Shannon Callahan (Commissioner Saltzman rep.), Julia Delgado, Jean DeMaster, Jillian Detweiler (Mayor Hales rep.), Renee Dubois, Chair Deborah Kafoury, Andrew McGough, Victor Merced, Michal Parkhurst, Art Rios Sr., Jill Smith (Chair Widmark rep.), Nicole Stein, Martha Strawn Morris, Cheryl Thompson, Derald Walker, Joe Walsh (Councilor Echols rep.), Marisa Zapata, Ph.D. **Staff:** Mary Carroll, Ryan Deibert, Sally Erickson, Debbie Fox, Torrey Giaquinta, Liv Jenssen, Christine Lewis, Mary Li, Seth Lyon, Traci Manning, Anna Plumb, Bimal RajBhandary, Ian Slingerland, Wendy Smith. **Guests:** Tony Bernal, Liora Berry, Kris Billhardt, Anna Cale, George Devendorf, Crista Gardner, Patrick Gihring, Alex Glover, Raphael Goodblatt, Kristrun Gröndal, Janet Hamilton, Will Harris, Suzanne Hayden, Shasta Leming, Victoria Libov, Susan Madar, Catie Miller, Jeannette Nguyen-Johnson, Rachel Post, Marifer Sager, Amanda Saul.

Agenda Item	Discussion Points	Decision/Action
<p>Welcome, Introductions, Executive Committee Updates and Review of Minutes - Marc Jolin, Initiative Director</p>	<p>HFE Initiative Director Jolin welcomed everyone and introductions were made.</p> <p>Jolin announced that comment cards are available for members of the public that would like to share their comments with the board. The comment cards are to be submitted to the Initiative Director or a jurisdictional staff member.</p> <p>Deborah Kafoury, Multnomah County Chair, reported that she is looking forward to hearing the recommendations from the HFE Action Plan workgroups. She also thanked everyone involved in the workgroups for the time commitment and hard work that has been invested. Executive Committee members Commissioner Jules Bailey and Michael Parkhurst echoed Chair Kafoury’s sentiments.</p> <p>Jolin noted that minutes are a consent item. No changes needed and approved.</p>	
<p>Public Comment - Marc Jolin, Initiative Director</p>	<p>Crista Gardner, City Club of Portland, shared that she is highly supportive of the HFE Health Workgroup recommendations which are similar in nature to the recommendations made in the City Club of Portland’s Health Care Reform & Homelessness in Multnomah County report. The City Club’s report was approved by the Board of Governors and by 97% of the City Club members.</p>	
<p>Updates: Veterans Action Plan Status - Sally Erickson, Portland Housing Bureau</p>	<p>In January, the Coordinating Board and Executive Committee voted to approve the HFE Veterans Action Plan to end Veterans' homelessness in our community by the end of this year. Sally shared in order to achieve this goal, Operation 424, the Veterans Workgroup, has estimated that it would mean housing 75 Veteran households per month, 25 of whom will be chronically homeless. Current data reflects that 60 Veteran households per month, 20 of whom are chronically homeless are being housed. Operation 424 is doubling efforts, and this week there will be a core group meeting to leap</p>	

	<p>barriers and look at a coordinated list of Veterans experiencing homelessness in the community. Operation 424 will provide a brief monthly update to the Board on progress. Sally Erickson reported that data is still being processed from the Homeless Street Count that took place in January. The board will receive the results of the point-in-time (PIT) count once the data has been entered and unduplicated. Also, Erickson reported that Ian Slingerland will chair a group which includes members of the VA to focus on housing placements for veterans, coordinating efforts and addressing challenges that come with using federal funds</p> <p>It was asked if it would be useful to get feedback on how the community is doing with the 10 best practices (USICH 10 Strategies to End Veteran Homelessness) and find out how many were being employed locally. Operation 424 would be able to report back on their perspective. Milla McLachlan, a consultant from the 25 Cities Effort has been working with Operation 424 and could provide a perspective on how Portland is doing compared to other communities that are part of the effort.</p> <p>Also, it was mentioned that in a meeting with Deborah Imse, Multifamily NW Executive Director, she expressed concern about how having a veterans preference squares with Fair Housing.</p>	
<p>HFE Workgroup Action Plan Recommendations: - Marc Jolin, Initiative Director</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Workgroups in Relationship Overview - Ryan Deibert, Portland Housing Bureau • Health - Amanda Saul, Enterprise Community Partners • Workforce & Economic Opportunity - Andrew McGough, Worksystems, Inc. - Patrick Gihring, Worksystems, Inc. 	<p>Jolin announced that the Board will hear from each of the four HFE Workgroups – Health, Workforce & Economic Opportunity, Housing, and Safety off the Streets. Each will present their action plan that includes policy and funding recommendations that responds to the Executive Committee charge to the HFE Coordinating Board. The charge was to develop a plan of what it would take reduce homelessness by 50% within two years.</p> <p><u>HFE Workgroups in Relationship Overview:</u> Ryan Deibert provided the group with a high level overview of how each workgroup might relate to another workgroup’s work and affect inflow/outflow to work toward the overall goal.</p> <p><u>HFE Health Workgroup Recommendations:</u> Amanda Saul presented the Health Workgroup Action Plan which included the charge, background and context, and a summary of the recommendations by category.</p> <p>The group proposed to work with the private healthcare system so patients are not discharged into homelessness. Local hospital administrators are currently working with city, county and state to develop a psychiatric ER and what the discharge plan looks like. It is feasible to use this opportunity to have additional conversations in general about what discharge look like for people experiencing homelessness to ensure they are connected to community-based resources before they’re released.</p>	

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Housing - Stacy Borke, Transition Projects, Inc. • Safety off the Streets - Art Rios, Sr., Community Member - Marc Jolin, Initiative Director 	<p>The board discussed drawing the linkages or calling out overlaps to other plans as necessary. For instance, a Veteran experiencing homelessness that is not eligible for VA healthcare, and may need ongoing support services may not fall under the Veterans Plan.</p> <p>Jolin mentioned the funding sources for the recommendations in the plans have not been identified and will need to be discussed with each jurisdiction within the HFE.</p> <p><u>HFE Workforce & Economic Opportunity Workgroup Update:</u> Andrew McGough led the group in a presentation on the Workforce & Economic Opportunity Workgroup Action Plan recommendations. He shared the three recommendations that seek to reduce inflow by removing people from the cycle of poverty and increase outflow by leading to housing stability by increasing access to career track training and employment. It was acknowledged that there are other strategies to explore and given the 12 month delivery timeline, the workgroup has decided to continue with recommendations that can yield results within a year, and do it in a more coordinated and systemic way. The workgroup focused on career track training and employment that would lead to pathway of wage/job advancement.</p> <p>Members discussed ensuring that other strategies are also explored for creating income for people experiencing homelessness – tax credits, self-employment, microenterprise, etc. The Workforce & Economic Opportunity Action Plan does outline three additional priorities beyond the three recommendations that require further planning and analysis.</p> <p>The recommendation to help 60 TANF families would include child care and other support services.</p> <p>Members also discussed approaches to people who experience barriers to employment, including chronic persistent mental illness. Studies have shown that employment significantly improves mental health. People reentering the workforce who have criminal records/histories reduces recidivism. Mayor Hales is purposing an incentive that would offer businesses a tax credit of up to \$5,000 for every former felon they hire and could be included in the workgroup’s plan.</p> <p>Jolin pointed out that the board will need to think about how we invest resources that will improve housing stability AND reduce the unmet need as defined/measured by the PIT count.</p> <p><u>HFE Housing Workgroup Update:</u> Stacy Borke led attendees through the Housing Workgroup Action Plan recommendations. The presentation outlined their charge, their recommendations by four focus areas and actions by fiscal year.</p> <p>A guest asked if a place like My Father’s House, a non-profit shelter ministry that helps homeless</p>	
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families and funded solely through private donations, has been looked into – having the public/private sector fund or help with the recommendations. The Housing Workgroup didn't look at what the private market might add. There were some considerations that the Safety off the Street Workgroup did look into such as provision of shelter and emergency services from the faith-based community. Funding sources for the recommendations in the plans remains to be determined.

It was asked if the housing placement staff recommendation was a one year ask or if it was ongoing need. Most recommendations in the plans are ongoing funding. The recommendations are meant to scale a system to achieve the outcomes needed. After a few years, once the unmet need has been met, the system can be scaled back.

HFE Safety off the Streets Workgroup Update: Art Rios, Sr. and Marc Jolin presented the Safety off the Streets Workgroup Action Plan to the board. It included the charge, assumptions, defining safety off the streets, feedback on the charge, Safety off the Streets definition, three strategies that included options and key policy recommendations.

A member asked about hotel vouchers. The workgroup did discuss motel vouchers and it will be continued to be used as an immediate response to an urgent need, and because it is scalable. However, the workgroup decided not to recommend increasing motel vouchers over site base options because of the limitations of ongoing engagement.

A board member asked about the costs associated with a safe haven and why is it more expensive. A safe haven is a form of supportive housing that serves people experiencing homelessness that are inaccessible to most traditional and conventional methods with severe mental illness and have been unable or unwilling to participate in supportive services. The model is based on the [VA Safe Haven model](#) and the expense is due to the 24-hour staffing and case management services needed.

There was a statement from a board member that siting the Safety off the Streets options mentioned would political support and support from traditional and non-traditional partners.

A board member also wanted to know if there were recommendations for including places for couples and pets. As the group evaluates where investment should be placed, there will need to be a population-specific discussion of the model and scale of the programming .

Members asked about any inclusion of the domestic violence (DV) system. There are recommendations to better align the DV system with the homeless system The DV system is currently in the early stages of a system-wide integration process. There was not a specific

	<p>recommendation about DV, but if a confidential placement site is unavailable, the flexibility of a motel voucher would be an option.</p>	
<p>Public Comment - Marc Jolin, Initiative Director</p>	<p>Jolin asked if there were any public comments or announcements to be heard. No comments.</p>	
<p>HFE Coordinating Board Discussion on Action Plan Recommendations - Marc Jolin, Initiative Director</p>	<p>Jolin reviewed the summary of all the recommendations of the workgroups and a roll up all of the financial requests by fiscal year from the workgroups. The group will vote to move the plans forward with any amendments or notes the board discussed to the Executive Committee.</p> <p>It was asked if the safety off the streets options were include in the annualized financial break down. The site based options were not included because the work group did not land on an option and it was not part of the assessment of closing the unmet housing need. The Safety off the Streets recommendations to extend winter shelter capacity to year round is included, and board agreed it will need to be added to the fiscal roll-up and ask for this fiscal year.</p> <p>Jolin asked for a motion to forward the four Action Plans with their funding requests and with the recommendations heard at this meeting – Housing, Health, Workforce & Economic Opportunity, and Safety off the Streets to the Executive Committee. The four Action Plans will be forwarded to the Executive Committee at the March 17, 2015 meeting.</p> <p>Now that the workgroups have built a framework for a system that can begin to meet the need, the group will need to start to develop the tools to guide conversations about more detailed funding prioritization. Staff requested guidance from the board about the board’s principles that should be applied to the range of funding and policy options that face the Executive Committee. Jolin directed members to review the handout with proposed principles to guide investment decisions for reducing unmet need 50% by 2017. The principles should reflect what has been heard from the board and the values that have driven decision making that was happening during the workgroups and meetings.</p> <p>Board members discussed the proposed principles and agreed that the principles are broad and need to be further flushed out with additional explanations in order to build an effective tool.</p> <p>A subcommittee of the board and staff may be formed to develop the prioritization tool as we continue to finalize the plans.</p> <p>Jolin asked members to share, as individuals, what would they like to see prioritized in the next few years that would have the greatest impact and to reduce the unmet need by half by 2017:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Flexibility of funds 	<p>Board elected to include cost and financial request of existing women’s winter shelter to remain year round.</p> <p>Motion to send the four Action Plans forward to the Executive Committee at the March 17, 2015 meeting. All in favor.</p>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • No one currently sheltered go back to streets (continue existing shelters) • Safety off the streets • Help people experiencing the greatest disabilities, that are most at risk and work against their ability to access the system • Outreach • Maintenance of effort, incorporate best practices to program, leave room for piloting (fund flexibility) • Coordinate homelessness prevention of families and children • Ask for solutions we don't have; help for people to get into rentals and use rent assistance, etc. • Prioritize people that are in employments programs, ensure people are not discharged from hospitals into homelessness <p>Jolin asked the board to vote if funding to keep the women's shelter open for the remainder of the year should be prioritized over rent assistance request made for STRA request this fiscal year. The board elected not to vote on this. A board member commented that if the board doesn't make these prioritizations another entity may make them.</p> <p>Jolin announced he will work with staff to craft a prioritization tool and bring it back to the April meeting. Also, he will provide the board with the budget requests that were submitted to the City and the County at the next meeting.</p>	
<p>Closing Comments/Next Meeting - Marc Jolin, Initiative Director</p>	<p>Initiative Director will work with staff on proposals for the next meeting. The next meeting will be Wednesday, April 1, 2015, from 3:00-5:00pm. Meeting is adjourned.</p>	