

A Home for Everyone (AHFE) Coordinating Board

Meeting Minutes – February 3, 2016

Facilitated by: Initiative Director and Co-chair
Prepared by: Carrie Young; Reviewed by: Jurisdictional Staff Members

Members present: Michael Anderson-Nathe), Alexandra Appleton, Jules Bailey, Carolyn Bateson, Israel Bayer, Kris Billhardt, Stacy Borke, Beth Burns, Sam Chase, Jillian Detweiler (Mayor Hales rep.), Shane Kinnison, Brad Malsin, Michael Parkhurst, Art Rios, Sr., Shannon Singleton, Ian Slingerland (Michael Buonocore rep.), Liz Smith Currie (Chair Kafoury rep.), Becky Straus, Cheryl Thompson, Joe Walsh (Councilor Echols rep.), Marisa Zapata. **Staff:** Henry Burton, Mary Carroll, Jennifer Chang, Ryan Deibert, Jane Marie Ford, Debbie Fox, Torrey Giaquinta, Liv Jenssen, Seth Lyon, Kari Lyons-Eubanks, Anna Plumb, Bimal RajBhandary, Wendy Smith, Paul Stewart. **Guests:** Rebekah Albert, Tony Bernal, Michelle Corrigan, Dina DiNucci, John Elizalde, Laura Feldman, Alex Glover, Troy Hammond, Hillary Houck, Nicole Jackson, Larry J. Jackson, Sr., Susan Madar, Rachel Post, Tawna Sanchez, Blair Schaeffer-Bisht, Jay Thiemeyer, Amy Thompson, Jill Weir, Felicia Williams, Bobby Weinstock.

Agenda Item	Discussion Points	Decision/Action
Welcome, Introductions and Minutes - Stacy Borke, Co-chair	Co-chair called the meeting to order and commenced introductions. Comment from a board member regarding past functioning of the subcommittees was requested to be included and January meeting minutes are not approved.	Staff will work to make needed changes to January minutes.
Public Comment - Stacy Borke, Co-chair	<p>Felicia Williams, Chair of Neighbors West-Northwest, a neighborhood district coalition, reported that the directors and chairs of the seven neighborhood coalitions will meet next week for their monthly meeting. They are seeking information on how the County and City funds will be spent on the Homeless State of Emergency and what neighborhoods can do to be part of the solution. She reported that there is a requested Add Package for the City of Portland Office of Neighborhood Involvement’s budget for a pilot engagement around the Housing Emergency to help with community outreach around this issue. Felicia further requested, on behalf of the 7 neighborhood coalitions and 95 neighborhood associations, concrete information to develop a strategy for public outreach and a clear idea on how to move forward in collaboration with AHFE.</p> <p>Marc Jolin, Initiative Director, said he could send Felicia the board prioritization work and recommendations made to the Executive Committee. Marc reported requests, based on the recommendations are being submitted through City and County for the upcoming fiscal year and must go through the respective budget processes. Marc offered to have an AHFE representative attend a Coalition Directors and Chairs meeting and asked Felicia to contact him.</p> <p>David Kif Davis, Fight the Sweeps PDX/Multnomah County Copwatch, came to speak to the board about homeless sweeps and civil rights violations of the homeless, mentally ill, journalists, activists and copwatchers. He reported that sweeps of homeless encampments continue to happen and people experiencing homelessness continue to receive citations/criminal charges for camping, even under the Housing State of Emergency and advocated that they should be discontinued. There are agencies that receive advanced notices of sweeps and asked that notice be made available and distributed widely. Sweeps lead to loss of property (including medications and personal identification), ultimately endangering some of the community’s most vulnerable.</p>	

<p>Initiative and Community Updates - Marc Join, Initiative Director</p>	<p>Mary Carroll, A Home for Every Veteran, reported that thanks to the efforts of multiple organizations, including several with representation on the Coordinating Board, our community exceeded the target number of permanent housing placements for veterans in 2015; the target was 690 and helped 695 veterans find permanent housing. Thanks to intensive outreach and the maintenance of a comprehensive registry, we know that there are 180 veterans seeking permanent housing, most of them with rent assistance and support services already in place.</p> <p>Alex Glover of Transition Projects added a request that efforts continue, and the system be maintained and continue to be improved to ensure that we are able to continue meeting the housing needs of veterans who become homeless in our community.</p> <p>Carolyn Bateson, Portland Veterans Affairs Health Care System, who has been a great partner in the veterans initiative, shared they are working on getting HMIS data entry access so that Veterans that come to the CRRC can be directly entered into HMIS which will help the veteran registry significantly. She reported that there is discussion, at the national level, of turning some Grant Per Diem Program beds into Bridge Housing. This would enable the ability to temporarily enroll a veteran in GPD while awaiting placement in permanent housing (SSVF or VASH), rather than having to commit to 6 or 12 month stay.</p> <p>Marc updated the board, reporting that the Executive Committee accepted the board’s recommendations with respect to the strategies to prioritize spending the proposed \$20 million. The Executive Committee directed to first prioritize reaching the goals of 1350 additional placements, 1000 additional preventions, and 650 additional safety off the streets options. They further directed that priority be given to eliminating the overrepresentation of communities of color in the HUD homeless population, then to ensuring that all women (in families, youth, singles, couples, fleeing domestic violence) have either a permanent housing or emergency shelter option, and then offering expanded housing and shelter options to people living with severe mental illness. They agreed that 34% of the funding should be targeted toward culturally specific providers and that all service provision should be culturally responsive. Staff will submit parallel requests from the recommendations to be included in the City and County budget processes. The Executive Committee also requested that a meeting with the philanthropic community be organized to increase their role more intentionally in our work. Simone M. Brooks, President of Brooks Staffing, and a board member at All Hands Raised and the Portland Business Alliance, was appointed to the Executive Committee. The Executive Committee agreed to begin meeting every two months.</p> <p>County Commissioner Jules Bailey expressed appreciation for the detailed level of work that was put into the board’s outcome-based budgeting process. He confirmed that there was broad agreement from the Executive Committee members for the recommendations presented.</p> <p>Marc Jolin reported that he and Stacy have met with City and County Commissioners over the past month and a half to update them on the board’s outcome-based budget process and its</p>	<p>Staff to email board draft community program guidelines and link to webinar.</p> <p>Coordinating Board members to review draft community program guidelines, and provide input and feedback to staff by February 19.</p>
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	<p>recommendations for the expected \$20 million.</p> <p>Board members were provided draft community guidelines for the program of emergency shelter, transitional housing, rapid re-housing, and permanent supporting housing; which were formed with input from five community dialogues (held from Jan. 26-29) and facilitated by CSH, a national housing policy agency. Jennifer Chang, covered the memorandum included with the draft guidelines that provide background on the process taken to develop the guidelines. In order to be competitive for HUD funding, we must have community guidelines in place. The Coordinating Board is asked to review those guidelines and provide feedback by February 19th. A webinar will be available that provides an overview of the process and goes through the guidelines. Staff will continue to meet and speak with community partners, including East County and communities of color, to further collect input and feedback. The board will be asked to adopt the guidelines on behalf of our continuum in March or April. Marc added that the process and guidelines are meant to compliment the work of the AHFE plans.</p> <p>Stacy announced the Community Advisory Forum will hold a Listening Session with homeless and transitional youth at p:ear (338 NW 6th Ave) on February 24th from 12 to 1 pm.</p> <p>Marc provided the following key upcoming dates:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Feb. 8th, 3 to 5 pm – Portland City Council Work Session on Camping/Shelter at Portland City Hall • Feb. 16th, 9:30 to 11:30 am – Portland Council Work Session on A Home for Everyone at Portland City Hall • Feb. 11th, 10 am to 12 pm – Safety off the Streets Workgroup at Portland Housing Bureau • Feb. 11th, 1 to 3 pm – Housing Workgroup at Portland Housing Bureau • Feb. 5th – Deadline for Co-Chair Nominations • Feb. 12th – Deadline for Board Applications <p>Marc added that Alexa Mason has resigned from Portland Rescue Mission and the board, and Seth Lyon’s last day with the County is this week.</p>	
<p>Applying an Equity Lens and Equity Plan Implementation - Ben Duncan, Multnomah County Office of Diversity and Equity</p>	<p>Marc introduced Ben Duncan, Multnomah County Office of Diversity and Equity Chief.</p> <p>Ben Duncan acknowledged the board’s commitment and focus on equity. Multnomah County’s Equity and Empowerment Lens is a transformative quality improvement tool and a set of processes used to improve planning, decision-making, and resource allocation leading to more racially equitable policies and programs. It is a set of principles, reflective questions, and processes that focuses at the individual, institutional, and systemic levels. The lens is grounded in paradigms that seek: collective stewardship, sustainability, cooperation, and is informed by the Relational Worldview, brain and mind research, and trauma-informed approaches.</p> <p>An equity lens will not make decisions and is designed as a guide for recognizing inequities and to provide information needed for discussion, planning and decision-making that will lead to more</p>	<p>Form Racial Equity Lens Task Force and schedule first meeting in February.</p>

equitable policies and programs. Applying a lens goes beyond simply applying a set of questions and using a lens is not an exact science (not going to be right the first time). The lens is a quality improvement tool and system of practice; it is dynamic and thus ongoing evaluation, reflection, revisions and improvements will be needed as it is used. He suggested that the Racial Equity Lens that AHFE has adopted is missing the inclusion of a tool such as the “5 P’s”. Ben provided and reviewed the “5 P’s” document, a tool used as part of the Equity and Empowerment Lens. The lens encourages examination of issues and decisions in relation to the “5 P’s”: People, Place, Process, Power and Purpose. The 5 P’s allow for holistic analysis of potential impacts on race and class on all aspects of our lives.

Ben summarized that the lens is meant to transform our work and challenge both the individual and institutional levels. Present inequities cannot be undone within the existing system using the same processes. Ben opened up the floor for discussion.

A board member expressed that there is not equal voice at every level; the Executive Committee is missing the community member voice at the table, where decisions are being made that affect lives and it is not equal. There are varying areas of expertise/experience at the table and with that, there is inability to engage and have a voice in every topic at the table. The possible solution proposed is for staff to mentor and further explain topics to increase knowledge needed to engage and have their voices heard in other areas and topics.

Ben responded by asking the board to think about how, in applying an equity lens, it is important to understand the idea of not having a voice and the idea of being marginalized. It is a challenge for the table if a board member is saying they do not feel valued. Ben asked the group to recognize and acknowledge that. What steps can we take to create an empowering and meaningful space with increasing shared knowledge and power? Ben added, it is our obligation to create a space that ensures valued voices are able to contribute meaningfully and effectively.

A board member shared that the board began with the stated desire and commitment to use a racial equity lens, and a tool was created and adopted with intention. The experience has been that we have not often applied the tool. The member asked how do we implement the tool and how do we evolve our understanding of what it looks like to do equity work. The member further expressed concern that we would not be able to change the status quo when we are constantly under significant pressure and short deadlines.

Ben responded that applying a lens is easier to say than do. Applying a lens fully goes beyond asking the questions on the tool, it is a set of processes that lead to meaningful action. Part of the process, and the bigger challenge, is integrating evaluation and accountability in the lens process (what worked and what didn’t, and did we do what we said). Again, a lens is a quality improvement tool and set of processes that evolves as it is applied. Courage, determination, discipline, ongoing evaluation and reflection play a significant role in the success of sustainable transformative change; it is important to not be paralyzed if it at first it not successful. If a funding stream is working from a

	<p>different paradigm, sit with the challenge, understand what can be done and figure out how to move forward.</p> <p>Another board member reflected that the Racial Equity Tool was created, but it was not used and the opportunity is for the board to figure out what it looks like to do equity work and how to disrupt status quo. Ben stated that he assumed that the board was struggling with how to move forward. Ben suggested that when process is the focus at the beginning, it forces entry in that space. Additionally, in a purpose-driven system all members align around transformative values and goals, moving towards racial equity together.</p> <p>Another board member stated that we had not often used the tool and that in order to disrupt the status quo we need to ask why. The board member shared that from their perspective the rushed deadlines/timelines and staff capacity, including lack of technical assistance, to do the work is preventing the board from moving forward.</p> <p>Ben reflected that technical assistance and facilitation does need to be intentional. The pathway to transformative change is not always clear when operating in a bureaucratic/political framework because dynamic advocacy and policy work often happens in multiple settings with multiple players, and not always in a linear fashion. There are going to be constraints, internal and external barriers and an equity lens is not going to solve or make decisions. It requires you to sit with the struggle, understand what the impacts are, and have conversations about what can be done and how to move toward the goal of equity.</p> <p>A member stated that there are several types of resistance that are present or will surface to slow progress. It should not be a choice to not make a decision or move forward, and we should instead balance the short term decisions needed with the long term transformation goal, and to continually make improvements. A member shared that they too feel that time constraints have gotten us off track and that there are still convoluted processes. The member expressed feeling expected to speak for their whole community, indicating that they were generally viewed as the token representative of the community, rather than as an individual, in smaller workgroup settings and that the member felt their suggestions were not taken seriously when making recommendations.</p> <p>Ben expressed gratefulness for members sharing their stories. Sometimes well-intentioned efforts to ensure diverse representation can feel like tokenism. It is important to create a space for people to come authentically as whole selves and build capacity for participation.</p> <p>A board member reported that they took the risk to join the board, even though it may be difficult, because it was important. The member added that when the board was asked to participate in the individual outcome-based budget activity that included a racial equity lens, not everyone participated. The board member stated that they made the effort to participate and expressed feeling affected and not valued due to others not taking the time to complete the process. The board member also mentioned that when serving a vulnerable population, if you take the time to</p>	
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	<p>get to know them, you can learn a lot and they can help you do a better job.</p> <p>Ben asked the group to recognize and hold that three members have described, in different ways, a lack of sense of value and that they do not share the same status as others on the Board. He added that the group will need to examine power and process. On an on-going basis, seek to determine whether or not all members feel valued, respected and included in decision-making.</p> <p>A member suggested looking at operationalizing how the board can do equity work better and to possibly advise the Executive Committee of the possible pitfalls of the priorities that have been recommended and how they may be addressed in implementation.</p> <p>Marc identified next steps of convening a smaller group in the next month to review the equity lens, the process we use, and make recommendations. He asked board members interested to assist be a part of the task force to notify staff. Ben offered Office of Diversity and Equity assistance. A board member added that studies report that asking people of color to bear the goal of equity when others are not similarly coming to the table is demoralizing and reinforces the experience of being marginalized. It is thus important that it is not just people of color who are participating in the work group.</p>	
<p>Local Definition of Homelessness - Shannon Singleton, JOIN</p>	<p>Shannon Singleton presented and read the following additional to the HUD homeless definition for a local definition of homelessness:</p> <p><i>“An individual or family that is imminently at risk of losing access to, or is unsafely sharing, the housing of other persons due to loss of housing, economic hardship, or a similar reason (e.g. person’s presence is in violation of a lease/rental agreement, housing has been deemed uninhabitable by a government or social service agency, there exists an imminent threat of violence and/or illegal activity, the individual’s or family’s presence violates maximum housing occupancy limits).”</i></p> <p>The addition is a recommendation based on what was heard from communities to refine the definition to be more inclusive of the actual population experiencing homelessness and the desire to be able to serve communities of color in a more intentional way.</p> <p>There were many comments from board members that more information is needed regarding the impacts (including opportunities, how to estimate, count in the point-in-time and resource and system implications) of accepting the addition to the definition prior to being able to further discuss and make a decision.</p>	<p>Identify impacts of addition to definition of homelessness.</p>
<p>Next Meeting - Marc Jolin, Initiative Director</p>	<p>The next meeting will be Wednesday, March 2, 2016, from 3:00-5:00 pm.</p> <p>Meeting is adjourned.</p>	