

A Home for Everyone (AHFE) Coordinating Board

Meeting Minutes – March 2, 2016

Facilitated by: Initiative Director and Co-chair

Prepared by: Carrie Young; Reviewed by: Jurisdictional Staff Members

Members present: Raihanna Ansary, Alexandra Appleton, Jules Bailey, Kris Billhardt, Ed Blackburn, Stacy Borke, Michael Buonocore, Beth Burns, Sam Chase, Jillian Detweiler (Mayor Hales rep.), Rene Duboise, Maurice Evans, Monique Menconi, Anne O’Malley, Michael Parkhurst, Art Rios, Sr., Liz Smith Currie (Chair Kafoury rep.), Cheryl Thompson, Joe Walsh (Councilor Echols rep.), Sara Westbrook, Marisa Zapata. **Staff:** Becky Bangs, Henry Burton, Caitlin Campbell, Jennifer Chang, Ryan Deibert, Jane Marie Ford, Debbie Fox, Torrey Giaquinta, Jessica Kinard, Tiffany Kingery, Liv Jessen, Anna Plumb, Bimal RajBhandary, Neisha Saxena, Wendy Smith. **Guests:** Chelse Bender, Rachel Carlson, Dina DiNucci, John Elizalde, Abby Gassama, Troy Hammond, Keira Hansen, JoAnn Hemstreet, Orion Lumiere, Susan Madar, Julie McFarland, Patricia McLean, Rachel Post, Amanada Saul, Alisa Sanchez, Blair Schaeffer-Bisht, Roy Scholl, Kate Schwab, Tom Wehrley, Bobby Weinstock, Mary Westfall.

Agenda Item	Discussion Points	Decision/Action
<p>Welcome, Introductions and Minutes - Stacy Borke, Co-chair</p>	<p>Co-chair called the meeting to order and commenced introductions.</p> <p>January and February 2016 minutes were approved by consent; no objections.</p>	
<p>Public Comment - Stacy Borke, Co-chair</p>	<p>Robert West, shared concerns regarding police interfering with people filming during sweeps, that it is a violation of their rights to film police activities. Robert West reported that phones are being confiscated by police as evidence and citations are being issued for jaywalking.</p> <p>David Kif Davis, Fight the Sweeps PDX/Multnomah County Copwatch, shared concerns about homeless sweeps and that the most recent sweeps were mishandled. There are agencies that receive advanced notices of sweeps, such as JOIN, and that notice should be made available and distributed widely. Information, such as the Street Roots Resource Guide, and service connection should be provided if sweeps are going to continue.</p> <p>Sara Long shared with the board, the necessity of opening up backyards and commercial, privately owned property to camping during the State of Emergency. Sara Long reported several City codes that ban public camping and are unconstitutional.</p>	
<p>Data and Evaluation Committee: AHFE System Level Monitoring and Reporting Plan - Bimal RajBhandary, Portland Housing Bureau</p>	<p>Bimal RajBhandary reviewed the proposed AHFE Systems Performance Monitoring and Reporting Plan with the board. This plan includes the recommended set of measures that, as a system, will be used to monitor performance. These include required HUD measures and six additional measures that were created in consultation with city, county, and service provider stakeholders. Next steps include, testing indicators and reports by collecting data systematically. The Data and Evaluation Committee’s first complete reporting goal is May 2016 and they will be reporting to the Coordinating Board on a regular basis.</p> <p>Board member asked about tracking outcomes for people with serious/severe mental illness.</p> <p>Board members asked about concerns for completeness of data. There are always concerns with data completeness and accuracy, and the HMIS Data Management Committee (Data in) is</p>	<p>Motion to approve Systems Performance Monitoring and Reporting Plan. All in favor.</p>

	<p>working on a plan that will be brought to the board soon.</p> <p>Marc asked if there were any further questions or concerns, and if there was a motion to approve the plan.</p>	
<p>Initiative and Community Updates - Marc Jolin, Initiative Director</p>	<p>Marc updated the board, reporting that a letter from Chair Kafoury and Commissioner Saltzman was sent to Board members in early February, that provided members an update on potential City and County Joint Office of Homeless Services planning. Staff from the City and County were convened to review multiple lead agency options and produce a recommendation. Their recommendation is to create a lead agency, hosted by the County and guided by AHFE values, that integrates the various homeless service systems and coordinates across County and City agencies. A joint steering committee of City and County staff is currently working on constructing an implementation strategy that will guide the transition to a single homeless services agency that will ensure a seamless transition (not disrupt services and contracts).</p>	
<p>Community Program Guidelines for Emergency Shelter, Transitional Housing, Permanent Supportive Housing and Rapid Rehousing - Jennifer Chang, Portland Housing Bureau - Julie McFarland and Heather Lyons, CSH</p>	<p>Board members were provided proposed community guidelines (March 2, 2016) for emergency shelter, transitional housing, rapid re-housing, and permanent supportive housing, which were developed with input from five community dialogues facilitated by CSH, a national housing policy agency, and additional outreach to the community. Jennifer Chang, reviewed the preliminary staff application of the Racial Equity Lens to the draft Community Program Guidelines with members. Julie McFarland and Heather Lyons provided an overview of the community process, benefits of program guidelines, and program guideline highlights.</p> <p>Board member asked about the budget implications of the guidelines. It has not been cross-walked and it is envisioned that the guidelines will be implemented with new funding.</p> <p>Board members discussed implications of coordinated access. Concerns were expressed regarding a vulnerability score-based access/prioritization, particularly for emergency based shelter (safe sleep option is a basic right). Additionally, concern was raised that vulnerability score-based access/prioritization is invasive and not equitable or evidence based; can be screened in/out based on perceived vulnerability. Board member asked to see assessment tools currently used in the community. There are assessment tools for the DV, youth, and family systems and HOPE project.</p> <p>Board member communicated that culturally specific providers are better prepared to serve communities of color and provided with support to be better prepared.</p> <p>Board member added that implementing an invasive assessment for federal funding and creating barriers or possibly not being able to provide assistance to someone that is clearly in need enforces institutional oppression.</p> <p>Marc asked members to send reflections and feedback to staff.</p>	<p>Board members to send feedback on guidelines and the racial equity lens application to staff.</p>
<p>Local Definition of</p>	<p>Members were provided the following possible addition to the HUD homeless definition for a</p>	<p>Motion to approve the</p>

<p>Homelessness - Marc Jolin, Initiative Director</p>	<p>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>Members were also provided a preliminary staff application of the Racial Equity Lens on the local definition of homelessness handout and a handout on the impacts of adopting a broader definition of homelessness. Board members were asked to breakout into small groups of 4 (and one group of 3) and discuss a question from the racial equity lens application handout and a question from the impacts handout and then report out to the larger group.</p> <p>Comments heard from report outs:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - The examples are helpful, provide clarity and broad enough to provide flexibility - Examples/criteria exclude based on need - Gathering data will be challenging - Need to communicate the addition to the definition properly, how to manage public impression - Possibility of stigmatizing a population that does not identify as homeless - Clear number of African American’s to be served and set amount of funding <p>After discussing specific language and whether to include examples, the group agreed to and a board member read aloud, prior to voting, the following language for addition to the HUD homeless definition:</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; including, but not limited to 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>updated language agreed upon for addition to the HUD homeless definition for a local definition of homelessness. Majority in favor. No opposed. Two abstained.</p>
<p>Next Meeting - Marc Jolin, Initiative Director</p>	<p>The next meeting will be Wednesday, April 6, 2016, from 3:00-5:00 pm.</p> <p>Meeting is adjourned.</p>	