

A Home for Everyone (AHFE) Coordinating Board

Meeting Minutes – November 2, 2016

Facilitated by: Initiative Director and Co-chairs

Prepared by: Rhea Graves; Reviewed by: Jurisdictional Staff Members

Members present: Raihana Ansary, Alexandra Appleton, Henry Burton (Jules Bailey rep), Stacy Borke, Michael Buonocore, Beth Burns, Shannon Callahan (Councilor Dan Saltzman rep), Sam Chase, Liz Smith Currie (Chair Kafoury rep.), Andrew McGough, Monique Menconi, Michael Parkhurst, Art Rios Sr., Patricia Rojas, Tawna Sanchez, Shannon Singleton, Nicole Stein, Becky Straus, Martha Strawn Morris, Derald Walker, Joe Walsh (Councilor Echols rep.), Marisa Zapata
Staff: Jennifer Chang, Ryan Deibert, Christian Elkin, Sally Erickson, Christian Gaston, Rhea Graves, Jessica Kinard, Tiffany Kingery, Erin Pidot, Anna Plumb, Bimal RajBhandary, Kate Schwab, Ian Slingerland, Wendy Smith, Paul Stewart, Carrie Young. **Guests:** Alex Bassos, Giovanni Battles, Liora Berry, Rachel Carlson, John Elizalde, Jacob Engstrom, Laura Golino de Lovato, Charles Hodge, Caitlin Keitel, Alexa Mason, Robert Noche, Kristin Rein, Samantha Ridderbusch, Sean Suib, Michael Thurman, Amy Vance, Bobby Weinstock.

Agenda Item	Discussion Points	Decision/Action
<p>Welcome, Introductions & Minutes</p> <p>- Stacy Borke, Co-chair</p>	<p>Stacy Borke, Co-chair called the meeting to order, reviewed agenda, explained public comment process and commenced introductions.</p> <p>October 2016 meeting minutes were approved by consent; no objections.</p>	
<p>Public Comment</p> <p>- Stacy Borke, Co-chair</p>	<p>Floor opened for public comments. Caitlin Keitel, Sisters of the Road, addressed the Coordinating Board about her organization’s work providing healthy meals for people without access to steady meals in our community in a dignified environment. Caitlin shared that there there is insufficient access to bathrooms and hygiene centers in our city. She requests that A Home for Everyone (AHFE) include adequate funding for restrooms and access to hygiene facilities. Marc Jolin, Initiative Director, asked if Caitlin had specific recommendations about how to expand access. Caitlin mentioned speaking with the Board of Multnomah County Commissioners and envisions a stationary site rather than mobile. She referenced great models in Seattle and Santa Monica. The results of a study done by PSU students cites the impacts as well as the health consequences associated with inadequate access to hygiene resources. Stacy Borke, Co-chair, asked Caitlin to provide her email address to ensure that she gets invitations to the upcoming Safety off the Streets workgroup meeting. A Board member recommended getting input from the business community on how to make use of existing restrooms more manageable while maintaining functionality in the participating agency’s building. He added that addressing the real concerns of staff is vital in gaining support for making more restroom and hygiene resources available in the community.</p>	
<p>Initiative Updates: Emergency Shelter and Severe Weather</p> <p>- Marc Jolin, Initiative Director</p>	<p>Marc shared that on Nov 16th The Willamette Center, serving mostly couples, will open. In light of the Willamette Center’s opening, we hope to have updates on occupancy for the Hansen Shelter. The temporary evening shelter, Peace II, will be located on SW Stark and SW Park. The temporary building space for the shelter was donated by Project ^ and will accompdate about 60 people. Transition Projects, Inc. will provide operations for the Peace II Shelter and it is scheduled to open during Thanksgiving week. Marc Jolin shared that we are actively working to relieve the stress on our family shelter; the growing need outweighs the family shelter’s capacity to sustain housing families in such large numbers. Marc cited a sizeable investment in diversion to help families transition out of shelter</p>	

	<p>and to prevent vulnerable families from becoming homeless.</p> <p>Marc shared that the Joint Office of Homeless Services (JOHS) and County Emergency Management are revisiting the severe weather response protocols. When certain weather triggers are activated our system is able to generate additional shelter capacity and provide resources to help protect those living on the streets during extreme severe conditions. Imago Dei will open emergency shelter in the event of a severe weather emergency. JOHS is currently in conversations with the City of Gresham to make sure facilities will be available in the Gresham area as well.</p> <p>Board member asked a question, “is T1 dead?” Marc responded that he is uncertain about what happened at the City Council meeting today, but the “idea of using T1 as a short-term shelter is no longer on the table.” A Board member responded and mentioned zoning obstacles involving Metro. Stacy Borke mentioned that the interest to participate in homeless efforts among the private sector is still alive and hopes to see this interest continued in next steps.</p> <p>Erin Pidot, Joint Office of Homeless Services, reported on the Coordinated Access for Adults Task Force (CAT). The CAT is made up of representatives from HUD funded organizations, and stakeholders that will be directly involved in the Coordinated Access shift. The group will shape policy and procedure recommendations surrounding Coordinated Access and present to the Coordinating Board in early 2017.</p> <p>Marc shared that the Springwater cleanup has been completed and those who were involved in the effort have engaged to identify process improvement points. Many volunteers were able to use the relationships they cultivated to help facilitate folks moving outside of the corridor and into housing. Though permanent housing was not option for everyone, many folks were able to get on waiting lists for needed services and obtain ids- both will prove useful in overcoming the obstacles that many campers face. A summary of the debrief will be provided to the Safety off the Streets (SOS) workgroup for recommendations and feedback. Board member asked “how many resources are being committed to developing lessons learned?” and “what lessons are we seeking to get out of this?” Marc shared that we’re planning to dedicate time to hold one 2-hour meeting and the administrative capacity it takes to summarize the results of this meeting. He highlighted that we are interested in feedback on service coordination as the Springwater Corridor was an unprecedented large-scale coordination effort. This will provide recommendations on improving overall coordination process in the future.</p>	
<p>FY17-18 2018 Budget & Policy Recommendations from Workgroups - Ryan Deibert, Joint Office of Homeless Services</p>	<p>Ryan introduced the equity exercise asking Board members to discuss the following question in groups: “The Board of your organization votes to invest 40% of your overall homeless services resources into serving marginalized communities, either through your organization or through relationships with other organizations. How do you decide to allocate the money? How do you ensure you serve the needs of people of color most effectively? How do you ensure that this new funding prioritization is integrated into your policies, procedures and practices?”</p> <p>Ryan reported that after conducting the racial equity exercises, workgroup members shared similar</p>	

feedback; nearly all of them highlighted that there were many voices not present at the table for this conversation. Workgroup members expressed a priority to implement outreach strategies in getting other voices to the table. Among the various workgroups there was an expressed need for flexibility in spending and resources; this tool was cited to effectively expand services to communities of color as well.

An audience member suggested holding community listening sessions to get critical feedback from the people we are serving in order to improve resources access. A Board member shared concern that folks are becoming “too focused on who isn’t at the table, instead of focusing on the issues of equity and identifying disparities.” Ryan responded that all of the workgroups acknowledged the missing voices and discussed a need to reach out to the community and join their tables with the question “what is needed?” The workgroups agreed that it is too early to shift investments and we need to “stay the course and see the outcomes after the investments have been fully implemented.” A Board member asked, “are the ranked priorities consistent with the investments we are currently implementing”? Ryan replied, “Yes and no, we see higher ranked priorities in areas that our system is already contributing, but we also see ranked priorities in areas where a gap of service has already been identified”.

Shannon Singleton, Co-chair, commented that shelters struggle to meet the need without the availability of affordable housing. This was discussed in the Safety Off the Streets (SOS) workgroup meeting where the need for Rapid Re-Housing (RRH) out of shelter was labeled a high priority strategy and also discussed the need to construct more affordable housing units overall. It was highlighted that this is a non-traditional strategy for the SOS workgroup to recommend, but a recommendation echoed by all the workgroups who participated in this exercise. Board member commented, “The amount of shelter space we have has grown dramatically yet the percentage of African-Americans in shelter has gone down 1% despite the large numbers of African-Americans on the street”. Board member asked, “how is addressing this reflected in the priority recommendations we’ve seen?”

Shannon commented that feedback from culturally specific partners indicated that among African-Americans, many folks are falling out of shelter very quickly upon entering. Shannon also mentioned that suggestions lean towards creating more flexible funding to secure housing or help folks who are currently doubled-up to retain their housing. Board member suggested looking for alternative housing solutions to support communities of color, keeping in mind those communities where shelter is not a culturally relevant intervention. Tiffany Kingery, JOHS, commented that that the levels of folks accessing shelter are different when looking at the family system. She reported that we see larger numbers in families served among families of color. Board member asked, “have we developed changes to the Street Count that could better include people that have been hidden in previous counts”? Ryan mentioned that this will be discussed near the end of today’s meeting.

The Housing workgroup provided recommendations on how quickly people are exiting housing and how we can use policy and legal safety measures to help people retain housing. The Housing

workgroup also ranked RRH lower than longer term rent supports. Expanding the creation of flexible rent assistance was a recommendation that came up throughout many workgroups, including housing. Marc commented that the feedback suggested there is a need for longer-term ongoing support. Stacy commented that some folks are not going to be served by rent buy-down programs that do not capture less vulnerable populations. Some folks have a very close income to rent ratio and do not need case management or intensive services. “These individuals just need cash assistance to retain their housing.” Stacy added that this kind of prevention is critical for many families that work full-time and are still struggling to pay rent each month.

Andrew McGough, Worksystems, shared the enthusiasm from the Workforce & Economic Opportunity Workgroup to “stay the course” with current investments. The workgroup split into small groups within this exercise and saw very similar recommendations come out of the small group work sessions, which allowed the prioritization process to be completed very simply. All of the small groups cited the necessity for investment in full FTE for the [Community Works Project](#). This strategy appears at number one on the recommendation list.

Board member mentioned the importance of resourcing our staff to address the income to rent ratio that many folks are facing alongside the clients we serve. Another member agreed, adding that, “it is a big issue if our staff need services despite their work in providing services to folks in the community”.

Board member suggested that flexible funding be available to address barriers that certain communities face in the workforce surrounding access and skills development.

The Health Workgroup populated a group of strategies, but did not undergo a ranking exercise. Among the strategies recommended were assertive community treatment teams, investment in medical support, a focus on leveraging Medicaid resources, and stronger integration with the reentry population. A Board member asked, “where is increased mental health capacity reflected in the Health Workgroup strategies”? Ryan suggested that any questions coming from the Coordinating Board could be brought back to the workgroups for additional information.

Erin Pidot, JOHS, gave an overview of the strategies recommended by the Veterans Workgroup. Manager for the Landlord Recruitment and Retention team advocated for capacity building at the last Veteran’s meeting. The program is limited in resources and staff to conduct outreach with landlords/property managers from communities of color. The workgroup also discussed the need to increase the number of Home Forward vouchers set-aside for veterans along with funding to provide supportive services. Shannon mentioned that the group did not have recent information about the availability of flexible funds; nearly all of the flexible funding has been spent for the current year. Shannon added that the Veterans Workgroup might have ranked strategies differently if this information was available at the meeting.

Marc noted that the top 5 recommendations from each workgroup will be compiled in a survey and Coordinating Board members will be asked to rank them and provide feedback.

<p>2017 Legislative Agenda: Overview of Process, Timeline, and Priorities</p> <p>-Allison McIntosh & Jenny Lee, Neighborhood Partnerships</p> <p>-Phillip Kennedy Wong, Oregon Food Bank & TANF Alliance</p>	<p>Allison McIntosh and Jenny Lee, Neighborhood Partnerships, coordinate the convening of a statewide coalition called the Housing Alliance. The Housing Alliance has undergone a workgroup process involving 6 workgroups including homelessness, tenant protections, development and land use, preservation, homeownership, and mortgage interest reduction reform. The Housing Alliance’s legislative agenda includes strategies to protect renters, produce affordable housing, and preserve existing affordable housing. View the Housing Alliance’s Legislative Agenda online for more information.</p> <p>Phillip Kennedy Wong is an advocate for the Oregon Food Bank and works with the TANF Alliance. The TANF Alliance is comprised of a group of advocates from various organizations who advocate for the sustained support of the Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF) program serving families in need. The TANF Alliance has been hard at work restoring the cuts imposed on the TANF program throughout 2011-2013. Financial cuts in transportation budgets for single parents, childcare and other services were endured during this time and made significant impacts on the supports available for our most vulnerable families. We do not know what the state revenue situation will look like for the next fiscal year, but a significant amount of the proposed cuts for Department of Human Services (DHS) will likely come out of the TANF program. The Proposed Budget Cuts document from the Oregon Center for Public Policy analyzes what these cuts could mean to the system.</p> <p>Board member asked, “can immigrants access TANF funds”? Phillip responded, “no, but there is a specific program in TANF that serves refugees”. This policy is due to federal restrictions.</p> <p>Marc added that if the timeline restrictions were lowered by any number of years, eligible families would no longer receive this needed funding and this would negatively impact the most vulnerable families in our system.</p>	
<p>2017 Point-in Time Count Update</p> <p>Ryan Deibert, Joint Office of Homeless Services</p>	<p>Ryan shared that January 25, 2017 is the date of the next Point-in-Time (PIT) Count. This will provide updated data on how many folks are in our shelters or living on the streets on any given night. The PIT Count is required by HUD every two years and involves extensive work by providers, outreach workers, and volunteers. PSU researchers will help facilitate this year’s PIT Count. The team will make some recommendations about implementation of an annual count and methodology to ensure that folks in doubled-up/tripled-up situations are captured in the data we receive.</p>	
<p>Next Meeting</p> <p>- Marc Jolin, Initiative Director</p>	<p>The next meeting will be 3:00 – 5:00 PM on Wednesday, December 7, 2016</p> <p>Meeting adjourned.</p>	