

A Home for Everyone (AHFE) Coordinating Board

Meeting Minutes – December 7, 2016

Facilitated by: Initiative Director and Co-chairs
 Prepared by: Rhea Graves; Reviewed by: Jurisdictional Staff Members

Members present: Raihana Ansary, Henry Burton (Jules Bailey rep.),Carolynn Bateson, Ed Blackburn, Stacy Borke, Beth Burns, Janelle Mellor (Sam Chase rep.), Julia Delgado, Rene Duboise, Maurice Evans, Ben Mauro (Mayor Hales rep.), Marc Jolin, Liz Smith Currie (Chair Kafoury rep.), Monique Menconi, Anne O’Malley, Patricia Rojas, Tawna Sanchez, Shannon Singleton, Nicole Stein, Becky Straus, Lee Po Cha, Derald Walker, Joe Walsh (Councilor Echols rep.), Marisa Zapata. **Staff:** Caitlin Campbell, Jennifer Chang, Ryan Deibert, Christian Elkin, Rhea Graves, Mark Johnson, Jessica Kinard, Tiffany Kingery, Jane Marie Ford, Liv Jessen, Erin Pidot, Anna Plumb, Kate Schwab, Ian Slingerland, Loretta Smith, Wendy Smith, Julie Sullivan-Springhetti, Carrie Young. **Guests:** Chris Aiosa, Alex Bejarano, Rachel Carlson, John Elizalde, Michael Fisher, Patrick Gihring, Laura Golino de Lovato, Kiera Hansen, Robert Noche, Jace Richard, Mark Rose, Mark Sturbois, Amy Thompson, Michael Thurman, Megan Wilson, Colleen Yoshihara.

Agenda Item	Discussion Points	Decision/Action
Welcome, Introductions & Minutes - Stacy Borke, Co-chair	Stacy Borke, Initiative Co-chair called the meeting to order, reviewed agenda, explained public comment process and commenced introductions. November 2016 meeting minutes were approved by consent; no objections.	
Public Comment - Stacy Borke, Co-chair	Karissa Moden, Sisters of the Road, expressed her appreciation for the collective work everyone is doing. She expressed concern over inadequate access to hygiene centers for people experiencing homelessness in our community. Portland State university (PSU) students conducted a research project collecting data on about 550 people experiencing homelessness and the impacts of being denied access to hygiene centers. The findings of the project indicated: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 40% experienced medical conditions • 21% were denied access to food, meals, and services • 22% were denied access to shelter • 21% were cited or ticketed A copy of the report containing the findings of this work can be found here: Hygiene Project Report 2016 . Karissa asked for collaboration, expertise, and advice on getting the word out on this critical need.	Contact Karissa Moden, Sisters of the Road, at karissa@sistersoftheroad.org for additional information regarding the hygiene centers project.
Updates & Announcements - Stacy Borke, Co-chair	Patricia Rojas, El Programa Hispano Católico (EPHC), shared that her organization is one of the recipients of the Meyer Memorial Trust (MMT) Housing Opportunities grants awarded this year. The two-year grant will allow EPHC to implement culturally-specific, intensive housing case management for low-income Latino seniors at risk of displacement in the Portland metro region. Board member announced that there are Tribal HUD-Veterans Affairs Supportive Housing (Tribal HUD-VASH) vouchers available to provide permanent, supported housing to Native American Veterans experiencing or at risk of homelessness in communities served by the Warm Springs Housing Authority. Currently only 3 of the 20 vouchers are currently in use. Becky Straus, Oregon Law Center, shared that Stable Homes for Oregon Families , a coalition	

	<p>advocating for tenant protections, working on state legislation efforts to repeal the ban on rent stabilization measures and implement a just cause eviction clause. The next stakeholder meeting will take place on Thursday, December 15 from 3:00 to 5:00 PM at SEIU Local 49 (3536 SE 26th Ave., Portland).</p> <p>Board member shared information about the Know Your Rights community dialogue sessions being held in communities across the state to ensure that immigrants and refugees know their legal rights in the event of a changing immigration climate.</p> <p>Monique Menconi, Still Life, shared that she and several other community members have been working on an initiative to create a pilot model for hosting emergency shelter pods on faith-based organization parking lots. Ben Mauro, City of Portland Mayor’s Office, mentioned a similar project underway in the near future.</p> <p>Rene Duboise, Oregon Department of Human Services, shared that she is retiring at the end of this month and this will be her last board meeting.</p> <p>Marisa Zapata, Portland State University, shared that a faculty member is looking for community partnership to develop an evaluation framework for any topic or project that you are interested in. Email Marisa at mazapata@pdx.edu for further information about the application.</p>	
<p>Assertive Engagement Training Update - Tiffany Kingery, Joint Office of Homeless Services</p>	<p>Tiffany Kingery, Joint Office of Homeless Services (JOHS), shared that preparations are in progress to kick off the first of several Assertive Engagement (AE) trainings in partnership with the Department of County Human Services (DCHS). The first training is a day-long session for managers and directors. The target audience will be for those currently working within the adult system. The AE training was developed with the AHFE Community Program Guidelines recommended by the Coordinating Board in mind. Invitations will be sent out shortly for the initial training taking place on January 17, 2017. Tiffany reiterated that they are particularly interested in getting feedback on what information providers are most interested in; this information will be used to develop a condensed curriculum for provider staff.</p>	
<p>Request for Information (RFI) Status Update - Erin Pidot, Joint Office of Homeless Services - Ryan Deibert, Joint Office of Homeless Services</p>	<p>Erin Pidot, JOHS, shared a summary of the Request for Information (RFI) for a Mobile Navigation and Assessment Team that is currently active on the County Procurement Website and closes on December 19th.</p> <p>Ryan Deibert, JOHS, shared that there are two additional RFIs coming. The first is for a mobile in-reach team that came out of the planning for this year’s budget to provide rapid re-housing and supportive services for 100 women each year. The second is for a mobile team focused on permanent supportive housing (PSH). Ideally, this team would offer culturally-specific and linguistic appropriate services, while providing further opportunities to link clients to PSH units available.</p>	

<p>Worksystems, Inc. Grant Presentation - Patrick Gihring, Worksystems Inc.</p>	<p>Patrick Gihring, Worksystems Inc. (WSI), shared that there is a freeze in terms of education spending. The Governor’s Proposed budget included a cut in employment supports and this could mean a \$100, 000 reduction in on-the-job training resources and state-sector workforce resources. Despite this, WSI was awarded the Department of Labor’s America’s Promise Grant, a \$6 million grant to span the course of 4 years. Clackamas and Southwest Washington are partners in this grant as well. Patrick mentioned that a year ago WSI received a \$12 million health and human services grant and this will be leveraged in light of the new funding. This grant could be used to move forward projects like the Peer Support Specialists and Peer Health Navigator positions discussed in the AHFE workgroups. Patrick and his team are in the developmental stages of creating an agenda for funding use and will provide more details as they come available. Board member asked how these funds will be accessed. Patrick mentioned that partners such as the Department of Human Services (DHS), Immigrant & Refugee Community Organization (IRCO), and Central City Concern will be involved in outreach and service provision. Participants in the program will be assigned a career coach to help them develop a plan to enter the health field. Patrick mentioned that Oregon Health and Science University (OHSU) and other employers have expressed interest in hiring graduates of the program as well. The program will create a network of community based partners and employers who share the goal of expanding workforce and training access to those currently experiencing barriers.</p>	
<p>Budget Recommendations: Workgroup Debrief - Marc Jolin, Initiative Director</p>	<p>Marc gave a brief recap of the process used to develop the budget recommendations proposed by the AHFE workgroups. The workgroups reviewed data, current investments and 2016-2017 service delivery goals and proposed the top priority recommendations to the Coordinating Board. The Coordinating Board ranked the proposed priorities and these recommendations were revisited by the workgroups before being adopted by the Coordinating Board. Staff is in the process of preparing the recommended budget based upon the approved recommendations and will bring these to Policy & Budget Alignment Committee (PBAC) and the Executive Committee for feedback.</p> <p>The workgroups all emphasized the importance of sustaining capacity to prevent at least 9,000 people from becoming homeless, to place at least 4,350 into permanent housing, and to maintain at least 650 additional year-round emergency shelter beds. In addition, there was expressed agreement to continue to prioritize increased housing and shelter capacity to women (in all household types), to people with severe and persistent mental illness, and the elimination of racial and ethnic disparities in the homeless population.</p> <p>Ed Blackburn, Central City Concern, asked how to “effectively explain that 4,350 placements were made into permanent housing.” Marc shared that this large number is the result of our entire system working tirelessly to leverage the resources we have to place as many people as possible into permanent housing. The placements reflect total households moved into housing, so this number reflects the 6 person family the same as a single adult. The information is pulled directly from the Homeless Management Information System (HMIS) and reflects all of the reported</p>	<p>Motion to accept and approve program priorities with updated language to be forwarded to Executive Committee. All in favor.</p>

placements. Ed requested a future presentation containing a higher level of detail on placements both straight from the street and out of transitional housing. He added that it is important that our system's successes are highlighted in the community and we need more information on retention rates in order to communicate this. Board member suggested that we have a good set of talking points around "why we still see people on the street" to share the narrative on our successes and the communicate the work still needing to be done. Marc responded that we can work towards getting this detail and agreed that the success of our work is important to communicate to the larger community.

Marc shared a few factors that we will have to address in order to reach our goal of sustaining current capacity. Retention and prevention continue to grow more expensive in the current rental market. Non-profit providers have shared that, with the newly created system expansion, the current staff is strained and turnover is high. This causes obstacles in sustaining current capacity levels and is important to take into account during the budget cycle.

After addressing current capacity it was agreed that, if there are additional dollars, funding for diversion, prevention, and expanding affordable housing would be prioritized. Marc asked the Coordinating Board and there was no dissent with this agenda moving forward.

Board member asked if the conversation about leveraging Medicaid and other payers to reimburse for certain expenses could help us allocate our limited resources more effectively. Board member also highlighted constraints that exist in seeking reimbursement from Medicaid. Providers face barriers in opening a case for reimbursement through Medicaid due to the many requirements of the program. Medicaid requires a medical treatment plan tailored to an individual's needs, notes for each encounter between the provider and client, and specific billable Medicaid codes. In addition to the provider's capacity constraints to initiate this process, many participants that could benefit from mental health and addiction treatment are opposed to the formalized process required by the system. Many are hesitant to say they need mental health services in the first place. Board member suggested looking into Medicaid for reimbursable services while also looking into other payers as well.

Patricia Rojas, El Programa Hispano Católico, asked a question about the strings attached to getting services. She emphasized the importance of retaining flexibility in funding to ensure that all of our communities have access and are positively impacted by the priorities we designate. Marisa Zapata, Portland State University, asked if the election urges us to discuss an alternative plan in the event of large cuts from HUD.

Lee Po Cha, IRCO, mentioned that retention data as it relates to permanent housing placements is an important area of data for us to collect. Lee Po Cha is interested in the success rates of retention and what percentage of the families that have been placed have fallen back into the support system. He added that this becomes very important in the event of future budget cuts. Board member expressed the need to tell the story of those who graduate out of supportive

services by “obtaining disability or full-time employment.” This frees up our service capacity for someone else in need and is a positive narrative for our system.

Board member asked the operational definition of permanent in permanent supportive housing. Marc responded that permanent indicates there is no artificial time limit on staying in the unit. This is in contrast with transitional housing that has time limits imposed.

Maurice Evans, Community Member, shared concerns about the internal barriers to service that clients face. The assessment process is lengthy, yet the real frustration derives from being told that “we can help you in a month.” Mental health and addiction treatment requires a willing participant in the right head space to request and acknowledge the help needed to get well and being told that “help is not available right now” creates barriers to success for these individuals. The potential relapse derived from being denied help, causes our retention rates to be impacted when people lose housing because of untreated addiction and mental health issues.

Commissioner Loretta Smith, Multnomah County, shared that the Multnomah County Board will vote on General Fund resources to fund a [Law Enforcement Assisted Diversion \(LEAD\)](#) program. This would put \$800k in new resources on the ground to aid those suffering from addiction. The program was modeled after a successful program being used in Seattle for the past several years. Though it is not a homeless specific program, 80% of the 2015 King County participants were experiencing homelessness at the time of referral. Monique Menconi shared that the program is set to launch in January 2017 and will effectively decriminalize addiction. After a qualifying offense, the individual will have the choice to enter a diversion program with case management or go through the standard route of arrest-prosecution-incarceration. Individuals that choose the diversion program will meet with a case manager to develop a customized plan using harm reduction models proven to be effective tools in the treatment process.

Ed Blackburn mentioned that the Oregon Governor’s proposed budget appears to prioritize healthcare expansion. He highlighted the implementation of a cigarette tax totaling \$35 million as well as a hospital tax to match Medicaid funding. Patricia Rojas reiterated the need for us to incorporate mental health support services in how we spend resources given the unprecedented rates of trauma being experienced by communities across the board and the staff that serve them. Marc Jolin suggested pulling together a work session in early 2017 to discuss possible impacts and strategies in the event of catastrophic federal and state budget impacts.

Raihana Ansary, Portland Business Alliance, expressed proposed changes from the Workforce & Economic Opportunity workgroup. Update the following language of Priority 2:
“Expand flexible rental assistance for homelessness prevention and shelter diversion. Efforts will be made to build on strategic investments leveraging other system resources and programs, including employment, health care, mental health and other resources.”

<p>Shelter Openings & Severe Weather Update - Stacy Borke, Co-chair</p>	<p>Stacy Borke, Co-chair, announced that two shelters have opened recently. The Willamette Center, a permanent 120-bed low-barrier shelter with a priority for women and couples, opened and is full currently. Peace II, opened as a temporary, 60-bed shelter with a focus on Veterans, men over 55, and men with disabilities, and is currently full as well. Thanks to support from the Portland Business Alliance the project received needed resources such as painting, plumbing, and heaters. Project^, Providence, Kaiser and many others from the business community helped make this possible.</p> <p>Marc Jolin shared that we are in the process of coordinating severe weather protocols to help streamline emergency response in the event of severe weather. If needed we will have access to the East Multnomah County office building; several churches, Imago Dei, and Transition Projects among others will also open to accommodate the need.</p>	
<p>Coordinating Board Meeting Schedule: Bi-Monthly -Marc Jolin, Initiative Director</p>	<p>Marc discussed the proposal to move Coordinating Board meetings to a bi-monthly schedule starting in January. Board approved this scheduling change with the understanding that measures to convene on time-sensitive matters be implemented.</p>	<p>Board members agreed to a bi-monthly Coordinating Board schedule.</p>
<p>Next Meeting - Marc Jolin, Initiative Director</p>	<p>The next meeting will be 3:00 – 5:00 PM on Wednesday, January 4th, 2017.</p> <p>Meeting adjourned.</p>	