

## A Home for Everyone (AHFE) Executive Committee Meeting Minutes – December 19, 2016

**Facilitated by:** Chair Deborah Kafoury and Initiative Director Marc Jolin

**Prepared by:** Erin Pidot

**Reviewed by:** Jurisdictional Staff Members

**Members present:** Jules Bailey, Stacy Borke, Simone M. Brooks, Michael Buonocore, Charlie Hales, Marc Jolin, Deborah Kafoury, Michael Parkhurst, Dan Saltzman, Ben Sand, Shannon Singleton, Joe Walsh (Councilor Echols rep.). **Staff:** María Álvarez-Lugo, Henry Burton, Shannon Callahan, Christian Elkin, Sally Erickson, Brenden Finn, Christian Gaston, Tiffany Kingery, Bimal RajBhandary, Ben Mauro, Erin Pidot, Ian Slingerland, Liz Smith Currie, Carrie Young. **Guests:** Carolyn Bateson, Becky Beier, Ian Davie, George Devendorf, Abby Gassama, Alex Glover, Martha Strawn Morris.

Agenda Item	Discussion Points	Decision/Action
<p><b>Welcome, Introductions, Approval of Minutes</b> - Deborah Kafoury, Chair</p>	<p>Chair Kafoury called the meeting to order and commenced introductions. Members reviewed the September 2016 minutes. There were no changes.</p>	<p>Motion to approve the September 2016 minutes. All in favor.</p>
<p><b>Member Updates</b> - Marc Jolin, Initiative Director</p>	<p>Marc asked for time sensitive updates – will solicit other updates in writing and share back with the group. Ben Sand, Portland Leadership Foundation announced that, <a href="#">The Civic Forum</a>, a two-part event of 300 to 500 faith leaders around homelessness and housing, and adoptive care, will take place on March 23 from 4:30 to 6:30 pm. Will want representatives from this committee to speak.</p>	
<p><b>Presentation: Domestic Violence System Update on New Investments</b> - Martha Strawn Morris, Gateway Center for Domestic Violence - Becky Beier, YWCA - Abby Gassama, NAYA</p>	<p>Three members of the continuum of local domestic violence (DV) providers—Martha Strawn Morris from the Gateway Center, Becky Beier from the YWCA, and Abby Gassama from NAYA—provided an update on new housing investments in the DV system. Expressed appreciation for leadership of the Executive Committee commitment to this issue, and fact that Joint Office approached them as a system when asking about what new investments might be able to absorb. Within last year, expanded DV investments broadly by about \$2 million – went to fund more motel vouchers, new master-leased shelter model, increased diversion funding, 3 new mobile community advocates who do outreach to survivors who present in non-traditional DV settings including regular hours at the Gresham Women’s Shelter, and 5 new DV housing advocates including several at culturally-specific programs. All agencies have reported being able to use flexible funds within their agency has been a huge help in assisting participants, and that eviction prevention dollars have been particularly important. Also spoke about system’s shift to coordinated access – initiated in December 2014. One of great benefits of coordinated access is that there is now a deep respect among providers across agencies – feeling that we’re all in this together and can benefit from each other’s strengths. In the past six months, the system has served same number of people that it did all of last year.</p> <p>Mayor Hales thanked the DV providers and said that it is evident from their presentation that connecting head and heart in the work is an important role. Providers in this system have made a lot of progress in improving Police Bureau’s understanding of this issue—seems that they have gotten</p>	

	<p>better at being a partner because they have had such a positive relationship with DV providers.</p> <p>Michael Buonocore, Home Forward, emphasized importance of DV system partnership with Home Forward. Home Forward staff understand issues much better and how to refer into the DV system. Working together to address issues that might put survivors at risk of eviction and protect subsidies.</p>	
<p><b>U.S. Interagency Council on Homelessness (USICH) Veterans Certification</b></p> <p>- Sally Erickson, Joint Office of Homeless Services</p> <p>- George Devendorf, Transition Projects</p> <p>- Alex Glover, Transition Projects</p> <p>- Carolyn Bateson, Portland Veterans Affairs Medical Center</p>	<p>Sally Erickson, Joint Office of Homeless Services, presented on the USICH Certification on meeting set of criteria and benchmarks related to ending homelessness among Veterans. Last week we were acknowledged as the first west coast city to achieve this – held ceremony to celebrate this on Saturday at the Bud Clark Commons. Back in January 2015, the Executive Committee directed AHFE staff to create a plan for how to accomplish this goal. Mayor Hales and Chair Kafoury signed us up for the 25 Cities Initiative. This would not have been possible without strong relationships and leadership. Created a Veteran Registry, launched the Landlord Recruitment and Retention Team under JOIN, increased shelter capacity with preference for Veterans and created Veteran-specific shelter with new non-profit Do Good Multnomah, increased permanent housing capacity. There are still Veterans experiencing homelessness, but there is a process in place to connect them all with a housing resource.</p> <p>George Devendorf, Transition Projects, highlighted four things to keep in mind as we go forward. 1) Federal funds - it's critical that we make sure that SSVF continues. Roughly 70% of housing placements paid for by SSVF investments. 2) State Measure 96 – remains to be seen how these dollars will be prioritized and applied and it's critical that a significant portion go to housing and shelter options particularly for those who do not qualify for VA services. 3) Local money – increased local investment has been essential to fill gaps. 4) Process – to be successful, we need to continue the collaborative process.</p> <p>Alex Glover, Transition Projects, highlighted that there is an average of 42 Veterans who are newly identified as homeless each month, and we are placing an average of 55 Veterans into housing each month. To continue down this path, it's important that we continue monitoring and working together.</p> <p>Carolyn Bateson, Portland VA Medical Center, emphasized that collaboration across the city, county and VA has been amazing – the VA couldn't have done it without these partners. Important for us to think about how to sustain progress and maintain people in housing.</p> <p>Marc mentioned that it was fun to see HUD Secretary Castro call out Portland for this at the West Coast Mayor's Conference.</p>	
<p><b>Shelter and Severe Weather Update</b></p> <p>- Marc Jolin, Initiative Director</p>	<p>Marc Jolin, Initiative Director, reported that new year-round shelter capacity has reached 550, plus family overflow, bringing total to almost 1200. Most recently, opened the Willamette Center with 120 beds for women and couples.</p> <p>Stacey Borke, Transition Projects, reported that the Willamette Center is already full, neighbors are</p>	

happy, and the people staying there are happy.

Marc reported that we are adding additional winter shelter capacity, which typically operates from November to March. Opened Peace II in partnership with the business community with room for 80, added 20 motel vouchers to family system to serve at least 60 people, 10 additional beds at youth shelter and 5 additional beds at Veteran shelter. In early January will likely add another 100 beds of expanded winter shelter in downtown Portland.

On top of this, open additional space and essentially have no-turn away shelter during severe weather. Transition Projects is the contractor in Portland and opens up Imago Dei and Bud Clark Commons, and other partners that aren't funded like Union Gospel Mission also add capacity. During severe weather, 211 operates 24/7 and if someone goes to a shelter without capacity, transportation will be provided to get them to a place that does. Also expand outreach to encourage people to go into shelter and distribute cold weather gear and initiative welfare checks. Providers across the system have been stepping up to do more when this happens. During last week's severe weather, we had 415 additional people in shelter above and beyond year-round and winter shelter capacity.

Marc highlighted a few other shelter projects. Argyle Village has been a priority of Mayor Hale's Office and the Village Coalition. Catholic Charities will be the backbone organization and the hope is that the Neighborhood Association will embrace it. This is the first time as a community that we have tried to create this kind of pop-up shelter model. For the Hansen Shelter, there is no clear closing date, but thinking in terms of 18 months overall. With the County's support, this option will continue to be there until the right alternative is found.

Marc then reported on the U.S. Conference of Mayor's Report, which relies on HUD data. The report shows that Portland's rate of homelessness decreased between 2009 and 2016 and that our 2016 average, 49.5 per 10,000, is about the average for U.S. cities. Portland had a below average percentage of family homelessness among U.S. cities, and a higher unsheltered rate (though this does not reflect the substantial local shelter expansion). Report also showed that Portland had a higher than average rate of chronic homelessness and that the chronic homeless population grew, but this is likely inaccurate. The challenge with the data is that in our community we do a shelter count every year, but a Point In Time (PIT) count every other year. HUD takes current shelter count and adds previous year's PIT count – most glaring consequence is that HUD reported that we had seen a 30% increase in chronically homeless between 2013 and 2016, which we think is actually a reflection of increased shelter capacity over that time period targeting the chronically homeless. We plan to move to an annual PIT – though we are compliant with HUD by doing it every other year, they continue to present data in this way which creates challenges.

Marc provided a brief update on this year's PIT. It is scheduled for January 27, but we conduct it over the course of a week. Go to all sites that administer services and administer one-page survey. We have tried to stay true to methodology over time so that we can compare rates of change, recognizing that no methodology gets us a complete census. This year the Joint Office is working with PSU and the

	<p>Coalition of Communities of Color. After this year’s count, looking for recommendations on how to move to annual count and better count the doubled-up population.</p> <p>Commissioner Saltzman asked how many physical sites you will go to.</p> <p>Shannon Singleton, JOIN, responded that there is a 10-page document that lists sites and are doing outreach to add sites that haven’t been able to go to in the past.</p> <p>Marc added that this includes all libraries and any place we think someone might present.</p> <p>Stacy Borke, Transition Projects, suggested that if people are interested in doing outreach for the PIT, this is a great way to participate. The Outreach and Engagement Workgroup has been meeting with the research team for the past two months to plan outreach for PIT and will circle back with Executive Committee around how to get involved.</p> <p>Chair Kafoury recommended participating if haven’t in the past. It is an eye opening experience.</p>	
<p><b>System Data and Evaluation Update</b> - Marc Jolin, Initiative Director</p>	<p>Marc reviewed the new AHFE Evaluation Framework created by NPC Research. They conducted about 100 stakeholder interviews and held small groups to inform the framework. They identified key evaluation questions across five areas of inquiry: Context, System Components, Connections, Infrastructure and Scale. The Data Out Committee is now looking at this and working to figure out what to prioritize. This will drive our evaluation work going forward.</p> <p>Marc also reviewed the FY 2017 Quarter 1 Outcome Report. We are about where we were last year in most respects, though a little behind on placements – new investments just began in July so a lot not up and running yet. You see the biggest increase in emergency shelter, which is where we’ve put the bulk of our energy to date. This has already increased by more than 1,000 additional people. These outcomes will be posted on the AHFE website. If Executive Committee members want to see this information in a different format or want additional information, let Joint Office know. We can make changes to the dashboard.</p>	
<p><b>FY 2018/FY 2017-18 Program Priorities – Coordinating Board Recommendations</b> - Marc Jolin, Initiative Director</p>	<p>Marc provided an overview of the Coordinating Board’s budget recommendations. Last year, with new commitment of \$20 million, had a deep dive and detailed budget prioritizing process. That wasn’t necessary this year. Had less detailed and time-intensive process, but still had fairly significant amount of discussion with community about priorities going into next fiscal year. The Coordinating Board adopted a set of priorities. Priority #1 is a fundamental recommendation – we just began building this capacity and we need to sustain it. Marc reviewed some of the challenges with this recommendation—sustaining costs more money because of rent increases, we are hearing from providers that their own sustainability is challenged, gaps in state budget, some federal funding may be at risk. Coordinating Board’s Priority #2 came through across all AHFE sub-committees—if we can do more of anything, needs to be in the realm of flexible rental assistance for prevention and shelter diversion. Priority #3 – create more deeply affordable housing. Priority #4 – increase Rapid ReHousing dollars; the investment in moving people out of shelter beds needs to keep pace with increasing</p>	

	<p>shelter capacity.</p> <p>Mayor Hales said that all of the evidence we have so far is that these are the right tools, though maybe not at the scale they need to be. But we got the mixture right.</p> <p>Michael Buonocore, Home Forward, stated that we need to find ways to support the conversation around the pay that people are getting – there’s a long standing story about how people martyr themselves for this work. Not only doing critical work, but at risk of becoming homeless themselves. We have a moral obligation to keep this conversation alive and figure out how to support it.</p> <p>Chair Kafoury added that every system is built on low-paid, essential workers. We are having this conversation at the County.</p> <p>Marc closed the conversation by saying that AHFE staff will move ahead and come back to the group as the budge process moves forward.</p>	
<p><b>Coordinating Board Membership</b> - Marc Jolin, Initiative Director</p>	<p>Marc described process for recruiting and selecting Coordinating Board nominees, and reviewed list of the seven selected. These are all replacements for existing slots except for the youth position which was created this past summer.</p> <p>The following individuals are appointed to a two-year term on the Coordinating Board to fill the identified positions/vacancies:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Community Member: Kevin Fitts</li> <li>• Community Member: Michael Thurman</li> <li>• Domestic Violence Service Provision: Rebecca Nickels, Call to Safety</li> <li>• Faith-based Service Provision: Alexa Mason, Portland Rescue Mission</li> <li>• Family Service Provision: Katrina Holland, Community Alliance of Tenants</li> <li>• Senior/Aging Advocate: Susan Madar, Elders in Action</li> <li>• Youth Service Provision: Sean Suib, New Avenues for Youth</li> </ul> <p>All Board members in favor of approving nominees.</p>	<p>Motion to approve seven new Coordinating Board members. All in favor.</p>
<p><b>Thank You Ceremony</b> - Deborah Kafoury, Chair</p>	<p>Chair Kafoury thanked Mayor Hales and Commissioner Bailey for their tierless dedication and hard work. Both immediately came on board with personal passion and deep commitment to doing this work. We wouldn’t be where we are today without the two of you. The Mayor’s commitment to this issue has been unprecedented.</p> <p>Multnomah County Library picked Evicted as their book of the year. Both Mayor Hales and Commissioner Bailey were presented with a copy of the book.</p> <p>Mayor Hales said that after 14 years of elected office in various capacities, seen that really good things get done in partnerships. AHFE is one of best things that has happened in our local government and in the country. The partnership has been stellar. The Mayor expressed his appreciation for everyone at the table.</p>	

	<p>Commissioner Bailey said that this has been an incredible team process - not just with the people around this table, but the Coordinating Board, staff and huge numbers of people working to make what you presented today a reality. Of everything I've been involved with, this is the thing that has given me the most meaning at my time at the County Commission. Seeing people actually believe that doing something impossible is possible and then to see that validated is a ray of hope in a cynical world. Commissioner Bailey encouraged people to do three things - 1) talk it up more, 2) continue to make AHFE relevant, and 3) keep it going.</p> <p>Meeting adjourned.</p>	
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