



Safety off the Streets Workgroup Minutes

DATE: Wednesday, April 11, 2017

TIME: 9:00 AM – 10:30 AM

LOCATION: Bud Clark Commons
Multipurpose Room
650 NW Irving Street
Portland OR 97209

ATTENDEES: Chris Aiosa, Lynnae Berg, Kurt Briggs-Ungerer, Louise Dix, Charles Hodge, Bashar Kasim, Christina M'Gorney, Susan Madar, Ben Mauro, Julia Mckenna, Michleen Mickel, Karissa Moden, Brandyn Morley, Matt Olquin, Walter Robinson II, Richard Rubin, Neal Sand, Kristi Smith, Tony Bernal

MEETING DISCUSSION

- Legislative Updates
 - HB 2004 prohibits landlords from terminating month to month tenancy without cause after first six months of occupancy except under certain circumstances with 90 days written notice and payment of amount equal to one month's periodic rent.
 - Right to Rest bill didn't survive
 - Discussion about amending the bill to address the open-endedness of the language in it.
 - Work session will emerge to amend the bill's language and help it progress during the next legislative session.
- Fair Housing Council of Oregon (FHCO): Fair Housing and Shelters
 - FHCO received an 18-month grant with HUD to provide education and outreach to shelters
 - Shelters and transitional housing are dwellings
 - Housing doesn't need to be federally funded to be considered a dwelling
 - They are still subject to fair housing standards (in most cases)
 - Federal protective classes include:
 - Race
 - Color
 - National origin
 - Religion
 - Gender
 - Males experiencing domestic violence (DV).
 - Familial status
 - Male children
 - Disability
 - Oregon protected classes:
 - Source of income
 - Marital status
 - Sexual orientation
 - Gender identity
 - Review committee for FHCO to update their new manual
 - What kinds of issues are you aware of?
 - Group member shared that housing providers have been unwilling to rent to/or renew rental to an individual because "they are too mentally ill for the resources available."

- FHCO will aid in legal referral for someone who feels that they have been discriminated against.
- Group member asked for more clarification around “hate language.”
 - FHCO shared that providers are required to respond to harassment and discrimination of protected classes.
 - Group expressed the need for more training on the exact nature of response needed.
 - Group requested response language and guidance around addressing hate language, harassment, discrimination.
 - FHCO will have trainings available to address these topics and more.
 - These will tentatively be scheduled in the Fall of 2017
 - Louise will follow-up with more information.
- Group member shared that equitable implementation of exclusion and exit policies has been inconsistent in shelters and varies by provider.
 - Group discussed the need to have better training and consistency around the development and implementation of exit policies across the system.
 - More thorough information about resident’s rights and protections was also requested.
- Kenton Village/Shelter Update
 - Background: This project was created in response to the priority recommendation provided by the Safety off the Streets (SOS) Workgroup a year and a half ago.
 - The site is zoned R1 and will allow 15 to live onsite.
 - The property is owned by the Portland Development Commission (PDC)
 - The land is being leased for 12 months.
 - The project falls within the shelter pop-up guidelines.
 - Catholic Charities (CC) will provide intake and onsite support.
 - All residents will have a housing plan and case manager.
 - There are plans to use the model of “Housing Transitions” at CC
 - CC will conduct outreach for the project.
 - Will coordinate plans to engage the Kenton Village residents and the Kenton Neighborhood Association
 - Village oversight: CC will be on-sight 40 hours a week.
 - Will tenants be on a lease?
 - This is still in the developmental stages.
 - Group member highlighted that leasing units would provide an opportunity for tenants to build much needed rental history.
 - Ben Mauro shared that the goal is to expand this model for future projects pending this project’s success, land availability and community support.
- Increasing Access to Hygiene Services
 - Sisters of the Road has engaged in hygiene center advocacy in the community since October 2016.
 - They hope to advocate for more resources to increase laundry and hygiene center access for people currently experiencing homelessness.
 - Karissa Moden shared that JOIN and Transition Projects, Inc. offer vouchers, but there is a significant gap in the unmet need.
 - Sisters of the Road is currently working on a city proposal.
 - Collaboration from community partners and City Council (Commissioner Eudaly’s office).
 - Group member suggested reaching out to the military or music festivals that might have unused mobile showers for sale.
 - Karissa mentioned that mobile showers are being researched as well.

- Group member suggested that we build new sites with the ability to plug in to mobile medical and shower units easily.
 - This ensures that when mobile hygiene units become available, we are able to maximize their use.
 - This requires spending money on infrastructure up front to ensure that these resources can be easily accessed across a variety of sites.
- Karissa will share the Sisters of the Road newsletter to Rhea Graves for distribution to the SOS workgroup email list.

ACTION ITEMS

ITEM

1. Share the Sisters of the Road newsletter to Rhea Graves for distribution to the workgroup email list.
2. Send Sisters of the Road newsletter from Karissa Moden to the workgroup email list.

ASSIGNED

Karissa Moden

Rhea Graves

NEXT MEETING

Tuesday, June 13, 2017

2017, 2:00 – 4:00 PM

Bud Clark Commons Multipurpose Room