

A Home for Everyone (AHFE) Executive Committee

Meeting Minutes – April 17, 2017

Facilitated by: Initiative Director Marc Jolin

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

Members present: Simone M. Brooks, Michael Buonocore, Karylenn Echols, Chloe Eudaly, Marc Jolin, Deborah Kafoury (proxy: Christian Gaston), Sharon Meieran, Michael Parkhurst, Ben Sand, Ted Wheeler. **Staff:** David Austin, Ian Davie, Ryan Deibert, Christian Elkin, Sally Erickson, Rhea Graves, Renee Huizinga, Tiffany Kingery, Berk Nelson, Bimal RajBhandary, Ian Slingerland, Liz Smith-Currie, Denis Theriault, Joe Walsh, Carrie Young. **Guests:** Molly Harbarger.

Agenda Item	Discussion Points	Decision/Action
<p>Welcome, Introductions, Review & Approval of Minutes</p> <p>– Marc Jolin, Initiative Director</p>	<p>Marc Jolin, Initiative Director, called the meeting to order.</p> <p>Members reviewed the March 2017 minutes. Minutes were approved with no changes.</p>	<p>Motion to approve March 2017 minutes. All in favor.</p>
<p>Community Updates: Civic Forum</p> <p>– Ben Sand, Portland Leadership Foundation</p>	<p>Ben Sand, Portland Leadership Foundation, shared details about the Civic Forum that was held at the Aladdin Theater in March of this year. The vision for this event was to “offer practical next steps for people to get involved in the community.” It was designed to engage faith leaders, community organizers, and government leaders around housing, ending homelessness and foster care. A “behind the scenes” video was played for the group.</p> <p>Ben Sand mentioned that he would like to host future forums on other regional issues that for collaborative engagement. He thanked Marc, Mayor Wheeler, and Chair Kafoury’s office for participating in the event and for continuing to offer the Civic Forum as a tool to engage citizens with A Home for Everyone (AHFE). Mayor Wheeler thanked Ben Sand and his team for a great event and encouraged us all to think about “how to take the goodwill in the community and focus it to create community solutions in a meaningful way?” Ben Sand shared the concept of “on-ramps,” or volunteer opportunities that allow the community to get involved. He shared information about the Office Moms and Dads program. The program allows individuals to sign-up to volunteer as office moms and dads for a child in the foster care system. Ben suggested the development of 3 to 7 tangible on-ramps to promote throughout the community: “what types of on-ramps do we want to publish or promote through AHFE?”</p>	
<p>Shelter & Kenton Women’s Village Updates</p> <p>– Sally Erickson, Joint Office of Homeless Services</p>	<p>Sally Erickson, Joint Office of Homeless Services (JOHS), shared that we are closing in on the goal of creating 650 new shelter beds. The Columbia Shelter, previously known as Peace I, will be moving to the former Shleifer Furniture building soon. This 80-100 bed shelter will serve single adults and couples while continuing the focus on priority populations — Veterans, people over 55, and people with disabilities.</p> <p>The Kenton Women’s Village, a sleeping pod community, will be opening in early June. Support services will be offered through Catholic Charities. This community will prioritize women who are</p>	

	<p>experiencing homelessness in the surrounding area.</p> <p>The Human Solutions family shelter has seen unprecedented numbers of families seeking shelter on any given night. The space was designed to accommodate 120 families and have regularly seen over 180 families. Many nights the space has served as shelter for over 200 families. In October 2016, the shelter started issuing motel vouchers to help address the steep rise in need. Board member asked, “what are the main drivers causing fluctuation in the numbers of families seeking shelter?” Sally shared that we are hearing that the main drivers for families seeking shelter is the lack of affordable housing and people losing their housing. Marc responded that this is a “no turn-away shelter”; families are free to leave for several days and are welcomed back upon returning regardless of the shelter’s capacity. Additionally, Multnomah County Commissioner Lori Stegmann and her staff sponsored several science fair activities at the family shelter during the recent spring break vacation. The family shelter houses over 70 children a night and events like the ones coordinated by her team were greatly appreciated. A new partnership with the SUN Service System and Metropolitan Family Services will help to better serve the children and families that access this shelter in the future.</p> <p>The temporary Peace II emergency shelter, located in the Bushong & Co. building, will close next month. There are no plans to replace its shelter capacity that was opened in order to address the urgent need for increased bed capacity during the severe weather period.</p> <p>Sally Erickson discussed that we are looking for replacement shelter capacity for the Hansen building in order to find a more cost effective building to staff and operate. JOHS currently facilitates the Property Core Search team meetings which meet twice monthly with the primary focus of identifying publicly owned property as potential new shelter sites. Mayor Wheeler suggested the purchase of modular showers in order to expand the inventory of viable commercial property options. He added that many commercial properties could be promising as a shelter site, but lack adequate hygiene resources. Sally responded that JOHS will continue to explore the modular shower option, and these long-term use mobile showers have proven to be less cost effective than short-term use units.</p> <p>Sharon Meieran, Multnomah County Commissioner, learned from Sisters of the Road that a shelter was cited for having a portable shower on site. Marc mentioned that this took place several years ago and the specific issue leading up to this incident has been addressed. Alternatively, churches often have unused showers on site and could be an opportunity for the faith community to support in expanding hygiene access for those in need.</p>	
<p>Budget Overview & System Capacity – Marc Jolin, Initiative Director</p>	<p>The Joint Office of Homeless Services (JOHS) submits two budget requests, one to Multnomah County and one to the City of Portland. Marc Jolin presented an overview of the budget requests, and system capacity, and highlighted the 2018 budget priorities:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Priority 1: Stay the Course • Priority 2: Increase Flexible Rent Assistance 	

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Priority 3: Increase Investment in Permanently Affordable Housing • Priority 4: Increase Investment in Rent Assistance & Employment Support • Priority 5: Increase Support Services for Formerly Chronically Homeless People in Affordable Housing <p>An additional 600 emergency shelter beds have been opened in the past fiscal year, and shelter expansion has been a significant priority. We have seen a 50% increase in people accessing shelter.</p> <p>Mayor Wheeler asked, “do we have a way of displaying who is falling through the cracks?” Marc Jolin responded that the 2017 Point-in-Time Count (PIT) Report will be released in the coming months; this report will help determine the current unmet need.</p> <p>Marc Jolin shared that the 90-bed Gresham Women’s Shelter was identified as “a critical missing piece in unmet need.” Many women reported that they were camping on the Springwater Corridor prior to relocating to the new shelter space. The shelter provides crucial services, especially for women fleeing domestic violence. Additionally, the success of the Willamette Center echoes the effectiveness of a model that offers critical on-site services in addition to shelter.</p> <p>Ben Sand asked, “does the requested budget reflect the flexibility to open a new shelter, should an ideal site present itself?” Marc responded that there “is a proposal in the budget, yes.”</p> <p>Marc Jolin also shared information about Flip the Script, a reentry program that will provide housing, cultural peer support and an employment specialist to support reentry into the community. The program is funded and supported through a partnership with Multnomah County’s Department of Community Justice (DCJ), Central City Concern, and Meyer Memorial Trust, with a specific focus on ending the cycle of incarceration and homelessness for African-Americans in the justice system. The program creates pathways to jobs and housing for 150 African-Americans.</p> <p>Gresham City Councilor Karilynn Echols commented that it is great to hear about the work being done and the tangible results from this work.</p>	
<p>Planning for a Changing State and Federal Budget Environment – Marc Jolin, Initiative Director</p>	<p>Marc Jolin reviewed Federal and State funding and programs at risk and opened the floor for members to discuss.</p> <p>Michael Buonocore, Home Forward, shared that there is a need for further investment in public engagement and education in order to ensure that folks in the community are aware of current efforts and successes.</p> <p>Chloe Eudaly, Portland City Council, expressed concern about the significant numbers of frustrated callers who are not informed about our work and believe “we are doing nothing about homelessness.” She also posed the question, “what impact has placement and prevention made to “stem the complete tide of homelessness?” Marc reiterated that over 25,000 people received services through our system. These services include rent assistance, employment supports,</p>	<p>Staff to support in facilitating a conversation regarding accessible volunteer opportunities and community engagement.</p>

	<p>addiction services, and other resources to retain and find permanent housing.</p> <p>Mayor Wheeler commented that he believes “the people falling through the cracks are chronically homeless, singles with no children, who are not women or people of color and suffering from substance abuse.” He shared his support of the sheltering and prevention work that our system has achieved while highlighting the many calls his office receives from concerned citizens regarding “needles in public places, garbage on the streets and other public health and livability concerns.”</p> <p>Commissioner Meieran suggested the creation of a workgroup that would work towards better communication and engagement with the community. Ben Sand expressed interest in joining Commissioner Meieran in this group. Commissioner Meieran echoed the need to prioritize effectively communicating the work we are doing, while “acknowledging what folks are seeing on a daily basis within communities.” There was general agreement that accessible volunteer opportunities should be available and communicated to the community.</p> <p>Christian Gaston, Chair Kafoury’s Office, and Commissioner Eudaly expressed interest in accelerating the vacant and distressed house (zombie house) initiative to create community land trusts.</p> <p>Mayor Wheeler expressed support for the AHFE priorities Marc laid out in the budget presentation. He also shared the need to address capacity for public safety, environmental issues, and public health concerns.</p>	
<p>Member Updates – Marc Jolin, Initiative Director</p>	<p>Mar Jolin opened the floor to members for updates.</p> <p>Berk Nelson, Mayor Wheeler’s Office, shared that the Right 2 Dream Too (R2D2) site is being evaluated for electrical and plumbing work. Things are on track for the scheduled move on June 7th.</p>	
<p>Charge to Coordinating Board – Marc Jolin, Initiative Director</p>	<p>Marc Jolin reviewed a recommended charge that the Executive Committee might request of staff and the Coordinating Board. The charge would direct staff, Coordinating Board, and AHFE subcommittees to engage in a planning process to further investigate gaps in capacity for priority populations, and how state and federal cuts will impact those gaps for priority populations.</p> <p>Recommended Charge to Coordinating Board:</p> <p>Executive Committee requests that the Joint Office of Homeless Services (JOHS) and the Coordinating Board answer the following questions for families, chronically homeless, and, as needed, youth and Veterans:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • What is the current inflow into homelessness for this population annually? • What is the current outflow out of homelessness for this population annually? • What is the current array of services targeted to reducing inflow and increasing outflow? <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ What are the outcomes from these services, and what are the associated costs? • What is the current array of emergency services provided to these populations, including 	<p>Motion to approve request reviewed to staff and Coordinating Board to investigate system capacity gaps for priority populations and how funding cuts will impact those gaps. All in favor.</p>

	<p>emergency shelter?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ What are the outcomes from these services and what are the associated costs? ● How much of the population-specific need does the current service level meet? ● What expansion and/or realignment of resources would be required to fully meet assessed service level gaps? <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ What strategies are required? At what scale? And at what cost? What existing resources could be better aligned to meet this need? What additional resources might be required, and what are potential sources? ● What is the role of federal and state funding in providing the current service levels to each of these populations? ● What would the impact be on system capacity from significant reductions in federal and/or state spending? ● How can locally funded services be improved, better aligned, or reprioritized to mitigate the impacts of Federal and State budget reductions? <p>Throughout all stages of this assessment and planning process, use the AHFE Racial Equity Lens and other modes of inquiry to guide racially equitable participation in the process and detailed evaluation of racial justice impacts of current strategies, resource allocation, potential State and Federal budget reductions, need/gap analysis, and potential resource and strategy alignment and expansion.</p>	
<p>Closing Comments – Marc Jolin, Initiative Director</p>	<p>The next meeting will be 2:00 – 4:00 PM on Monday, June 19, 2017 at the Multnomah Building, Room 315.</p> <p>Meeting adjourned.</p>	