



## Safety off the Streets Workgroup Minutes

DATE: June 13, 2017

TIME: 2:00 PM – 4:00 PM

LOCATION: Bud Clark Commons  
Multipurpose Room  
655 NW Hoyt Street  
Portland, Oregon 97209

ATTENDEES: Chris Aiosa, Tony Bernal, Lynnae C. Berg, Michael Boldt, Rhea Graves, Charles Hodge, Marc Jolin, Tiffany Kingery, Katie Mays, Michleen Mickel, Karissa Moden, Matt Olguin, Arthur Rios Sr., Walter Robinson II, Kristi Smith, Becky Straus, Neal Sund, Lindsey Vold, Emily Volpert, Liz Webbes, Kelly Wheeler

### MEETING DISCUSSION

- Welcome & Introductions
  - The Safety off the Streets (SOS) Workgroup has created a Steering Committee.
    - Contact Tony Bernal interested in joining the Steering Committee.
- Group Discussion: Why Are We Here? (Facilitated by Tiffany Kingery)
  - Redefining Role: Safety off the Streets Workgroup
    - At inception, the workgroup was tasked to inform the initial work plan for A Home for Everyone for shelter, alternative shelter, safety on the streets issues, etc.
      - Moving forward the interest is to create a work plan to accomplish more within the workgroup.
      - This includes a reset to readjust the workgroup's goals and support of education, training standards, policy issues, etc.
      - The group discussed the question "Why are you here?" Responses included:
        - ◆ Partnership and collaboration with other citizens in Multnomah County and beyond,
        - ◆ influencing and working with elected officials to continue the conversation around the importance of both shelter AND housing,
        - ◆ collaboration and coordination with other resources and organizations in our community,
        - ◆ to work on safety ON the streets as well as off,
        - ◆ to improve consistency in conversations about exclusionary practices, consistency across shelter programs,
        - ◆ streamlining the process of the collaborative work,
        - ◆ define low-barrier thresholds and low-barrier practices,
        - ◆ working on standardization practices for the upcoming Request for Proposals (RFP) for shelter programs and having input into the upcoming RFP,
        - ◆ to assess and improve the relationships between providers and the community (community engagement),
        - ◆ to simultaneously include our providers and the community at large,
        - ◆ to include perspectives of a diverse range of specialties in our work,
        - ◆ to educate and inform ourselves on what is happening in our community and what is going on in other lines of work than our own,
        - ◆ to advocate for alternative approaches,

- ◆ to learn and be a part of this work for those who cannot be here/to relay information back to colleagues,
  - ◆ to provide fresh eyes/new perspective on the work we are doing,
  - ◆ to reduce the amount of people who are living outside/who are unsheltered,
  - ◆ to provide outreach (to get this information to other people who cannot be here/who aren't aware of our work), and to do outreach so we can learn what is going on in the broader community.
- Restructuring Workgroup: Safety off the Streets Steering Committee
    - Creating a work plan for trainings
      - GOAL 1: Education/Training
        - How much training do we think we should offer per year? How many topics do we want to cover? What should be in the toolbox?
        - Brainstorming for the Toolbox...
          - ◆ Engagement
          - ◆ De-escalation
          - ◆ Mental health first aid
          - ◆ Suicide prevention
          - ◆ Trauma informed care/assertive engagement
          - ◆ Equity and implicit bias training (this could be a lens through which we gauge all of our work)
          - ◆ Creating safety and health in a shelter
          - ◆ Health/hygiene
          - ◆ Community standards
        - How can we make the meetings more accessible?
          - Webinar/online library or YouTube Group
            - ◆ Cross trainings/"train the trainers" (in-house expertise at shelters)
            - ◆ Training cohort that can share expertise in various areas in the community
        - How many trainings does this committee think we should offer per year?
          - What are our main priorities for one or two that we could accomplish? The group went around and stated their top two priorities; Tiffany Kingery counted the votes. Results were:
            - ◆ De-escalation (13)
            - ◆ Mental health first aid (6)
            - ◆ Community standards (4)
            - ◆ Trauma informed care/assertive engagement (8)
        - GOAL 2: Community Standards
          - ◆ Health and hygiene
          - ◆ Community restrooms
          - ◆ Low barrier
          - ◆ Antidiscrimination policy: Baseline of training for providers AND for participants (regarding transgender/LGBTQ/race/disabilities)
          - ◆ Access, length of stay
          - ◆ Living document of all of the shelters/access that could provide as an informative resource to help us navigate referrals and to allow us to be very upfront in terms of what we are offering.
          - ◆ Transparency about what we are offering: Are we being upfront about people we work with when the case is that we do not have a shelter space for someone, and that we might not have a shelter space for someone? Creating a standard for how we can talk about availability with individuals.
        - The group went around and stated their top two priorities; Tiffany Kingery counted votes. Results were:
          - Low barrier (11 priority votes)
          - Access, length of stay (7 priority votes)

- Health and hygiene (4 priority votes)
  - Community restrooms (2 priority votes)
  - Anti discrimination policy/equity (8 priority votes)
  - GOAL 3: Policy
    - Weigh in on enforcement/sweeps and make a recommendation (9 priority votes)
    - Recommendation on zoning, housing, development, flexibility, for sale sleeping situations (2 priority votes)
    - Recommendation on the inflow to the tri-county area. Better regional/cross county work in providing shelter/housing and enforcement policies (5 priority votes)
- Update: Budget Overview (Marc Jolin)
  - The Joint Office of Homeless Services produced a single budget in for two different budget processes; one to comply with County budget processes, one to comply with City processes.
    - First Priority: Sustain current capacity levels that we had already achieved
      - That meant sustaining the current funding level but also procuring funding from other places.
        - ◆ Requests for the current level of funding plus additional investments (in prevention, shelter, services, etc.) were submitted
        - ◆ The City and the County have adopted their respective budgets
        - ◆ With the resources allocated, we will be able to sustain capacity.
        - ◆ Shelter capacity (650 year round beds, DV hotel vouchers, women’s shelters)
        - ◆ We also rely on State funding and still anticipating funding decisions from the State. We are planning for the worst-case scenario (contingency plans in place), and are optimistic that the State will prioritize the homeless services funding in their budget.
    - Two New Initiatives/Pilot Projects
      - The first is a Local Long-term Voucher pilot project, which will serve about 50 households, who are on SSI or SSD who cannot afford the rents in tax credit subsidized units, which allows us to buy down the differential on an ongoing basis.
      - The other pilot is in partnership with the Portland Housing Bureau to launch landlord-tenant services to better utilize eviction data. When someone gets a no-cause eviction as it stands, there is no public record of that. However, when an eviction notice is filed with the court, those are public records. Using a program that was piloted in New York, it downloads those data daily to help providers engage with the families where those evictions are happening to reach out with those individuals before they come to us to ask for help. Funding will support data collection and to creating an outreach team.
    - Additional budget highlights include:
      - One new data position contemplated within the Joint Office of Homeless Services
      - Additional support for Coordinated Access
      - 96% of the Joint Office of Homeless Services funding goes back out into the community
      - Expecting to re-procure the entire shelter system this year, which is an opportunity for people to participate in the planning process.
      - The County has put tax title money into the Joint Office of Homeless Services budget, it is one-time funding (not predictable), from foreclosures in the amount of \$4.2 million.
        - ◆ This is an accumulation of several years of foreclosure funds and needs to be used by statute to serve homeless families or youth in one form or another.
  - Coordinated entry for families started 3-4 years ago, wherein they have learned a lot of lessons and best practices.

- The family tool and the adult tool are very similar, so there is an effort to do joint training with the family and adult systems.
  - The goal is that they will slowly phase into a place where outreach workers could do family and adult assessments.
- There is one more training on June 23<sup>rd</sup> from 8:30 AM to 4:00 PM.
  - Already trained 140 staff people.
  - There will be additional trainings available in the future, and if there is an urgency for trainings, staff will be flexible and coordinate training for those.
- Update: Right 2 Dream Too
  - Right 2 Dream Too has moved to the East side near the Moda Center (900 N Thunderbird Way), and it is a positive moving—the members are very excited for the new space.
  - Looking for volunteers and donors
  - Eventually, the site will be primarily made up of tiny houses and one larger structure
- Update: Safety off the Streets Low Barrier Survey
  - Want to find a way to actually reach out to those accessing services, and gain an understanding about practical applications.
    - Questions are not limited to the policies, but how they are utilized in a practical manner; to create a methodology for accessing consumer input.
    - The group discussed methodology to collect consumer input to make sure that they are doing their best discussing the low-barrier piece.
      - The group discussed a SurveyMonkey and distribution of that survey
      - Should we offer this survey in different languages?
      - How should we reach folks who are staying in domestic violence shelters?
      - The Steering Committee will draft a survey and bring it back in two months of questions to ask participants/shelter providers.
- Update: Advocacy
  - This will be a regular agenda item for attendees to share general updates about the work and can be related Safety off the Streets.
    - Eugene Weekly article about criminalizing homelessness in their city (1/4 of people receiving citations were houseless). How can we streamline our resources so that people who are un-housed are not being cited at an increased level? This can create a snowball effect.
    - House Bill 2004 (would allow cities and counties to enact rent control policies and eradicate no cause evictions). The bill is still pending in the Senate, and senators need to hear voices if you are interested in contacting your senator to share your feelings about the bill.

## ACTION ITEMS

ITEM	ASSIGNED
1. Create work plan draft to be presented at July meeting.	Steering Committee
2. Create questions for a consumer survey to be discussed at August meeting.	Steering Committee
3. Share talking points to the workgroup regarding House Bill 2004	Becky Straus
4. Send out Eugene Weekly article to workgroup email list.	Emily Volpert

## NEXT MEETING

Tuesday, July 11, 2017

2:00 – 4:00 PM

Bud Clark Commons, Multipurpose Room