



## Housing Workgroup Minutes

DATE: Thursday, May 11, 2017

TIME: 1:00 PM – 3:00 PM

LOCATION: Portland Housing Bureau  
Steel Conference Room  
421 SW 6<sup>th</sup> Ave, Suite 500  
Portland, OR 97204

ATTENDEES: [Chris Aiosa, Stacy Borke, Heather Brown, Alex Glover, David Gutzler, Candace Jamison, Carl Knudson, Heather Lyons, Amanda Saul, Neisha Saxena, RJ Stangland, Becky Straus, Gregory Twiss, Bobby Weinstock.

### MEETING DISCUSSION

- Member Updates
  - Housing Day in Salem next week.
  - Coordinated Access for adults is moving forward
    - Outreach strategy to emergency rooms and discharge planners?
      - Amanda suggested connecting with Legacy.
    - Focus groups of community health workers to aid in identifying how families are becoming homeless.
    - Bobby suggested a presentation to Executive Committee regarding significant increases in homeless seniors.
  - Both City and County proposed budgets have been released:
    - Chair's budget proposal includes capacity to sustain existing funding levels
      - Significant amount of one-time only funding was converted to ongoing funding
      - Funding for 2 pilots: local long term voucher and eviction prevention pilot
      - Additional tax-title funding
    - Mayor's proposed budget secures the same level of funding as last year
      - Conversations are still underway regarding the budgets.
      - The County budget will be adopted on May 25<sup>th</sup>
      - The City budget will be adopted on June 8<sup>th</sup>
  - Group briefly highlighted the need to elevate the faith community's role in advocacy, public/private sector collaboration.
    - This was a discussion had at the last Executive Committee.
    - Discussion also re-surfaced at the Coordinating Board meeting.
- Executive Committee's Planning Request Re: Chronic Homelessness
  - The family system infrastructure was designed to support a third of the demand
  - Equity Question: Are there equity concerns surrounding a planning focus for chronic homelessness?
    - We know that people of color are underrepresented in chronic homelessness definitions.
  - Question: How should we categorize chronic homelessness to better identify communities that will be largely invisible in the HUD homelessness definition?
    - People of color less likely to access shelter and more likely to be in doubled up/tripled living situations.

- United States Interagency Council on Homelessness (USICH) expanded the chronically homelessness definition to include long-term homeless veterans.
- Group reached consensus about using homeless frequency and/or duration in a more expansive definition of chronically homelessness.
- Concerns on racial demographic and inequity in chronic homelessness sphere.
  - Recent investments have increased capacity at many culturally responsive organizations.
- Chronically homelessness definition: self-identified vs. documentation
  - If a more expansive definition of chronic homelessness was adopted-data analysis could become more challenging.
- Group identified the need for common language around prevention resources:
  - What are we doing to keep people in housing?
  - Every time we prevent people from becoming homeless this equals a cost savings.
  - Need to highlight the amount of cost savings.
- Planning work expected to be complete by this summer's end.
  - Veteran's system was infused by federal funding really allowed us to impact veteran's homelessness.
    - Is a similar catalyst available for this planning work?
    - What other venues should this conversation go to?
    - Who should be at the table?
    - Whose table should we go to?
- Health sub-group identified increasing permanent supportive housing (PSH) as a priority.
  - Identified 1,700 needed PSH units and needed investment of \$330 million to achieve this goal.
    - How many units do we have now?
    - Kari Lyons can follow up with more information.
  - Strategies are needed to free up service by transitioning folks from (PSH) more quickly.
    - Increase the positive turnover rate
    - Graduation housing – from PSH to permanently affordable housing
  - Lack of culturally responsive behavioral healthcare contributes to under-utilized programming.
    - Through cultural responsive programs like the [Healthy Birth Initiative](#), we have seen increased usage in the community.
- Health Workgroup has prioritized 3-4 primary focus areas
  - Discharge planning
  - PSH
  - Training is needed for community health workers/hospital workers to better cross-pollinate these systems.
  - Coordinated access will be an important tool in this work.
  - PSH priority also highlighted by the Housing Workgroup
- Housing Workgroup to focus on the development side of the PSH conversation.
- Group discussed that Portland Housing Bureau (PHB) has an income requirement policy for buildings they finance or own.
  - The income criteria can't exceed 1.5 to 1
  - Many management companies are not aware of this policy
  - If a property is found in violation of this policy-PHB should be notified immediately.

## ACTION ITEMS

| ITEM  | ASSIGNED               |
|---|------------------------|
| 1. Coordinate meeting to make recommendations to the Affordable Housing Bond's Stakeholder Advisory Group | Rhea Graves/Marc Jolin |
| 2. Plan for the process to discuss the Executive Committee's request.                                     | Marc Jolin             |
| 3. Continue planning discussion for the Executive Committee's request                                     | All                    |

## NEXT MEETING

Thursday, July 13, 2017  
1:00 PM – 3:00 PM  
Portland Housing Bureau  
Steel Conference Room