



## Housing Workgroup Minutes

**DATE:** July 13, 2017

**TIME:** 1:00 to 3:00 PM

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

**ATTENDEES:** Melissa Arnold, Stacy Borke, Heather Brown, Robin Davis, Alex Glover, Laura Golino de Lovato, Monet Gonnerman, Candace Jamison, Marc Jolin, LaQuida Landford, Jessica Mathis, Naimo Nur, Neisha Saxene, RJ Stangland, Emily Volpert, Bobby Weinstock

### MEETING DISCUSSION

- Welcome and Introductions
  - Marc Jolin led the group through introductions
- Chronic Homelessness Planning
  - Marc Jolin discussed the April 2017 Charge from the Executive Committee to the Coordinating Board in relation to the budget process, the Point-in-Time Count, and the Strengths, Weaknesses, Opportunities and Threats (SWOT) analysis.
  - The Point-in-Time count has a fast growing sub-population within the chronic homeless population, as well as those identifying as being disabled, and who identify as being homeless for a year or more.
    - We have more chronically homeless people in shelters now than we have seen in the past, but the largest unsheltered population is the chronically homeless population of individuals.
    - Marc mentioned that all A Home for Everyone (AHFE) workgroups will be generating ideas to create a plan to the Coordinating Board to help work on Chronic Homelessness.
    - Inside this plan, there will need to be strategies to meet Safety Off the Streets needs, the types of housing, engaging people in the housing placement process, the larger support services conversation, including healthcare, etc.
    - Marc asked individuals to take a look at the SWOT analysis handout and explained the process of a SWOT analysis in terms of chronic homelessness planning.
    - Marc explained that there is also a SWOT analysis with a racial equity frame, where individuals can reflect more specifically on what is working/not working for communities of color.
    - Someone asked whether there is a separate process for chronically homeless families, and Marc explained that there is a separate family plan in the RFPQ process, but not for the SWOT analysis/chronic homelessness plan.
    - Someone asked whether there is a definition of chronically homeless families that end up becoming separated.
    - There was a Housing and Urban Development (HUD) Listening Session around ending Youth and Family Homelessness. The group discussed what strategies or lenses HUD might need to use in relation to prioritizing resources for those populations. One attendee

suggested that we review the HUD listening session compilation at a future Housing Workgroup Meeting.

- The group discussed the numbers of chronically homeless families in the Point-in-Time Count.
- The group spent 25 minutes filling out the SWOT analysis individually.
- The Housing Workgroup attendees discussed their SWOT analysis responses in small groups.
- The group identified the following strengths:
  - Data collection
  - Project Haven
  - HOPE
  - Housing navigation resources
    - ◆ Navigating relationships
    - ◆ Skilled staff
  - Housing placements
  - Flexible rent assistance
  - Metropolitan Public Defenders (MPD)
    - ◆ Youth programs
    - ◆ One place to go
  - Innovative in aligning health housing
  - Targets populations are served well (should do a breakdown within chronically homeless populations), e.g. Example: Project Haven
  - Describing the issues to the community (including data)
  - Implementation of more peer-based programming
  - We spend our resources
  - Housing first approach
  - Insurance
- The group identified the following weaknesses:
  - Coordinated Access tool for Permanent Supportive Housing (PSH)
  - Insurance
  - Providing language access
  - Limited services providers for various populations
  - Definition of chronic homelessness doesn't always fit for people of color
  - Not enough coordination with hospitals and Department of Human Services
  - Lack of a regional framework when it's a regional problem
  - Bias
  - Restrictions of coordinated access
  - Uneven attention to certain populations of homeless individuals
  - Underfunded, over burdened mental health safety net (freedom over safety society)
  - Guardianship
  - Payees
  - Adult protective services
  - Providing mental health without insurance
  - Building relationships
  - De-stigmatizing mental health
  - Inequities in consequences for people of color (legal, lenience) / additional barriers
  - Lack of peer/community support

- Internal equity evaluation
- Unfair/inaccurate track records for sheltered individuals
- New arrivals to Portland (immigrates/refugees) skills/specific services/ staff abilities/basic cultural education
- Identification as a person of color/ cultural barriers within that identification
- Expectations/demand in culturally- specific providers without providing resources/time/money
- Agency/general process buy-in and consistency in initiatives (Accountability?)
- Ensuring ongoing participation and coordination
- Capacity
- Over reliance on private market landlords (get them on board)
- Inconsistent retention services
- Inadequate affordable housing
- Community buy-in (inclusionary zoning, taxes, etc.)
- The group identified the following opportunities:
  - Opportunities for young adults out of high school (BBQ questions)
  - Social Security Income (SSI)/Department of Human Services folks need to be at the table
  - Regional framework
  - Layers of work and coordination
  - Overcome measures (what are they? Can they change?)
  - De-stigmatizing mental health
  - Reasonable tenant protection
  - Improving tenant experience
  - Engage people who have lived experience in policy/decision making
  - Innovative Coordinated Care Oregon funding for healthcare coordination
  - Partnering with state for insurance enrolment (Note: health workgroup)
  - Documenting and identifying costs of when we don't help people
  - Bring housing affordability and ending homelessness efforts together
  - Permanent Supportive Housing (PSH) affordable housing inventory
  - Outcome measures—what are they? Can they change?
  - De-stigmatizing mental health
  - Accessibility
  - Chronic homelessness does not always mean need for PSH
  - Varying needs of chronically homeless folks
  - Reviewing PSH for the short/long term
- Threats:
  - Insurance (hard to get, hard to stay on, hard to get back on)
  - Community support
  - Job market of providers (skills, retention, money, experience, competition, etc.)
  - Job market for houseless folks, and new arrivals (education/credentials)
  - Screening barriers
  - Lack of housing resources for 0-30%
  - Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP)/social security access, maintenance and funding
  - Job market for homeless folks
  - Housing resources

- Tenant protections/changes in those policies for relocation
- Documentation status
- Discrimination (housing status, agency involvement)
- Institutional racism
- Landlord bias
- Criminal justice system inequity
- Inclusion of culturally specific agencies
- Dedication/commitment to equity
- Income disparity
- Narrow Housing and Urban Development (HUD) definition of chronic homelessness
- Rumors of developers pricing just above PSH/Section 8 Vouchers

## NEXT MEETING

August 10, 2017

1:00 to 3:00 PM

Portland Housing Bureau

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