



Safety off the Streets Workgroup Minutes

DATE: Tuesday, December 12, 2017

TIME: 2:00 PM – 4:00 PM

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

ATTENDEES: Chris Aiosa, Seraphie Allen, Liora Benz, Tony Bernal, Caitlin Burke, Erin Burrise, Avi Deol, Kaytee Evans, Rhea Graves, Lucas Hillier, Katie Kalpakis, Bashar Kasim, Tiffany Kingery, Katie Mays, Karissa Moden, April Rohman, Neal Sand, Amanda Sawyer

MEETING DISCUSSION

- Welcome and Introductions
 - Tony Bernal, Transition Projects, opened the meeting.
 - Tiffany Kingery, Joint Office of Homeless Services, led the group with an Assertive Engagement (AE) activity.
- Work Plan Revisit – ‘Low Barrier’ Shelter Guidelines Feedback
 - Tony Bernal, Tiffany Kingery and April Rohman discussed the Safety off the Streets (SOS) Work Group Plan 2018. Time was given to read over the first draft of Low Barrier Shelter Promising Practices. Feedback and suggestions were requested from meeting members:
 - Suggestions/Feedback:
 - At the bottom of the first paragraph, “...or people with severe and persistent mental illness” should be phrased as, “...or people experiencing moderate to acute mental health symptoms.”
 - The term ‘trauma informed’ should be implemented within the promising practices.
 - The sentence, “No single program will meet each of the criterion in this document, but low barrier shelters should substantially resemble these guidelines.” should be emphasized.
 - Program Design section should include: Funding culturally specific programs.
 - Operations section should include: Creating a safe and welcoming environment.
 - Shelter Rules section should include:
 - ◆ More specific details and/or examples of violence and theft thresholds.
 - ◆ Include the terms ‘hate speech,’ ‘intimidation,’ and ‘harassment’ as actions that will not be tolerated.
 - ◆ Give detailed definitions on what ‘intimidation’ and ‘harassment’ is.
 - These promising practices are not intended to be a document of expectations that shelters need to meet, but more of a guideline for what ‘low barrier’ could mean.
 - There is no promising practice guideline regarding potential barriers due to physical health (oxygen tanks, or have TB and addressing what services are offered around that).
 - Address participant’s rights and responsibilities.

- Urban Camping Impact Reduction Program Update
 - Lucas Hillier, Seraphie Allen and Katie Kalpakis from the City of Portland gave an update about the city's process for campsite cleanups.
 - They have created a reporting mechanism for data and reports of where trash clean ups need to take place (amount of garbage, bio hazards, etc).
 - An increase of funding has allowed the city to more quickly address problematic areas. The City of Portland is outpacing Oregon Department of Transportation's (ODOT) ability to maintain public spaces.
 - There is a goal of having the City of Portland take over and maintain all campsite cleanup activity and remove the task from ODOT.
 - The city will not ask people to move during severe weather conditions, but they will clean trash from areas.
 - The Sweeps Bill is being brought to the Oregon State Legislation which would take ODOT out of the business of handling any cleanup to individuals experiencing homelessness.
 - The city wants to solely take on the campsite cleanup responsibility so there is a series of expectations and one centralized organization addressing cleanup activities.
 - The level of folks who are refusing to get services is rising at concerning rates because individuals are scared that if they leave their property for an appointment or services, they'll come back and their property will be gone.
 - It would be helpful to know what low impact camping is and to post signs so individuals experiencing homelessness have a set of expectations and requirements.
 - There should be a set of camping expectation and guidelines not only for individuals experiencing homelessness, and for community members alike.
 - If there are reports of individuals who are camping out but not causing any trouble and there is no trash around their camping area, the city will not take any action.
- Featured Organization
 - Neal Sand, Janus Youth and supervises Yellow Brick Road street outreach
 - Provides services for individuals from ages 14-24. Outreach programs will provide services for folks up to 25 years of age.
 - Primary focus is to build relationships with youth experiencing homelessness and to be a bridge to services.
 - Janus Youth runs two shelters year round that sleep up to 30 individuals each. During the winter months (November through March), they expand to 35 beds at each shelter.
 - Ongoing orientations are held for people who want to volunteer. If interested, email Neal Sand at: nsand@janusyouth.org
 - For street outreach, volunteers are required to be at least 18 years of age.
 - There are opportunities at Janus Youth shelters for high school students to volunteer that Neal will conduct when the situation arises, like painting part of the shelter building.
- Updates
 - Liora Benz, Cascadia Behavioral Healthcare, states that Cascadia's street team goes out to find people to bring in. Other times people are referred into services. There are also times when hospitals will call to inform when someone experiencing homelessness is being discharged.
 - Katie Kalpakis states that she is conducting the city's Hepatitis A response.
 - There is no EPA certified product that kills Hepatitis A, as of now.
 - Until notified otherwise, items that have been contaminated have to be disposed of.
 - She is working to find out from the county health department if items can be dried with heat, if it will kill the virus within fabric items.

- 211info put out a memo for donated items that will be distributed to folks. We may want to consider retracting the request for certain used items to lower the risk of it being contaminated.

ACTION ITEMS

ITEM

Re-work Low Barrier Shelter Promising Practices draft to implement suggested feedback.

ASSIGNED

Workgroup leads

NEXT MEETING

Tuesday, January 16, 2018

2:00 PM – 4:00 PM

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