



Safety off the Streets Workgroup Minutes

DATE: Tuesday, January 16, 2018

TIME: 2:00 PM – 4:00 PM

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

ATTENDEES: Tony Bernal, Caitlin Burke, Erin Burrise, Emilie Friedman, Bashar Kasim, Tiffany Kingery, Katie Mays, April Rohman

MEETING DISCUSSION

- Welcome and Introductions
 - Tony Bernal, Transition Projects, opened the meeting. Emilie Friedman, Human Solutions, asked workgroup members a check-in question for introductions.
- ‘Low Barrier’ Shelter Promising Practices Update
 - Workgroup members went over the updated low barrier promising practices which incorporated the feedback and suggestions provided since the December meeting.
 - Workgroup leaders are open to suggestions of how to more clearly define specific shelter rules, i.e. what is violence, theft or intimidation.
 - We could more clearly explain why the shelter rules are in place
 - Discussed how ‘shelter rules’ could be changed to ‘shelter agreements’
 - Members provided additional feedback and suggestions to the current Promising Practices Guidelines:
 - Change ‘active substance abuse disorders’ to ‘active substance use’
 - Include some language about funding
 - Use ‘action language’ within the promising practices, almost as if it’s a checklist that shelters use
 - Include language to express that as a community, we need to prioritize permanent housing.
 - Community engagement strategies
 - There needs to be more variations of housing
 - There hasn’t been anyone moved from the Coordinated Access list
 - Discussed if Emergency and Severe Weather shelters are considered ‘low barrier’ shelters and if these promising practices apply
- Best Practices Guide for Camping Discussion
 - As providers, it is difficult to try to explain how to safely camp to individuals who are not in shelters.
 - The goal is for service providers to create guidelines or list of how to safely camp
 - Could possibly propose this idea to the Outreach and Engagement Workgroup
 - Members feel like these camping guidelines are needed and a good idea, but there are concerns with putting in so much work to create it and then it be shut down or not allowed by city or county government
 - Should include input from individuals experiencing homelessness when creating guidelines

- Is there a threshold of the number that can be camping together in the same area?
- Would we be able to provide any information that is not already known?
- There should also be community outreach and guidelines on how to interact with individuals experiencing homelessness or how community members should respond to those experiencing homelessness.
 - Should this idea be a separate set of guidelines?
 - Need to educate and inform community members
- Featured Agency
 - Due to low attendance, meeting members decided to continue with the featured agency at February's meeting
- Updates
 - Tiffany, Joint Office of Homeless Services, provided an Assertive Engagement update of 'Train the Trainer.'
 - Tiffany and Emilie are going before the Board of County Commissioners to brief on the success of Home for the Holidays

ACTION ITEMS

ITEM

1. Re-work and finalize Low Barrier Shelter Promising Practices
2. Possibly solicit for and create taskforce to generate a Best Practices Guide for Camping

ASSIGNED

Workgroup leads
Workgroup leads

NEXT MEETING

Tuesday, February 13, 2018
2:00 PM – 4:00 PM
Bud Clark Commons
Multipurpose Room
650 NW Irving Street
Portland, OR 97209