

A Home for Everyone (AHFE) Executive Committee

Meeting Minutes – December 18, 2017

Facilitated by: Chair Deborah Kafoury and Initiative Director Marc Jolin

Prepared by: Rhea Graves; **Reviewed by:** Jurisdictional Staff Members

Members present: Stacy Borke, Simone M. Brooks, Michael Buonocore, Karylenn Echols, Marc Jolin, Deborah Kafoury, Sharon Meieran, Michael Parkhurst, Ben Sand, Ted Wheeler. **Staff:** Seraphie Allen, Ryan Deibert, George Devendorf, Christian Elkin, Sally Erickson, Christian Gaston, Patrick Gihring, Rhea Graves, Lucas Hillier, Renee Huizinga, Jane Marie Ford, Patricia McLean Andrew McGough, Michelle Plambeck, Bimal RajBhandary, April Rohman, Blair Schaeffer-Bisht, Andrew Scott, Ian Slingerland, Denis Theriault, Joe Walsh, Carrie Young. **Guests:** Becky Beier, Lynnae Berg, Pat Daniels Trent Guy, Malcolm Hooper, Deandre Kenyanjui, Robin Mullins, Kristi Smith, Susan Stoltenberg, Amanda Waldroupe, Amy Zlot.

Agenda Item	Discussion Points	Decision/Action
<p>Welcome, Introductions, Review and Approval of Minutes</p> <p>– Marc Jolin, Initiative Director</p>	<p>Marc Jolin, Initiative Director, called the meeting to order.</p> <p>Members reviewed the October 2017 minutes. Minutes were approved with no changes.</p>	<p>Motion to approve October 2017 minutes. All in favor.</p>
<p>Economic Opportunity Program Update</p> <p>– Patricia McLean, Worksystems</p> <p>– Blair Schaeffer-Bisht, Worksystems</p> <p>– Patrick Gihring, Worksystems</p> <p>– Pat Daniels, Constructing Hope</p>	<p>Patrick Gihring, Worksystems, shared information on the Economic Opportunity Program (EOP) that serves low income residents in Multnomah County and the City of Portland. All of the participants served are at 50% average median income (AMI) or below. The program was supported with initial investment from Home Forward. Participants are connected with career coaches, training, workshops, and job search support. Outcomes data shows that 70% of participants exit the program with jobs.</p> <p>Pat Daniels, Constructing Hope, shared that 66% of her organization’s clients were previously incarcerated and 100% are low income. They offer four classes a year and during the course of each class approximately 3-4 participants become homeless. The connection to rent assistance has meant that those at risk of homelessness can retain housing and be successful in their programs.</p> <p>Patricia McLean, Worksystems, shared that a career coach will refer clients to the rent assistance coordinator and program staff will maintain communication about the client’s status throughout the duration of the program. 60% of people served with rent assistance dollars are people of color. 76% of clients remained housed for one year after rent assistance ended.</p> <p>Malcolm is the Equity Coordinator for the Oregon Food Bank and shared his struggle with homelessness and addiction. Malcolm shared the importance of clients being able to hope for a better life and providers should encourage the belief that “setbacks do not mean failure.”</p>	<p>JOHS to circulate the EOP presentation to the group.</p>
<p>Budget Priorities Discussion</p>	<p>An estimated 30,000 people were served by our system last year. City of Portland Mayor Wheeler commented that the Portland Housing Bureau (PHB) will work to provide better data to maximize the effectiveness of our current funding. \$21 million is currently dedicated to shelter operations and \$31 million is dedicated to housing placement work. A Home for Everyone (AHFE) strategies included:</p>	

<p>– Marc Jolin, Initiative Director</p> <p>– Ian Slingerland, Home Forward</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Expand shelter capacity by 650 beds to more than 1300 year-round beds • Increase placements into housing by 1,350 people to more than 4,350 per year • Increase prevention and diversion by 1000 people to more than 5,000 per year <p>Fiscal year (FY) 2018 Joint Office of Homeless Services (JOHS) budget priorities included:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Priority 1: Stay the Course (Maintain Current Capacity) • Priority 2: Increase Flexible Rent Assistance • Priority 3: Increase Investment in Permanently Affordable Housing • Priority 4: Increase Rent Assistance & Employment Support • Priority 5: Increase Support Services for Formerly Chronically Homeless People in Affordable Housing <p>Michael Buonocore, Home Forward, shared that we should explore the topic of provider sustainability in the near future. “We should explore how we can play more of a leadership role in shaping the role of philanthropic investments as a way to support nonprofits in our system.” Ian Slingerland, Home Forward, shared that flat funding is insufficient to meet our system’s current service levels. Marc Jolin added, “we are hearing from our service providers that their employees struggle with housing instability. We need to have a discussion about our current funding models.”</p> <p>Ian Slingerland shared that the federal funding climate is still uncertain. Home Forward’s response strategies include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Reduce the number of individuals and families served in Housing Choice Vouchers (HCV) program through attrition. • Constrain costs in Project Based Voucher program. • Limit payment standard increases to those required by program rules. • Consider the future of our investments in non-traditional assistance. <p>Home Forward has a program reserve fund to help mitigate costs of current service levels in the event of budget reductions, but they are looking to more permanent solutions.</p> <p>Marc Jolin shared the strategic priorities survey that was distributed to all Coordinating Board and work group mailing lists. 79 people responded to the survey.</p> <p>The survey reviewed three primary questions:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Where to invest any additional funding 2. How to reallocate existing funding 3. What to protect if funding is reduced <p>Where to invest any additional funding in priority order – by top rank:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Permanent supportive housing (9) 2. Housing placement & retention (9) 3. Shelter/Mental Health & Addiction/Eviction Prevention & Diversion (6) 	
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Where to invest any additional funding in priority order – by top three rankings:

1. Housing Placement & Retention – Including Flexible Rent Assistance (26)
2. Shelter (17)
3. Permanent Supportive Housing (16)
4. Mental Health and Addiction Services (14)

Population priorities:

1. Families w/ children
2. People with disabilities & elderly
3. People of Color
4. Domestic Violence
5. Youth/LGBTQ

Mayor Wheeler shared that the 5% budget constraint is the same budget guidance that all city bureaus are given. He shared his commitment to housing and homelessness and noted that this work is first priority in his budget. It was clarified that the \$880,000 simulated budget constraint reflected in the presentation only affects ongoing funding.

Deborah Kafoury, Multnomah County Chair, shared that Multnomah County will adopt legislative priorities for the short session in February. There will be a robust housing and homelessness budget and it will be sent out to all meeting members in attendance today. She added that it is important for us to show a coordinated effort.

Sharon Meieran, Multnomah County Commissioner, added that supportive housing is one of those areas where most of us agree it maximizes the effectiveness of our dollars, but the economic benefits are not necessarily seen in the systems that make these investments. We are putting money in, but the hospital system experiences economic benefits in decreased emergency room utilization. Is there an opportunity for engagement with these systems so we can leverage our current funding?

Michael Parkhurst, Meyer Memorial Trust, commented that leveraging our dollars is important. He asked about the long-term effectiveness of our dollars being used for vouchers that benefit private sector actors. Should we be buying buildings instead of relying on vouchers to subsidize them? It is equally important to build long term capacity in our social service system and acquiring buildings would help achieve this. Marc Jolin shared that it has been challenging to buy properties and the opportunities have been limited.

Commissioner Meieran has experienced an increase in constituent communications about livability issues and asked how to better address these concerns. “What is perceived as the homelessness crisis is linked to the livability concerns,” expressed by constituents.

Karylenn Echols, City of Gresham Councilor, agreed with Commissioner Meieran about the importance of better informing the public in order to change the narrative in the community.

	<p>Chair Kafoury requested a discussion regarding livability coordination efforts at a future meeting. Mayor Wheeler shared that we should be inviting the business community to collaborate with us on problem solving and developing solutions to address these community concerns.</p> <p>Simone Brooks, Portland Business Alliance, shared the importance of engaging ambassadors from business associations as well as neighborhood associations.</p>	
<p>Severe Weather Planning Update</p> <p>– April Rohman, Joint Office of Homeless Services</p> <p>– Sally Erickson, Joint Office of Homeless Services</p>	<p>April Rohman, Joint Office of Homeless Services, shared the JOHS commitment that “no one in need of shelter will be turned away once severe weather thresholds are met.”</p> <p>Our team has engaged in coordination and planning with community partners, the City of Portland and Multnomah County Emergency Management to prepare us for severe weather this winter. We have a detailed rapid response plan that scales up according to the need. This planning work will ensure we are prepared to respond to the next severe weather event.</p> <p>Neighbors and staff were invited to attend volunteer trainings before severe weather approached to give them the skills needed to volunteer in warming shelters. Supplies were donated from community members before they were needed and we have more trained volunteers and supplies because of these intentional outreach efforts.</p> <p>Stacy Borke, Initiative Co-Chair, shared the importance of being able to have medical care at severe weather shelters. It has been life changing for those individuals that came into shelter during inclement weather conditions.</p>	
<p>Closing Comments</p> <p>– Marc Jolin, Initiative Director</p>	<p>The next Executive Committee meeting will be 2:00 PM to 4:00 PM on Monday, March 5, 2018 at the Multnomah Building, Room 315.</p> <p>Meeting adjourned.</p>	