



## Housing Workgroup Minutes

**DATE:** Thursday, February 8, 2018

**TIME:** 1:00 – 3:00 PM

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

**ATTENDEES:** Chris Aiosa, Melissa Arnold, Heather Brown, Erin Burrise, Jennifer Chang, Alex Glover, Monet Gonnerman, Liv Jenssen, Jessica Mathis, Maddie Norman, Matt Serres, Dana Shultz, RJ Stangland.

### MEETING DISCUSSION

- Welcome and Introductions
  - Erin Burrise, Joint Office of Homeless Services, called the meeting to order and led the group through introductions.
- Portland Housing Bureau (PHB) Draft Bond Resident Screening Criteria Guidelines Review
  - Jennifer Chang, Portland Housing Bureau, asked meeting members for feedback of the PHB draft Bond Resident Screening Criteria Guidelines:
    - It could be a barrier to require a security deposit for 0-30% Area Median Income (AMI) individuals.
    - More clarity explaining that those with project based or tenant based vouchers do not also need to obtain a waiver.
    - It seems discriminatory to decline housing due to criminal history. If it is not required by the funder to decline housing because of criminal history, it should not be as strict as it is written in the bond.
    - Clarify the amount of rent that would be charged by unit and AMI.
    - All adults within a household will be screened and need one piece of identification.
    - The form of identification does not need to be United States issued.
    - Meeting member feels that the rental history requirements will screen many people out.
    - Group feels that the rental history requirements should not be reasons to screen anyone out of housing.
    - Suggested that denials should have an automatic review that may turn into approval.
    - PHB is in negotiation with an intergovernmental agreement with Home Forward. Once finalized, property managers will receive education about providing supportive housing units.
    - It would be better to have one criteria for all AMI groups. There does not need to be criteria for 0-30% and a separate criteria for 0-60%.
    - There should be permissive screening criteria, especially considering the property managers and other tenants who live on the property who have never experienced homelessness.
    - Screenings should be used as a relationship building and conversation opportunity between the potential tenant and property manager.
    - The application process should be clear, easy to understand and simple to complete.

- OneApp Oregon decided to waive their application fee.
- Suggestion to allow clients to list an advocate with the advocate's contact information.
- There should be a centralized email address that can be given on behalf of individuals who may not have a personal email address.
- Remove the manufacturing and distribution criteria because it is disproportionate.
- Remove vehicular manslaughter for accidents criteria.
- Criteria that is not a prediction of future behavior should not be considered.
- Using false identity and forgery should not be a criteria.
- If there is denial due to criminal conviction, it should automatically go under individualize case review.
- Approach should be data driven in regards to criminal history and prediction of future criminal activity.
- Criminal history should be considered differently based on if the housing is for single adults versus if the property houses families.
- Jennifer Chang provided a handout with specific items that she wanted more targeted feedback on. Meeting members were given time to fill out the handout at the meeting but were also given the option to fill it out later and email it to Jennifer.
- Supporting Partnerships for Anti-Racist Communities (SPARC) Project Update
  - Erin Burrise explained that the SPARC Kick-Off Event will be taking place on March 19, 2018 and the project will last through March 23, 2018.
  - There will be focus groups and one-on-one sessions conducted with individuals who are currently experiencing homelessness or have experienced homelessness in the past.
  - There will be trainings for executive directors and senior management and a separate day of training for direct service providers.
  - Communications and invitations for the various events will start being sent out within the next week or two.
- Chronic Homelessness Plan Update
  - Erin Burrise informed the group that the final draft of the Chronic Homelessness Plan recommendations were presented to the Coordinating Board and will be presented to the Executive Committee on March 5<sup>th</sup>. More information on the Chronic Homelessness Plan recommendation will be given to the workgroup once Executive Committee meeting takes place.

## ACTION ITEMS

### ITEM

1. Send any additional feedback regarding the PHB Draft Bond Resident Screening Criteria to Jennifer Chang.

### ASSIGNED

Workgroup members

## NEXT MEETING

Thursday, March 8, 2018  
Portland Housing Bureau  
Steel Conference Room  
421 SW 6th Avenue, Suite 500  
Portland, OR 97204