



Safety off the Streets Workgroup Minutes

DATE: Tuesday, February 13, 2018

TIME: 2:00 PM – 4:00 PM

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

ATTENDEES: Chris Aiosa, Tony Bernal, Liora Berry, Michael Braxton, Cait Burke, Erin Burrise, Clay Cooper, Avi Deol, Katie Dineen, Tiffany Kingery, Katie Mays, Karissa Moden, Rob Nathan, Daphne Nesbitt, Stephanie Rawson, Art Rios, Sr., April Rohman, Neal Sand, Ron Thomas.

MEETING DISCUSSION

- Welcome and Introductions
 - Tony Bernal, Transition Projects, called the meeting to order. Tiffany Kingery, Joint Office of Homeless Services, initiated introductions and check-in question.
- Assertive Engagement Update & Exercise
 - Tiffany Kingery led the group through an assertive engagement exercise.
- Metro Trash Collection Presentation & Brainstorm
 - Stephanie Rawson and Rob Nathan, Metro, discussed Metro's Solid Waste Management.
 - Regional Legal Dumping (RID Patrol) has been around since 1993.
 - Historically, RID Patrol has been complaint based.
 - Current goal is to be proactive about illegal dumping.
 - There are four illegal dumping categories: Residential, Commercial, Homeless, Other.
 - The Homeless category was added 5 or 6 years ago when more people were seen living on the streets.
 - The percentage of illegal dumping reported from the homeless population in 2015 was 4%, in 2016 it was 9% and in 2017 is jumped all the way to 22%.
 - Metro realized that the reason illegal dumping for the homeless population is increasing is because there is a lack of dumpster availability.
 - Stephanie Rawson and Rob Nathan requested feedback and ideas of ways to manage trash and debris for individuals living on the streets.
 - Liora Berry, Cascadia Behavioral Health, is glad that restroom and dumpster services are being seen as a basic human need and finally being funded by the appropriate agency.
 - If Metro developed livability kits, would it be a burden to ask service providers and outreach workers to distribute the kits?
 - Some meeting members felt that it would be a burden to ask outreach workers to provide the livability kits in addition to the work they already do.
 - Another meeting member mentioned that there is a program already set up, that started with the police department, where a team of two people would go out and supply trash bags to those who are experiencing homelessness. They would explain that if they place trash into the bags, they would come back to pick it up. It has been

- at least two years and the process has helped build relationships with individuals who are experiencing homelessness.
 - One problem with public trash receptacles is that housed individuals also illegally dump into those.
 - Metro is currently collecting data about needle disposal and the need for sharps containers.
 - It would be helpful if churches with large parking lots could hold a large trash receptacle that people experiencing homelessness could legally use.
 - It would also be helpful to provide a map of the trash receptacles throughout the city that houseless individuals may place trash into.
 - It was suggested to place sharps containers in areas now. The current planning process could be wasted time spent and the containers can be placed out and utilized now.
- Would organizations be interested in being contracted by Metro to help the continuation of addressing homelessness?
 - There are many people experiencing homelessness who would like to be more independent and complete tasks on their own and not through organizations.
 - Metro wants to partner with culturally specific organizations because they understand the importance of existing relationships that have been built with those organizations.
 - One way to approach offering trash services is to have one central location that a trash receptacle and sharps container can be placed for use, and on a frequent basis.
 - Try not to call the organizing of this initiative a “task force” so when outreach happens, it does not make individuals feel threatened by possible authority.
 - Give incentives for using the sharps containers and throwing trash away.
- Rob Nathan asked the group to share the appropriate terms or language to use when working with people who are experiencing homelessness.
 - Honor the fact that homelessness does not define anyone as a person.
- Workplan Check-In: Camping Guidelines & Community Engagement/Education Strategies – Discussion & Next Steps
 - Karissa Moden, Sisters of the Road, initiated a discussion on creating camping guidelines for individuals who are sleeping on the streets.
 - Engage and educate how the housed community can engage with those who are experiencing homelessness.
 - There are nearly 4,000 people living out on the streets. There should be an open and honest conversation about the fact that our current system for camping, and it being illegal, is not working.
 - There should be communication with agencies and organizations that are conducting sweeps to create a guideline to help the prevention of sweeps.
 - It seems like there are certain areas of town that seem to have zero tolerance for people camping outside. Other areas may be more accepting to allowing certain guidelines to be followed without sweeping.
 - System is mostly complaint-driven. Educating the housed populations, whom are making the complaints, would be beneficial.
 - It seems like there may be less complaints if camps were kept clean and free of trash.
 - Part of the process could be to engage and ask for suggestions from the person who is making a complaint.
 - The goal would be to work on a policy recommendation for camping guidelines that is supported by the city and county.
 - It may be too high of a risk for the city and county to implement a policy change supporting camping guidelines.

- Nonprofit organizations could be the leads of publishing a recommended camping guideline.
 - Workgroups within the Safety off the Streets workgroup will be created:
 - One workgroup to create policy recommendations and camping guidelines
 - Another workgroup for guidelines for community engagement
 - A Home for Everyone's Coordinating Board should grant permission to work on these recommendations for camping guidelines and policy change.
- Agency Spotlight: Cascadia Behavioral Health
 - Liora Berry, Cascadia Behavioral Health, explained to meeting members the variety of services that Cascadia offers.
 - The majority of individuals served are being served free of charge.
 - Cascadia has an affordable housing platform.
 - There are four outpatient clinics:
 - Addiction
 - Mental Health
 - Specialty programs for specific populations and needs.
 - Specialty programs for more focused populations and intensive care.
 - There are addiction services, including services for addiction to gambling and people who have had DUIs.
 - There is a large residential facility which includes secured residential facilities for individuals with acute mental illnesses.
 - Homeless services is part of Cascadia's community programs.

ACTION ITEMS

ITEM

Forward the Assertive Engagement website to meeting members.

ASSIGNED

Tiffany
Kingery

NEXT MEETING

Tuesday, March 20, 2018

2:00 PM – 4:00 PM

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