



Housing Workgroup Minutes

DATE: Thursday, March 8, 2018

TIME: 1:00 – 2:30 PM

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

ATTENDEES: Liora Berry, Dana Brandon, Erin Burrise, Ryan Deibert, John Gould, Jessica Mathis, Steve Schell, RJ Stangland, Bobby Weinstock.

MEETING DISCUSSION

- Welcome and Introductions
 - Ryan Deibert, Joint Office of Homeless Services, called the meeting to order and led the group through introductions.
- Supporting Partnerships for Anti-Racist Communities (SPARC) Project Update
 - Ryan Deibert explained that the Center for Social Innovation is conducting the SPARC project.
 - The project is focused on structural racism as a driver for homelessness.
 - The SPARC project will be a year-long engagement and kicks off on Monday, March 19th.
 - There will be focus groups and trainings throughout that week.
- Chronic Homelessness Plan Update
 - Ryan Deibert reviewed the strategic framework for the Chronic Homelessness Plan (CHP) which was adopted by the Executive Committee and presented a PowerPoint of the final recommendations.
 - The process started off with 2,500 interviews of people experiencing chronic homelessness.
 - The final draft of the CHP recommendations were brought to the A Home for Everyone (AHFE) Coordinating Board to help shape the strategic framework.
 - 71% of the chronic homeless population are unsheltered.
 - Guiding values were created to help frame up the work:
 - Set work towards outcome goals
 - Scale the strategies that already work
 - Apply racial equity lens and center solutions and direct voices from communities of color
 - Less talk, more housing people
 - Executive Committee called out the need for better public-facing communication
 - They also called out to make more clearly that the interviews were conducted with individuals with lived experience of homelessness.
 - Affordable housing should not just be within our non-profit organizations, but also with private landlords.
 - Executive Committee believes that there needs to be better salaries for the front line staff.
 - Strategic priorities were discussed with the Executive Committee.
 - Prioritize advocacy for 0-30% AMI units.
 - Focus on the number of people we can help, not just the number of units.
 - Involve property owners from the start of the process.

- We have to get access to all the units that are available and to get support from the original funders.
- Need to make better use of the existing shelter beds by moving people out of them into permanent supportive housing.
- Outreach and engagement staff who directly connect with the homeless population needs to be increased.
- Offer caution around taking existing stock of units and turning them into permanent housing because that could turn into displacing one population to house another population.
- More support to move people from supportive housing into permanent housing.
- Improve access to transportation.
- Expand transitional recovery housing and support low barrier shelters.
- Pilot mobile restrooms and laundry services, and trash and garbage pickup.
- There will be extensive planning between now and July 2018 on how 2,000 units of supportive housing will be implemented.
- Permanent Supportive Housing Planning
 - Ryan Deibert initiated a group discussion regarding supportive housing planning.
 - Where are housing and services connecting and services directly and intentionally aligned to create supportive housing for people with disabilities experiencing homelessness? Who are the funders? Who are the collaborating housing and service providers?
 - Veterans Affairs Supportive Housing (VASH)
 - Cascadia Behavioral Health
 - There will be a new program with Multnomah County focused on mental health and homelessness called STP 2.0
 - The current STP program focuses supportive housing for individuals who are released from prison or jail.
 - Employment Access Center
 - LEAD
 - Where is that working best?
 - Multnomah County Aging and Disability works well for those who have physical disabilities and qualify for Medicaid.
 - Where do existing collaborations require additional support?
 - Multnomah County Aging and Disability works less well for people who have non-physical disabilities.
 - 211 Info does not have listing of specialty organizations that require referrals.
 - Domestic Violence organizations and system
 - Recovery Housing
 - Where are we providing services to people with disabilities who are experiencing homelessness, but not providing affordable housing support?
 - VHS
 - Community health clinics
 - Mental health clinics and addictions programs
 - Where are we providing affordable housing to people with disabilities who are experiencing homelessness, but not providing supportive services?
 - Putting individuals into housing from chronic homelessness and assuming they will be able to maintain paying rent.
 - Domestic violence victims who have financial benefits that lapse.

- Affordable housing programs
- What is the role of resident services?
 - Housekeeping
 - Transportation
 - Preparing meals
 - Distributing medications
 - Financial support and bookkeeping

NEXT MEETING

Thursday, April 12, 2018
Portland Housing Bureau
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