

A Home for Everyone (AHFE) Executive Committee

Meeting Minutes – March 5, 2018

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, Elisa Harrigan (Michael Parkhurst rep.), Ben Sand, Shannon Singleton, Ted Wheeler. **Staff:** Seraphie Allen, Jennifer Chang, Michael Cox, Ian Davie, Ryan Deibert, George Devendorf, Jamey Duhamel, Christian Elkin, Kaytee Evans, 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, Wendy Smith, Denis Theriault, Joe Walsh, Carrie Young. **Guests:** Becky Beier, Lynnae Berg, Pat Daniels, Sally Prather, Jim Shapira Kristi Smith, Susan Stoltenberg, Kate Thomas, 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 December 2017 minutes. Minutes were approved with no changes.</p>	<p>Motion to approve December 2017 minutes. Majority in favor. No opposed. One abstained.</p>
<p>Faith Leaders Convening Summit and Community Engagement Opportunities Update</p> <p>– Ben Sand, Portland Leadership Foundation</p> <p>– Denis Theriault, Joint Office of Homeless Services</p>	<p>Ben Sand, Portland Leadership Foundation, gave an update on the Civic Forum and the Faith Community Convening hosted in late 2017 by his organization. The event identified 17 faith leaders who expressed interest in creating a faith collaborative to design community engagement opportunities called “on-ramps.” Ben Sand shared his enthusiasm about the potential of an opportunity allowing faith communities to provide safe places for people to sleep in their vehicles. A similar project is already underway in Eugene and a program representative has agreed to share lessons learned and best practices with us as we embark on this pilot project.</p> <p>Marc Jolin asked if there is consideration about using sleeping pods in addition to vehicles. Ben Sand shared that the project is in developmental stages, but there are no plans to incorporate sleeping pods at this time.</p> <p>Shannon Singleton, Initiative Co-Chair, asked, “Are there any barriers present that could impede this project from moving forward?” Ben Sand shared that the Portland Leadership Foundation will work with the Joint Office of Homeless Services (JOHS) to distribute a Request for Proposals (RFP) and identify a provider to coordinate placements. He will bring an updated project outline to the Executive Committee soon.</p> <p>Denis Theriault, Joint Office of Homeless Services, gave an update on Home for the Holidays. This opportunity presented a way for property owners to offer available units to house families experiencing homelessness in our community. Forty-two families were housed and 37 property owners came forward to offer housing units through this program.</p>	

	<p>Severe Weather presented the opportunity to help with donations and volunteer opportunities. Dozens of community members were trained and volunteered in warming centers this past winter.</p> <p>Sharon Meieran, Multnomah County Board of Commissioners, shared that community members are interested in cleanup efforts in their neighborhoods. “We can help organize community members to do this work in their own communities.”</p> <p>Seraphie Allen, City of Portland Mayor’s Office, shared that the Mayor’s Office 2nd Annual Pick It Up Day is the result of collaboration with SOLVE and other community partners. Discussions are underway to engage community groups about the volunteer opportunities available.</p>	
<p>Strategic Framework to Address Chronic Homelessness</p> <p>– Marc Jolin, Initiative Director</p> <p>– Ryan Deibert, Joint Office of Homeless Services</p> <p>– Kaytee Evans, Joint Office of Homeless Services</p>	<p>Ryan Deibert, Joint Office of Homeless Services, led the group through a presentation that highlighted the primary planning, engagement and outreach, and data and research used to construct the final draft of the Strategic Framework to Address Chronic Homelessness.</p> <p>The Executive Committee charged the JOHS to develop a chronic homelessness strategy. There was significant engagement with the A Home for Everyone (AHFE) Coordinating Board and its subcommittees. Kaytee Evans, Joint Office of Homeless Services, conducted interviews with 25 people who have experienced chronic homelessness. There was an intentional focus on racial equity in the planning process; action steps were informed through outreach to culturally specific providers and use of the racial equity lens.</p> <p>The 2015-2017 Point-in-Time Count (PIT) data showed significant growth in people of color who experience chronic homelessness. Most of the increase was a doubling of the chronic homelessness population overall; 71% of people experiencing chronic homelessness are unsheltered. More people are on the streets for longer periods of time and 47% of unsheltered individuals experience disabling conditions. PIT data showed that chronically homeless families decreased in 2015-2017. Ryan Deibert highlighted that the data are limited by using only the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) definitions of homelessness. HUD does not define individuals who are doubled or tripled up to be homeless. Elisa Harrigan, Meyer Memorial Trust, asked if homeless youth data was used to supplement data on chronically homeless families. Ryan Deibert shared that this information was used to inform the PIT, but not specifically for this planning process.</p> <p>The narratives that Kaytee Evans collected displayed a need for hygiene resources and for affordable housing. The Coordinating Board considered this qualitative data to develop recommendations for the Executive Committee to review. The Executive Committee reviewed the recommendations and practiced using the racial equity lens during this meeting.</p> <p>Simone Brooks, Brooks Staffing and Portland Business Alliance, asked, “When it comes to racial equity goals, how do we engage communities that may be resistant?” Ryan Deibert responded that this is something we hope to identify more with our collaboration with the Center for Social Innovation through the initiative called Supporting Partnerships through Anti-Racist Communities (SPARC). Michael Buonocore, Home Forward, asked, “Was the Equity Lens Task Force asked to review these</p>	<p>Motion to approve the Strategic Framework to Address Chronic Homelessness. All in favor.</p>

recommendations? The racial equity lens contains very important and detailed questions. I am unsure how effective we will be in using this as an overlay to these very specific recommendations.” Marc Jolin responded, “The equity lens has been used at every step of this process and we hope that your reflections today can add to the work that has already been done.”

Marc Jolin walked through the Strategic Framework to Address Chronic Homelessness with the group and asked for reflections and feedback.

Reflections on Guiding Values

Ted Wheeler, City of Portland Mayor’s Office, agrees with the values listed; he suggested adding “collaboration and lifting up the voices of chronically homeless people” to the guiding values list. Additionally, we need more objective standards to measure the effectiveness of supportive housing on a programmatic level. Elisa Harrigan commented that the Fair Housing component seems light and could be higher valued. She appreciated that the racial equity lens was used in the front end of the process and not as an afterthought. “It was clear that this was used throughout the planning.”

Ben Sand asked, “How can we dispel some of the myths and communicate the clear plans that we’re implementing through AHFE?” A recommendation was made to add “effective communication and community outreach” as a priority. No concerns were expressed in adding this to the guiding values list.

Karyllyn Echols, Gresham City Council, advocated for adding “access to public transportation for workforce supports and other services” to the guiding values presented. Michael Buonocore asked us to consider security and intentional modeling in residential spaces. He added, “This is a reality of providing a safe place to sleep for people experiencing homelessness.” Mayor Wheeler asked, “Can using existing buildings make this more difficult?” Michael Buonocore responded that this depends on the building and some spaces might only require minor upgrades.

Mayor Wheeler suggested brainstorming enticements and incentives for the private sector in order to bring in developers and landlords. Simone Brooks suggested that we call in business community members and property owners during the tenant screening discussions. Shannon Singleton commented that we need to acknowledge the challenge in maximizing units and upholding some of our AHFE community values.

A suggestion was made about changing the way we reference outcome data, to communicate in terms of how many people are being housed, not the number of units. Commissioner Meieran asked if there are data on the number living in 0%-30% area median income (AMI) units that do not need supportive services. Marc Jolin suggested that staff look into this further.

Michael Buonocore asked for a visual representation of the framework overlay and how it fits in with the broader AHFE vision. Marc Jolin agreed and added, “We can do that.”

	<p>A comment was made that we need to prioritize paying direct service staff adequately. There was support in adding the guiding value: “No staff working to serve people that experience homelessness should be on the verge of homelessness themselves.”</p> <p>Marc Jolin asked the members if there was a need for an oversight body to guide this process. It was asked if the Coordinating Board needed a clearer and more actionable charge from Executive Committee to proceed with next steps. There was support in taking time to reflect and the group will consider these items prior to the next meeting.</p> <p>Mayor Wheeler clarified that these recommendations and values are a framework that will set the foundation for a strategic plan.</p> <p>Commissioner Meieran recommended that someone from the health care field sit on the Executive Committee.</p> <p>There was support to prioritize “bringing other regional partners to the table.” Roseburg and Grants Pass are in a housing crisis, as well as many other counties in the state. It will take collaboration and support outside of our table to create the community change we need.</p>	
<p>Supporting Partnerships for Anti-Racist Communities (SPARC) Update – Marc Jolin, Initiative Director</p>	<p>SPARC Week takes place the week of March 19th and will build on research into roots and best practices already under way in 10 other communities. The SPARC Kickoff Event will be hosted on Monday, March 19th at Revolution Hall. This gathering is part of a week of events and trainings for community members, service providers and other key partners. JOHS and SPARC staff will spend the year working closely with community members and AHFE partners to enact structural changes within our system over the next several years.</p>	
<p>Closing Comments – Marc Jolin, Initiative Director</p>	<p>The next Executive Committee meeting will be 2:00 PM to 4:00 PM on Monday, April 16, 2018 at the Multnomah Building, Room 315.</p> <p>Meeting adjourned.</p>	