



## Community Advisory Forum Minutes

**DATE:** Wednesday, October 18, 2017

**TIME:** 2:00 PM – 4:00 PM

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

**ATTENDEES:** Donald Allgeier, Michael Bailey, Kim Berberich, Deva Bluemoon Caitlin Campbell, Gabriel Court, Kenneth DeWeese, Kaytee Evans, Ernest Hayes, D. Herrmann, John Johnson, Karen Kern, Bill Moore, Katherine Moore, Maddie Norman, Vailey Oehlke, Walter Robinson II, Christopher Sage, Kylie Squires, RJ Stangland, Tony Vezina, Emily Volpert, Mary Wallers, Candee Wilson, Jeff Woodward.

### MEETING DISCUSSION

- Welcome and Introductions
  - Walter Robinson II led the group through introductions and an overview of the Group Agreement.
- Diversity and Equity Question and Development of Group Agreement
  - Walter Robinson II led the group through discussion of the Equity Question and Discussion:
    - Expansion of culturally specific recovery housing.
    - Expanding capacity of the Benefits & Entitlements (BEST) Program at Central City Concern.
    - Culturally specific outreach workers/peers to engage with people on the streets to try to determine the need and how we can work to meet the need.
    - Gathering data around what types of services don't exist and what we don't have capacity for.
    - More services provided in the shelters (employment specialists, community engagement specialists to help individuals plan their days, goal planning),
    - Better communication between organizations and the public so the general population is aware of the work that is being done to improve the homeless situation and ways that they can support or participate in that work.
    - Communication strategy about why we have a dedication to racial equity.
    - Follow-up services after individuals leave shelter.
    - Expand rapid rehousing with supportive case management.
    - Making homeless prevention funds more obtainable.
    - Increased affordable housing.
    - Long-term subsidies for families with children.
    - Money going towards policy changes and laws surrounding rent control (How can we get politicians to strengthen their political investment in these issues?).
    - Opportunities for education and job trainings—more affordable, easier to obtain.
    - Restorative justice.
    - Changing social norms around second chances (felony records, Ban the Box, etc.).
    - Expanded services for LGBTQ youth.

- Expanded education within youth shelters.
- More youth shelters.
- Multnomah County Library Rules Update
  - Vailey Oehlke, Director of Multnomah County Libraries, explained the background for the upcoming Multnomah County Library Rule Changes, and provided an overview of the proposed changes.
  - Three social workers provide 50 hours of support at the Central Library and across the library system. Cascadia and Multnomah County Library have partnered to make that support possible. Last year, about 1,400 individuals were helped by social workers at the Multnomah County Central Library.
  - The group asked questions and offered feedback to library staff, centralizing the equity lens and how the rule changes may impact houseless individuals who use the library system.
  - The changes will be put in place on November 1<sup>st</sup>, 2017.
- Livability Updates with Mayor Ted Wheeler's Staff
  - Berk Nelson and Seraphie Allen from Mayor Ted Wheeler's Office joined the group to discuss how local government engages with and enforces safety and livability in the City of Portland. Berk and Seraphie described the responsibilities and priorities associated with their positions.
    - Every resident of Portland, Oregon has the right to feel safe.
    - Berk and Seraphie responded to questions from Community Advisory Forum members.
- Chronic Homelessness Plan Update
  - Tabled for future meeting due to timing.

## NEXT MEETING

Wednesday, November 15, 2017

2:00 to 4:00 PM

Bud Clark Commons

1st Floor Multipurpose Room

655 NW Irving Street

Portland, OR 97209