

## Mid-Willamette Homeless Initiative Task Force

November 7, 2016

### Meeting Minutes

#### ATTENDANCE

**Members:** Bruce Bailey, Warren Bednarz, Gladys Blum, Janet Carlson, Cathy Clark, Kim Freeman, David Leith, Jerry Moore, Irma Oliveros, Anna Peterson, Jon Reeves, Shaney Starr and Verena Wessel.

**Guest:** Karen Ray, Karen Ray Associates.

**Staff:** Lisa Trauernicht, Marion County and Laura Walker, City of Salem

#### WELCOME/INTRODUCTIONS

- Commissioner Janet Carlson welcomed task force members to the meeting. Members made self- introductions.
- The meeting agenda included an incorrect date . October 17, 2016 minutes were to be approved.

**MOTION:** With the technical correction to the agenda, Anna Peterson moved to approve the October 17, 2016 meeting minutes. Seconded by David Leith; motion carried. Warren Bednarz abstained.

- Commissioner Carlson reviewed MWHI development and progress to date, and introduced a [memorandum](#) outlining the continued commitment of the task force. Task force members discussed the memo, expressing the following key points:
  - The City of Salem is firmly committed to the partnership with Polk County. As a collaborative process, it is important to focus on the goal of alleviating homelessness for people in the four jurisdictions.
  - The City of Keizer firmly supports this effort and will bring forth resources and support for people in our community.
  - The co-chairs have been communicating with Polk County's appointed representatives.
  - As the Mid-Willamette Homeless Initiative pivots to implementation, there will continue to be opportunities to involve people representing Polk County.

**MOTION:** Warren Bednarz moved approval of the MWHI Memorandum. Seconded by Mayor Clark; motion carried. A voice vote was unanimous.

- Commissioner Carlson introduced a [letter of support](#) for Community Action Partners of Oregon and Rural Oregon Continuum of Care in their application for HUD's Youth Homelessness Demonstration Program grant.

**PROCEDURAL MOTION:** Warren Bednarz moved to add the Youth Homelessness Demonstration Program letter of support as an action item to the agenda. Seconded by Shaney Starr; motion carried. A voice vote was unanimous.

**MOTION:** Mayor Peterson moved to approve the Youth Homelessness Demonstration Program letter of support. Seconded by Shaney Starr; motion carried. A voice vote was unanimous.

### **STRATEGIC PLAN AND IMPLEMENTATION:**

*Karen Ray, Karen Ray Associates*

Presentation: [Pivot to Implementation](#)

#### **Meeting topic:** Pivot to Implementation

- Karen reviewed [subcommittee recommendations](#) to date, and guided members through a process of considering how organizations will "pivot" to implementation.
- Task force members discussed subcommittee work, and what they've learned from the process.

#### **Discussion:**

- This is a diverse gathering of citizens and groups coming together to try to solve a problem.
- Current resources are not adequate to solve the problem.
- We need to determine where to get resources.
- Problems overlap, groups don't always know what others are working on.
- How will we go forward?
- Funding sources are difficult to find.

**Question to members:** What will the task force ask of the community and its organizations to implement the planning work that has been done? What should be done to coordinate, advocate for, and fund the complex mix of recommendations approved by the task force?

#### **Discussion:**

- What roles will governments play in the overarching implementation? Is there a backbone organization to sustain the work going forward?
  - Government will not necessarily do the work but can help determine service gaps and strengthen the whole.
  - Many silos in the community need coordination and ongoing communication between the silos.
  - When the task force ends in February, people need to be ready to implement the recommendations.
    - Create an agile development team to strategically move some of the recommendations forward.
    - Develop an implementation team to address what can be done across agencies to break down silos within organizations and across organizations, helping organizations do things differently in order to better serve the community.
    - Successful collaborations rely on meeting the self-interests of the organizations within them.
      - Help organizations acknowledge what they can/cannot do and recognize how to work together. Organizational self-interest is the best way to meet the needs of organizations, to make sure that people get served.
    - Focused goals are needed in order to adopt policies to address homelessness.
    - Need backbone organization with dedicated staff support, and a team of people to work on implementation.
- Ideas:
- An organization dedicates staff

- Find out if there are community dollars available to hire a project manager?

**Questions to members:** How will advocacy occur during implementation? What are the action steps for each recommendation? Who will be responsible for each? What is the timeline for taking action?

### **Discussion**

- Look at models that work in bringing organizations together.
- Release task force to complete the charter, then convene a community-based implementation group of partners with vested interest in sustaining the efforts.
- Organizations are focused on their individual interests and without the structure of government, implementation may be difficult.
  - Someone needs to coordinate the effort.
  - Not a simple process; will take sustained efforts of all partners.
  - Organizations need to think about strategies in a different way.
  - Find common denominator among organizations to come together under a shared priority.
- Funding may be the issue.
  - Gaps are not just in service delivery; there is a big gap in how organizations go after funding.
  - Can't leverage the good work without a prioritized list of projects and have all the players involved.

### **Summary of plan for pivoting toward implementation:**

- Multi-step plan:
  1. Identify a backbone organization to continue the work March 1, 2017 and engage individuals to get involved.
  2. Acquire funding for staff.
  3. Complete the planning process to develop a strategic plan.
  4. Get organizations to formally adopt the strategic plan.
  5. Prioritize sets of projects for funding.
- Some recommendations already have an owner. Some recommendations do not have a lead organization to take on the implementation and need structure to make them happen.
- The complex coordination, advocacy and funding issues will be the responsibility of the group being developed for March 1, 2017.

### **PUBLIC COMMENT**

Mary Hall: New to the community. Impressed with the dynamism and growth witnessed in this meeting. Has a history of working with families and youth experiencing homelessness. Finding housing for people on the streets is an urgent need. Prioritizing youth is crucial for keeping them from getting systematized.

Victor Reppeto: Excited to hear the discussion tonight because it addressed his main worry that the efforts would die in January or February. Concerned about the danger of not addressing the public safety issues involved with homelessness. Encourages the task force to keep in mind needed accountability for officers of the court to collaborate on solutions. Cannot make rules then look the other way when people who need help are put in jail.

Jon Reeves and Judge Leith: CAN-DO Neighborhood Association recommendations are being considered in the Transitional Housing/Shelters and Focus Groups/Coalition Coordination subcommittees.

**ADJOURNED** at 5:54 PM.