

MID-WILLAMETTE HOMELESS INITIATIVE TASK FORCE

Meeting Minutes

January 23, 2017

ATTENDANCE

Members: Kathleen Ashley, Bruce Bailey, Mayor Chuck Bennett, Gladys Blum, Commissioner Janet Carlson, Mayor Cathy Clark, Councilor Kim Freeman, Jerry Moore, Jon Reeves, and Shaney Starr.

Guest: Beth Jackson: Northwest Senior Disability Services.

Staff: Hitesh Parekh, Marion County and Laura Walker, City of Salem.

1. WELCOME/INTRODUCTIONS

- Commissioner Janet Carlson welcomed task force members to the meeting. Members made self-introductions.
- Commissioner Carlson's announcements:
 - Point-in-Time count will take place in Marion and Polk counties on January 25.
 - Rural Oregon Continuum of Care (ROCC) applied for a federal Runaway and Homeless Youth Demonstration grant, but was unsuccessful; grants were highly competitive and no applicants from Oregon were selected.
 - Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) approved Oregon's Medicaid waiver; however, the waiver continues Oregon's Medicaid plan and does not provide for additional allowable expenditures for housing.
- Approval of December 1, 2016 meeting minutes:

MOTION: Mayor Cathy Clark moved to approve the minutes. Seconded by Jerry Moore; motion carried. A voice vote was unanimous.

3. SUBCOMMITTEE UPDATES AND AT-LARGE PROPOSALS:

- Task force adopted most of the subcommittee proposals on December 1, 2016 and will complete subcommittee proposals today, as well as considering 14 at-large recommendations: [\(Proposals/Recommendations\)](#)
 - At-large recommendations were not developed by any particular subcommittee, but were forwarded by various jurisdictions and organizations for consideration.
- Mayor Chuck Bennett reviewed a memo from the Salem City Manager Steve Powers, [City of Salem Memo](#), with several recommendations to accommodate for the increasing number of those experiencing homelessness, and then asked the task force to adopt the following:

City of Salem At-Large Recommendations:

7. **Support community partners to create a one-stop resource center with centralized and coordinated case management.**

Discussion:

- Will take time to find funding for center.
- This will augment the work of agencies that are already providing services to the homeless.
- Agencies will also be able to move their existing resources to the center.

MOTION: Mayor Bennett moved to approve this recommendation. Seconded by Gladys Blum; motion carried. A voice vote was unanimous.

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6. **Support Salem Health, City of Salem, Marion County and other nonprofit organizations in efforts to create a sobering center in the Salem area.**

Discussion:

- Not having a sobering center places pressure on hospital emergency services and the county jail.
- State statutes require sobering stations to have a resource at the station to refer individuals to mental health/substance abuse treatment and services.

MOTION: Mayor Bennett moved to approve this recommendation. Seconded by Shaney Starr; motion carried. A voice vote was unanimous.

14. **Through consultation with service agencies and first responders, utilize Community DataLink or any other homeless management assessment and data collection tools (CDL, HMIS, VI-SPDAT, etc.) to:**
- a. **Establish definitions within homelessness (chronic homelessness, street homelessness, etc.);**
 - b. **Create a template for collection of data across agencies providing a cohesive data collection system in which to move forward with solutions;**
 - c. **Better assist vulnerable populations; and**
 - d. **Base results of performance measurements.**

Discussion:

- There are multiple agencies using a variety of different data systems to collect data.
- Data collection is complex and needs to be well thought out before implementation.
- Councilor Kim Freeman recommended working with Oregon Housing and Community Services to coordinate the approach statewide.

MOTION: Mayor Bennett moved to approve this recommendation. Seconded by Mayor Clark; motion carried. A voice vote was unanimous.

2. HOUSING ISSUE FOR SENIORS

- NorthWest Senior and Disability Services (NWSDS):
 - Is a local intergovernmental agency that provides programs and services for seniors and people with physical disabilities
 - Operates in Clatsop, Marion, Polk, Tillamook and Yamhill counties.
 - Contracts with the State of Oregon to deliver services.
 - The presenter, Beth Jackson, oversees:
 - Aging and Disability Resource Connection (ADRC).
 - Screen for agency programs and services; make referrals to community partners.
 - Nurses that go into nursing facilities to ensure facilities are an appropriate placement for individuals.
 - Diversion and transition case managers:

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- Who work with complex placement needs: a traumatic brain injury; a sex offense; bariatric; or on a ventilator, for example.
- Assessments for the Oregon Department of Corrections and Oregon State Hospital:
 - When seniors or people with physical disabilities are soon to discharge from either facility, an assessment is done to determine if the consumer is eligible for programs and services.
- Unable to quantify extent of senior homelessness in the region, but frequently receive calls about housing from the elderly. Reasons for homelessness were shared.
- Does not pay for housing for seniors, only pays for an individual to receive services in a particular setting:
 - Someone might need assistance from another person going to the bathroom, eating, or moving around the house.
 - Individual can receive these services in their home, a nursing facility, or a community-based care setting.
 - Some people with a traumatic brain injury or another diagnosis may have behaviors appropriate for an Adult Foster Home with specialized staffing.

Northwest Senior & Disability Services At-Large Recommendations:

1. Develop a shelter for seniors.

Discussion:

- Seniors have a particular set of needs that must be met compared to other sections of the population.
- We owe it to our elders in the community to find an appropriate setting where they can be cared for.

MOTION: Mayor Clark moved to approve this recommendation. Seconded by Gladys Blum; motion carried. A voice vote was unanimous.

2. Develop housing with services for seniors, such as cleaning and maintenance.

Discussion:

- Cedars Sinai Park in Portland is a great model of the type of facility needed in the Willamette Valley as it includes affordable housing for seniors.
- Housecleaning and maintenance will eliminate some of the barriers seniors have.
- Clarified that the recommendation was to develop housing with services for seniors.

MOTION: Kathleen Ashley moved to approve this recommendation, removing the word “welcoming” and adding: “such as cleaning and maintenance”. Seconded by Jerry Moore; motion carried. A voice vote was unanimous.

3. Work with landlords and rental management companies to develop a flexible plan for rental fees and deposits, to allow seniors the opportunity to rent.

Discussion:

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- Kathleen Ashley described the ways that landlords are already flexible with seniors whose circumstances make them unable to pay rent; she also described situations where landlords are unable to keep people in their living situations.
- Commissioner Carlson asked Kathleen if she would help work on the language and bring a revised recommendation to the February 7 task force meeting for consideration.

- 4. Work with community partners, such as the local hospital and Coordinated Care Organizations, to support a housing community for seniors (and other adults) with behavioral issues. A housing community of homes, such as Adult Foster Homes with special staffing, would provide a safer setting for all.**

Discussion:

- Mayor Clark asked whether it would be preferable for seniors with behavioral issues to reside in residential care, rather than foster homes.
- Commissioner Carlson suggested that this recommendation also be reviewed and a revised recommendation presented at the February 7 task force meeting. She asked Cindy Becker, Executive Director, Mid-Valley Behavioral Care Network, to assist with language revisions.

3. SUBCOMMITTEE UPDATES AND AT-LARGE PROPOSALS (Continued):

The task force reviewed the remainder of proposed recommendations as follows.

Affordable Housing and Financial Subcommittees

- 1. Subject to MOU parameters, authorize administrators for the City of Salem, Marion County, and other willing jurisdictions to apply for time-sensitive, competitive grants that directly relate to the goals and recommendations set forth in the Mid-Willamette Homeless Initiative Strategic Plan, including any future amendments, additions, or subsequent plans to further those goals. This provision will be negotiated into the Development and or Implementation Team Memorandum of Understanding among participating jurisdictions.**

Discussion:

- Commissioner Carlson noted that this recommendation was discussed at the previous task force meeting, but there were concerns expressed by City of Keizer. It has been rewritten to accommodate those concerns.

MOTION: Mayor Clark moved to approve this recommendation. Seconded by Councilor Freeman; motion carried. A voice vote was unanimous.

Support Services/Education Subcommittee

- 1. Promote collaboration among local service providers and WorkSource Oregon to maximize workforce development by: Increasing communication among service providers, and providing organizational training, to help case workers prepare their clients for referrals to WorkSource**

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Oregon, by providing for their basic needs; and referring clients to WorkSource Oregon for job skills training, employment workshops, educational opportunities, and job placement.

Discussion:

- Commissioner Carlson referred task force members to the issue brief, stating that employment is important for people who are homeless. The Support Services/Education Subcommittee had learned about services provided through WorkSource Oregon and proposed that local providers of services to people experiencing homelessness could benefit by becoming more aware of and connecting with WorkSource Oregon.

MOTION: Commissioner Carlson moved to approve this recommendation. Seconded by Mayor Clark; motion carried. A voice vote was unanimous.

- 2. Boost relationships between Salem-Keizer Transit and service providers/agencies by endorsing and supporting the travel training program designed to educate community members and providers on available transit services that connect the community.**

Discussion:

- Mayor Clark stated her support for the travel training program and asked for clarification about why this recommendation was proposed.
- Commissioner Carlson responded that even though the program is already occurring, the subcommittee wanted agencies that serve people experiencing homelessness to be aware that training is available.

MOTION: Commissioner Carlson moved to approve this recommendation. Seconded by Mayor Clark; motion carried. A voice vote was unanimous.

- 3. Explore Community Data Link (CDL) as a regional tool for improving service coordination.**

Discussion:

- Commissioner Carlson referred task force members to the issue brief, stating that Community Data Link is already used by a number of organizations, including the Salem-Keizer School District, Marion County Reentry Initiative and Union Gospel Mission.
- HMIS could also be a tool; however, it is currently used solely by organizations receiving HUD funding.

MOTION: Commissioner Carlson moved to approve this recommendation. Seconded by Mayor Clark; motion carried. A voice vote was unanimous.

- 4. Explore and adopt a comprehensive statewide resource network.**

Discussion:

- Task Force saw presentation on Network of Care.
- 211 Info and GOODS service participated in discussion at subcommittee meetings.
- Recommendation does not endorse any particular program.

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MOTION: Commissioner Carlson moved to approve this recommendation. Seconded by Mayor Clark; motion carried. A voice vote was unanimous.

Public Safety Subcommittee

1. **Recommend implementation of a layered approach Jobs Program similar to the City of Albuquerque’s “There’s a Better Way” Program for individuals experiencing homelessness in our community.**

Discussion:

- Discussed importance of finding individuals day jobs and get them involved in the work force.
- Ties into the one-stop resource center with centralized and coordinated case management.

MOTION: Commissioner Carlson moved to approve this recommendation. Seconded by Jerry Moore; motion carried. A voice vote was unanimous.

2. **Recommend re-engagement of the City of Salem’s “Give Hope, Not Money” Program, including implementation of a collection system similar to that of the City of Salt Lake City’s “Real Change” Program and/or the City of Albuquerque’s “311” Program, providing a way to divert money that would be given to panhandlers to the programs that can provide those experiencing homelessness with wraparound services (e.g., homeless youth and domestic violence programs). Encourage a similar program in other jurisdictions.**

Discussion:

- City of Salem proposed this program in a prior task force.
- Task force members questioned whether the program was limited to City of Salem and suggested adding language specifying that other jurisdictions should also consider this program.

MOTION: Commissioner Carlson moved to approve this recommendation, adding a sentence: “Encourage a similar program in other jurisdictions.” Seconded by Jerry Moore; motion carried. A voice vote was unanimous.

Marion County At-Large Recommendations:

8. **Implement Step 2 of the Marion County District Attorney’s Law Enforcement Assisted Diversion (LEAD) plan.**
 - LEAD is a “harm reduction” model.
 - Step 1 was recommended by the Public Safety Subcommittee and approved by the task force.
 - Paige Clarkson, Marion County District Attorney’s Office presented LEAD to the task force.

Discussion: None

MOTION: Commissioner Carlson moved to approve this recommendation. Seconded by Councilor Freeman; motion carried. A voice vote was unanimous.

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9. Advocate with Salem-Keizer Transit to continue providing intercity transit services in the region and CARTS service to the Santiam Canyon.

Discussion:

- Mayor Clark stressed that intercity transit in smaller cities is critical to provide services for individuals throughout the Marion and Polk county area.
- Commissioner Carlson noted that the recommendation was drafted in response to a proposal by Salem-Keizer Transit to eliminate services in the Santiam Canyon and her desire to retain language that promoted continuing that service beyond Stayton.

MOTION: Commissioner Carlson moved to approve this recommendation with modifications, adding “intercity transit services in the region” and striking “indefinitely.” Seconded by Mayor Clark; motion carried. A voice vote was unanimous.

Veterans At-Large Recommendations:

As discussed at the December task force meeting, the Willamette University PACE team members reviewed discussions by the Veterans Subcommittee and conducted research on best practices with veterans. The following four recommendations were presented to the task force in December and are being brought forward for consideration.

10. Assist veterans with housing placement through use of rapid identification to find veterans and assign them to permanent housing. Promote coordination among various agencies including HUD Veterans’ Affairs Supportive Housing program, current shelters, housing authorities, and the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs.

Discussion: None

MOTION: Commissioner Carlson moved to approve this recommendation. Seconded by Gladys Blum; motion carried. A voice vote was unanimous.

11. At the discretion of each jurisdiction, create housing for veterans, such as (A) an affordable housing development with residential-based support services, and (B) “tiny house” developments.

Discussion:

- Some of the tiny house developments have independent shared kitchen and living facilities, so change “including” to “such as”.
- Question about including the language “with shared kitchen and living facilities” since some tiny houses have kitchens, bathrooms and other amenities;
- Suggestion to also acknowledge that some jurisdictions may choose not to allow tiny houses.

MOTION: Commissioner Carlson moved to approve this recommendation with modifications, adding “At the discretion of each jurisdiction; changing “including” to “such as”, and striking “with shared kitchen and living facilities. Seconded by Kathleen Ashley; motion carried. A voice vote was unanimous.

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12. Provide economic resources for veterans, including free bus passes, gift cards, and rent support.

Discussion:

- Shaney Starr expressed concern about limiting this proposal to veterans.
- Shaney will help work on the language and a revised recommendation will be brought back to the next task force meeting.

13. Implement the following assessment tools to assist in agency decisions about allocating resources: (A) the Service Prioritization Decision Assistance Tool (SPDAT); (B) Vulnerability Index – Service Prioritization Decision Assistance Tool (VI-SPDAT) for pre-screening; and (C) further evaluate high SPDAT scores using the Vulnerability Assessment Tool (VAT).

Discussion:

- Instruments do not focus specifically on veterans. Can also be used for other populations.
- Jon Reeves commented that Community Action Agency is using these instruments to gather information about the homeless population and has provided training to other agencies.

MOTION: Commissioner Carlson moved to approve this recommendation, striking the words “to veterans.” Seconded by Jon Reeves; motion carried. A voice vote was unanimous.

Other At-Large Recommendation:

Dr. Harold (Hal) Boyd presented a recommendation to provide public health services to people living on the streets.

5. Develop a street medical outreach team to provide basic health assessments, vaccinations, TB testing, mental health assistance, and referral to full-service medical facilities.

Discussion:

- Dr. Boyd said he and a group of physicians are working with Representative Knute Buehler to develop legislation that will support a street medical outreach team for homeless individuals.
- Team will consist of certified nurse practitioners, medical assistants and social services professionals who will provide basic health assessments, vaccinations, tuberculosis testing, mental health and referral to a full service medical facility.
- Individuals must be enrolled in the Oregon Health Plan in order to receive any services that are covered by Medicaid.

MOTION: Commissioner Carlson moved to approve this recommendation. Seconded by Jon Reeves; motion carried. A voice vote was unanimous.

4. IMPLEMENTATION: GOVERNANCE STRUCTURE

Commissioner Carlson referred task force members to a memorandum and reviewed the items under “Pivot to Implementation.”

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5. PUBLIC COMMENT

None

6. WRAP UP

Commissioner Carlson noted the next meeting will be on February 7.

ADJOURNED at 6:05 pm.