

Mid-Willamette Homeless Initiative Task Force

October 17, 2016

DRAFT

Meeting Minutes

ATTENDANCE

Members: Kathleen Ashley, Bruce Bailey, Janet Carlson, Cathy Clark, Kim Freeman, Mark Garton, Ron Hays, Heidi MacKay, Jason Myers, Anna Peterson, Jon Reeves and Verena Wessel.

Guests: Buzz Brazeau, 13J Superintendent; Jayne Downing, Center for Hope & Safety; Michael Jones, HOME client; KendraSue Phillips-Neal, Jackson Street Youth Services; Tricia Ratliff, Home Youth & Resource Center.

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

WELCOME/INTRODUCTIONS

Mayor Anna Peterson welcomed members of the Task Force to the meeting. Members made self-introductions.

- Laura Walker announced Westcare's plans to develop ten transitional housing units for veterans by the end of 2016, with another 10-20 units in the next year.

MOTION: Cathy Clark moved to approve the September 19, 2016 meeting minutes. Seconded by Jason Myers; motion carried. A voice vote was unanimous.

RUNAWAY AND HOMELESS YOUTH

Buzz Brazeau, Central School District 13J Superintendent; Michael Jones, HOME client; KendraSue Phillips-Neal, Jackson Street Youth Services; Tricia Ratliff, Home Youth & Resource Center.

Presentation Materials:

[Jackson Street Youth Services](#)

[Jackson Street Youth Shelter - Overnight Shelter Budget](#)

[Northwest Human Services Overview](#)

[Oregon Homeless and Runaway Youth Service Continuum](#)

[Homeless Youth and Sexual Violence](#)

[Salem-Keizer School District Homeless Student Count 2015-2016 School Year](#)

[Salem-Keizer School District Students in Transition Educational Program](#)

[Youth Homelessness Demonstration Program](#)

- Presentation and discussion on HOME Youth & Resource Center and Jackson Street Youth Services, and the collaborative that the grant partners are working on for developing a local youth homeless shelter.

- Following the guidelines established by the Oregon Department of Human Services Homeless Youth Advisory Committee in [Oregon's Homeless and Runaway Youth Report an Overview and Strategic Framework](#).
 - Focused on developing a complete continuum of care to include: street outreach, emergency shelter, transitional housing and building self-sufficiency.
 - Proposed budget allows for emergency shelter beds; a facility has not yet been located and is not included in the budget.
 - HOME has experienced a spike in homeless families and pregnant homeless youth.
 - HOME is currently undergoing renovations to update and improve the facility.
- Buzz Brazeau highlighted Central School District opportunities and community resources for students, their families, and community members in Monmouth, Independence, and Dallas.
 - Collaborative efforts, with community partners, support the Infant Toddler Center, Central Health and Wellness Center, and Central Resource Center
 - Serving 3,500 students in the school district
 - Trauma-based absentee program
 - Support to keep students engaged in school

DOMESTIC VIOLENCE AND HOMELESSNESS

Jayne Downing, Center for Hope & Safety

PowerPoint Presentation: [Experiencing Homelessness in the Context of Domestic Violence](#)

- Domestic violence is one of the leading causes of homelessness for women and children (families) in the United States and is not in the public eye due to safety concerns.
 - 37% of women in Oregon will experience domestic violence, sexual assault and/or stalking in their lifetimes.
- Center for Hope & Safety operates the only confidential emergency shelter in Marion County.
 - Has an average of 20,000 contacts per year, over past four years
 - 200-500 adults and children sheltered every year; typically one-half of all shelter residents are children.
- Sable House provides similar services in Polk County.
- Recently raised funds to develop a new emergency shelter to replace the current site.
- Personal Empowerment for Achieving Real Lasting Security (PEARLS) is a partnership with St. Francis transitional shelter and Helping Hands to help clients transition into housing and employment once safety is no longer an issue.
 - 92% of individuals involved in this program go on to gain/maintain permanent housing.
- Center for Hope & Safety purchased the old Greyhound building to develop a transitional housing facility with service providers on the main floor and housing units on the second and third floors.
 - Housing First model with wraparound services
 - Continuum of services necessary for domestic violence victims to help them stabilize
- What can task force do to make a difference for victims of domestic violence?
 - Keep victims of domestic violence in mind when making decisions
 - Encourage a portion of all new housing to offer a priority to victims of domestic violence

- Support the housing authorities to prioritize survivors of domestic violence
- Support the population-specific projects for victims of domestic violence
- Eighteen beds in current shelter: sometimes go over capacity because of the need
 - January and summer are typically peak times
 - Most often turn away families not in need of confidential shelter
 - Count on other nonprofits in the area to help build a safety net for women and children; good support in the community
- Former shelter will be sold and proceeds returned to the City of Salem to reinvest in a new project.

SUBCOMMITTEE UPDATES

A summary of subcommittee work was distributed to task force members. Mayor Peterson asked for comments from subcommittee chairs.

[October Subcommittee Updates](#)

- Focus Groups/Coalition Coordination subcommittee coordinating surveys throughout the community.
 - Those interested in helping with focus groups or surveying the community, or collating the information, should contact Jon Reeves.
 - Community members are willing to help, with a stipend from the task force to cover gas to get to locations; Jon will get back to the group with a stipend amount.
 - Surveys will be completed by the end of the year; results will be presented in January 2017.
- Health and Housing Subcommittee is moving forward with the recommendations approved by the task force last month.

PUBLIC COMMENT

[Public Comment September 20 – October 17](#)

- Tina Hansen: With winter coming, it is important to think about how we can help homeless people stay warm. Also it is important to consider children in the foster care system that may be experiencing violence.

WRAP UP

- Mayor Clark comments:
 - People are becoming less invisible as the community is becoming more aware of the issues around homelessness.
 - Thank you to everyone that participated in the League of Oregon Cities event. Members from other cities are inspired by the work of our task force.
- Commissioner Carlson comments:
 - Willamette MBA students in the PACE program are working with the task force to research best practices and what works in other communities. In the spring, PACE students will help develop collective measurements for the strategic plan to document improvements.
 - Law Enforcement Assisted Diversion (LEAD) workgroup is being formed to move forward with the initiative regarding possession of controlled substances presented by Paige Clarkson at a prior task force meeting.

- Association of Oregon Counties Housing Steering Committee has been asked by House Speaker Tina Kotek to submit legislative concepts related to housing. Those with ideas that they would like to be taken to the committee should contact Commissioner Carlson.
- Next meeting is November 7, 2016.

ADJOURNED Meeting adjourned at 5:50 PM.