

MID-WILLAMETTE HOMELESS INITIATIVE TASK FORCE

September 19 2016 Meeting

DRAFT Meeting Minutes

ATTENDANCE

Members: Kathleen Ashley, Gladys Blum, Janet Carlson, Cathy Clark, Kim Freeman, David Leith, Heidi Mackay, Jerry Moore, Jason Myers, Irma Oliveros, Anna Peterson, Jon Reeves, Verena Wessel, and Jennifer Wheeler.

Guests: Pat Farr, Lane County Commissioner; Kenny LaPoint, Oregon Housing and Community Services; and Mike Morris, Oregon Health Authority.

Staff: Lisa Trauernicht, Marion County.

WELCOME/INTRODUCTIONS

- Commissioner Wheeler welcomed everyone to the meeting.
- Approval of July 20, 2016 Meeting Minutes.

MOTION: Commissioner Carlson moved approval of the July 20, 2016 meeting minutes. Mayor Peterson seconded. A voice vote was unanimous.

OPERATION 365

Pat Farr, Lane County Commissioner

Presentation Materials:

[Operation 365 PowerPoint](#)

[Operation 365 Timeline](#)

[Ten Strategies to End Veteran Homelessness – United States Interagency Council on Homelessness](#)

[Letter to Property Owners and Managers](#)

[BOG Squads – Taking Action to End Veterans Homelessness](#)

[Lane County Rising to the Mayors' Challenge to End Veteran Homelessness](#)

[VA Landlord Letter](#)

[Veterans Day Press Release](#)

- Program launched in 2014. Business community engaged in 2015 to move forward with the plan to house one veteran per day.
- Program is transferrable to other target populations.
- Collaboration among Lane County, cities of Eugene and Springfield, HUD, local landlords, service providers, and businesses.
- Goals:
 - Provide more affordable housing;
 - Upgrade or expand existing conventional buildings as shelter;
 - Work with cities on updating codes; and

- Temporary shelters on camp sites.
- Close to 50% of unsheltered Lane County veterans suffer from mental health issues.
- Boots on the Ground squads, different groups designated to: find housing; financing; reach out to landlords; engage community members; and leverage existing services.
- Landlord confidence program developed to encourage landlords to rent to veterans struggling with mental health and substance abuse issues, guaranteeing up to \$5,000 in property damage coverage in Section 8 or Veterans Affairs Supportive Housing voucher leases.
- City of Eugene contracts with nonprofit organizations to manage transitional shelter camps.
- Camps are moved every six months to reduce health risks and let the land rejuvenate.
- Opportunity Village characteristics: 32 individual units of up to 270 square feet each; donated materials used to build the units; people can have gardens. Villagers have daily chores.
- City of Eugene contracts with Square One Villages, a nonprofit organization, to do background checks to make sure people do not have a history of violence.
- Variety of funding sources, including: Cities of Eugene and Springfield; Lane County; grants; fundraising; local businesses; and local nonprofits.
- Can build six tiny house units for the cost of a single HUD apartment.
- Operation 365 housed 404 homeless veterans 2015.
 - 340 permanently housed homeless veterans.
 - 64 permanently housed at-risk renters.
- Part of the problem with homelessness is getting the community to acknowledge that there are homeless people that need help.
- Commissioner Wheeler is planning a trip to Eugene to visit the shelter sites. If interested in participating, contact Brent DeMoe.

PERMANENT SUPPORTIVE HOUSING

Kenny LaPoint, Oregon Housing and Community Services; Mike Morris, Oregon Health Authority

Overview of the [Center for Outcomes Research and Education \(CORE\) Study: Health in Housing](#)

- Partnering with health care and early learning providers to obtain and maintain permanent housing is necessary for long-term health and stability.
- Nationally-recognized CORE study shows how housing stability can affect health care costs. Study could have had a significantly larger cost savings if the populations addressed were homeless.
 - 12-17% Medicaid cost savings seen just by coordinating services.
 - Study shows the need for coordinating services across systems to result in more effective collaboration and cost savings.
- Willamette Valley Community Health has been looking at housing-related initiatives to do cross-sector work.

Discussion of OHA services available to assist people in seeking and obtaining housing. See presentation [OHA Supported Housing and Health](#)

- Pre-Tenancy Support – how to help someone get in to housing
 - Screening and assessment of tenants to determine issues to be addressed to obtain housing.
 - Develop a housing support plan to help maintain residency.

- Assist clients in filling out applications for housing and rental programs.
- Help clients with the housing search process.
- Residential specialists develop relationships with landlords to help them understand available supports.
 - Help with move-in.
 - Tenancy Sustaining Services
 - Health navigators
- Opportunities: Community Health Partnerships
 - Medicaid waiver request to bring community partners together to address health and housing.
 - Requesting permission to use Medicaid to help people get in to housing, which can include furnishings or basic household items, and help clearing up outstanding utility bills that create barriers to housing.
 - Target populations: Homeless people; people with chronic diseases; and people with behavioral health issues.
- Behavioral health opportunities: Funding for development of supportive housing and rental assistance programs.

SUBCOMMITTEE UPDATES

- Discussion on updates to the Veterans [subcommittee roster](#)

MOTION: Commissioner Carlson moved to accept changes to the Veterans Subcommittee roster, with Rick Richards being added to the subcommittee contingent on employer approval. Seconded by Mayor Peterson. A voice vote was unanimous.

See [Subcommittee recommendations](#)

- Affordable Housing/Financial subcommittee recommendations read and discussed.

MOTION: Mayor Peterson moved to accept the recommendation to advocate for the development and implementation of a Multi-Jurisdictional Development Team through a collective Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) for coordination of funding sources. Seconded by Jon Reeves. Motion carried. A voice vote was unanimous.

MOTION: Mayor Peterson moved to accept the recommendation to advocate for funding allocations across the State of Oregon from Oregon Housing and Community Services to reflect the poverty levels through American Community Survey (ACS) and Asset Limited Income Constrained Employed (ALICE) data in each area including homeowners and those currently without housing and to use current, local demographic information in the scoring process. Seconded by Mayor Clark. Motion carried. A voice vote was unanimous.

MOTION: Mayor Clark moved to accept the recommendation to advocate for reinstatement of the Federal Tax Credit for homebuyers for up to \$8,000 per household. Seconded by Sheriff Myers. Motion carried. A voice vote was unanimous.

- Health and Housing subcommittee recommendations read and discussed.

MOTION: Commissioner Carlson moved to accept both recommendations. Seconded by Mayor Peterson. Motion carried. A voice vote was unanimous.

- Focus Groups/Coalition Coordination subcommittee recommendation read and discussed.

MOTION: Mayor Clark moved to accept the recommendation. Seconded by Verena Wessel. Motion carried. A voice vote was unanimous.

- Public Safety subcommittee recommendations read and discussed.

MOTION: Sheriff Myers moved to accept the Public Safety subcommittee recommendations. Seconded by Commissioner Carlson. Motion carried. A voice vote was unanimous.

- Support Services subcommittee recommendations read and discussed.

MOTION: Commissioner Carlson moved to accept the Support Services/Education subcommittee recommendations. Seconded by Verena Wessel. Motion carried. A voice vote was unanimous.

PUBLIC COMMENT

- Mary Lou San Blise: Concerned about the number of mentally ill homeless and homeless youth. Vacant buildings across the street from the Oregon State Hospital could be used as housing, and would be convenient for service providers. We have resources that are not being used.
- Victor Reppeto: Laws oppress people. The law enforcement community has been allowed to ignore practices that help people. Peace interrogation practices have been in place in Europe for many years. Polk County opened mental health court last year. Provide a stipend for peer mentors to help move some of the recommendations forward.

WRAP-UP

Mayor Peterson reported that City of Salem and Oregon Department of Administrative Services are working on state's plan for remediating properties on Center Street north of the Oregon State Hospital to make it ready to sell to private entity. Goal in Salem is to increase the amount of available housing. This site could be used for a variety of housing options.

ADJOURNED Meeting adjourned at 6:00 PM.