

# Housing Opportunities Action Council

## Governing Board

## Minutes 03-28-2018

**Board Members in Attendance:** Biff Traber (co-chair), Anne Schuster (co-chair), Blake Pang, Ben Danley (alt-Whitacre), Kenny Lowe, Bettina Schempf, Brigetta Olson (alt-Moorefield), Lauren Schaffner (alt-Latimer), Karyle Butcher, Brandon Stewart (alt-Derrick), Letetia Wilson, Aleita Hass-Holcombe, Julie Manning, Dan Duncan, Nicole Hindes, Andrea Myhre, Ann Craig, Martha Lyon, Shawn Collins (Program Manager)

Time	Type	Presenter	Topic / Notes
1:30 pm	Report	Co-Chairs and Program Manager	<p><b>Introductions</b>  <b>Approve February Minutes</b>  <b>Co-Chair Comments</b>  <b>Program Manager report</b></p>
<p><b>Approval of February Minutes:</b> Motion: Julie Manning, Second: Kenny Lowe. Approved</p>			
<p><b>Co-Chair Comments:</b> The letter in support of Jackson Street and ROCC is an example of something that can be done for other orgs as well. Tying the application to specifics of HOAC strategies was helpful, and if any other members need similar letters, this can be done easily.</p>			
<p><b>Program Manager Report:</b> Written comments were distributed, and are available online (<a href="http://bentonhoac.com/monthly-meetings/">http://bentonhoac.com/monthly-meetings/</a>). Highlights:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Cold Weather Shelter closes at the end of March. Search for new location continues. Appreciation for the staff, volunteers and donors who make shelter services possible in Corvallis. In the Men’s Shelter alone, over 4900 volunteer hours were contributed, and this does not account for the women’s shelter, or services at COI and CARDV.</li> <li>- CARE event on March 6<sup>th</sup> was a success, with nearly 300 attendees, and over 30 service providers. Good press coverage (linked at <a href="http://bentonhoac.com/news-noteworthy/">http://bentonhoac.com/news-noteworthy/</a>)</li> <li>- Homeless Outreach: SORT (Street Outreach and Response Team) forming, meeting with CPD, Parks &amp; Recreation to align on communications and engagement.</li> <li>- Recognition of Byron Warrington, a long-time shelter client, who recently passed.</li> </ul> <p><b>Comments:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Julie Manning: Thank you to all who helped with the CARE Event -- very grateful to all for putting on a very successful event. Also a note of thanks to all who worked to stand up Shelters this year - donors, staff, and volunteers are all appreciated for supporting a life-sustaining service that's very much needed.</li> </ul>			

1:40 pm	SMART Team update	Andrea Myhre, chair of SMART team	(information)
<p><b>Workgroup Updates</b></p> <p><b>Housing Supply and Messaging, Brigetta Olson:</b> Deferred update to later in agenda.</p> <p><b>Comprehensive Care Coordination, Pegge McGuire and Letetia Wilson:</b> Recent meeting was cancelled. Some duplication of effort across this group and the Samaritan sponsored group. Will regroup after co-chairs meet (April 6) to see if a refocus is needed.</p> <p><b>Mental and Behavioral Health, Bettina Schempf:</b> Light attendance at last meeting due to illnesses and scheduling challenges. Still seeking a co-chair that can address adult mental health needs.</p>			
1:50 pm	Funding Coordination Team update	Jim Moorefield, chair of Funding Coordination team	(information)
Olson: No report			
1:55 pm	Policy framework for HOAC	Brigetta Olson, Willamette Neighborhood Housing Services, and Sara Ingle, co-chairs of the Housing Supply & Messaging Workgroup	(for information & review/ call for approval in April meeting)
<p>Housing Supply, Strategy C, is the focus of the policy priorities which were distributed in the packet.</p> <p>Other Updates: 1) Document recording fee increase passed in the recently completed legislative session. The increase in funding (from \$20 to \$60) will be dedicated to support of affordable housing. 2) The federal spending bill recently passed had some surprisingly good news in support of affordable housing.</p> <p>That said, we need more tools to support the availability of affordable housing. The 8 strategies brought forward are intended to expand available tools.</p>			

It can be uncomfortable to take on a position for advocacy -- but this group is looked to for leadership in this area, and it's important that we speak with a clear voice in support of policies and initiatives.

Anticipate that the recommendations made today are only the first of many to come -- we have to get comfortable with this.

Recommend that Leadership be empowered to act in the event of time sensitive issues needing rapid response.

Recommend that Leadership and HOAC Program Manager be empowered to speak for the group. If others seek to advocate on HOAC behalf, this should be coordinated with HOAC Program Manager.

**Discussion:**

Should these recommendations be voted on?

- Julie Manning provided some context: Based on the last HOAC meeting, and discussion there about appropriateness of advocacy, and how positions get adopted by HOAC -- it's important that it be clear for workgroups how to best bring recommendations forward. Julie willing to put a motion on the table of the whole framework -- how we do this kind of work, and the specific policy recommendations -- when the time is appropriate.

o **Further discussion:** Appreciation for the more complete information shared. Discussion of whether concerns raised at last meeting are addressed in the workgroup memo and recommended process. Recommendation to separate process and policy recommendations in a future motion/vote (in April).

o **Question on process recommendation:** The language of the memo seems to put need for immediate advocacy, and policy adoption, into the same bucket. Seems likely that there would be immediate advocacy needs, but not policy. Discussion to clarify. Leadership would be empowered to make prompt decisions on advocacy, but full policy recommendations would go to Governing Board.

General agreement on recommended processes -- but recommendation to hold until April for vote.

Clarification by Brigetta that advocacy would be for adopted policy positions AND the adopted Keystone Strategies within the Update to the Ten Year Plan.

Brigetta and Sara presented on specifics of the 8 recommended policy positions as circulated in packet

**Discussion of SDC exemption vs waiver.**

- LWV is developing a handout to clarify issue -- Karyle can bring to a future meeting.

**Julie Manning: Clarifying for group about why these 8 -- which are fairly detailed - were brought forward.** These are largely already in progress, and have gone through processes for vetting outside HOAC. Our adoption would be lending support, rather than pulling new policies out. Some of these recommendations from other groups are nearly 2 years old -- HOAC could continue to push for adoption.

**Karyle Butcher:** Having a larger group -- like LWV Housing Committee, or HOAC -- press in support of positions can force greater accountability and clarity from electeds.

**Discussion of item 8 - re: social service funding**

-- Offers both a symbolic and material support for social services

-- Critical that social service agencies continue to advocate with City/County

-- Appreciation for Blake Pang's work to raise visibility of issues related to the local option level

-- **Question:** Is there a clear picture of the target # that should be sought for social services funding? This is not clear within #8. This should be clearer. May need some work on #8 to make more clear.

**Brigetta** – closing comments: If there's concern about any of these items, please give feedback through the survey or direct comments to co-chairs of the workgroup.

2:20 pm	<b>HOAC engagement with ROCC: Benefits of becoming an informal local Continuum of Care</b>	<b>Pegge McGuire, Community Services Consortium, and Jo Zimmer, Rural Oregon Continuum of Care</b>	<b>(review/decision in future meeting)</b>
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**Updates on Funding & Housing Advocates:** Some new funding available for DV victims and others. Housing advocates at CSC are now on staff, and are finding strong success in placements into housing. Advocates identify barriers, and will walk through the entire process to get people into housing. Having an advocate present may be overcoming obstacles with landlords, and can help people navigate systems.

**Presentation by Pegge** -- slides available on website as Attachment #4, March 2018 meeting

**Comments by Jo Zimmer:** Coordinator for ROCC: Becoming an informal CoC would enable more formal information sharing, and inform ROCC of specific actions within Benton County. HEART Board in Linn Co is an informal CoC. HUD requires review and ranking of projects by formal CoC. Other counties have talked about withdrawl and forming a new CoC -- HUD is actively discouraging at this time. Trend is for consolidation.

**Discussion:**

Andrea Myhre: Think formation of an informal CoC makes sense, and would support stronger engagement with ROCC and HUD.

Julie Manning: Agree -- seems like a good fit with HOAC mission. One question: Funds come into the region, and many programs get continuing funding. What % of funding is available for new projects?

--- In recent years, 100% of projects were refunded. However, due to greater data-driven evaluation, there has been more available for reallocation to new projects. Recent new projects = \$400K

**Recommendation:** Care Coordination workgroup come forward with a formal recommendation to act on.

<b>2:45 pm</b>	<b>PIT Count update/debrief</b>	<b>Pegge McGuire, Community Services Consortium</b>	<b>(information)</b>
No results available at this time -- will hopefully have more info to share in a future meeting.			
<b>2:50</b>	<b>Public Comment / Q&amp;A</b>		
Announcement by Nicole Hinds: 50th anniversary of passing of the Fair Housing Act -- event will be held April 11 <sup>th</sup> at OSU.			