

Housing Opportunities Action Council

Governing Board

Minutes 07-25-2018

Board Members in Attendance: Biff Traber (co-chair), Anne Schuster (co-chair), Jennifer Moore, Art Kyle, Andrea Myhre, Ann Craig, Nicole Hindes, Martha Lyon, Aleita Hass-Holcombe, Blake Pang, Bettina Schempf, Brigetta Olson, Julie Manning, Kenny Lowe, Lt. Dan Duncan, Lauren Schaffner, Hyatt Lytle (Council Liaison)

Time	Type	Presenter	Topic / Notes
1:30 pm	Report	Co-Chairs and Program Manager	<p>Introductions Approve June Minutes Co-Chair Comments Program Manager report</p>
<p>Approval of June Minutes: Motion: Aleita Hass-Holcombe, Second: Kenny Lowe. Approved</p> <p>Co-Chair Comments: Co-Chair Traber: COI has submitted a letter, resigning their organizational seat on HOAC, due to potential liability for their organization. There is some level of potential liability for member organizations – recommendation is to review this issue with your organization/board.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Question: Julie Manning: Would like to question the potential for liability, given the scope of authority of HOAC to make recommendations, rather than direct any organization’s role/actions. - Anne Schuster: Confirmed with County counsel that it would be individual agencies, rather than the City or County, who may face any liability. <p>(Traber continues) There are now two named organizational seats vacant: BCF and COI (Note: Benton Community Foundation had withdrawn from Organizational Seat in May). A change in organizational seats, or a shift of those seats to at-large positions, may require a change in HOAC bylaws. As there is a discussion underway considering changes to the organizational structure, which was to have been part of the agenda for the planning retreat in June (now postponed), a change in bylaws is not recommended at this time. With the postponement of the planning retreat, work will continue in Leadership to move ahead. If you have comments/suggestions, please direct these to the Leadership Committee.</p> <p>A letter was sent to the co-chairs, HOAC membership and electeds from Terri Homer representing others in the downtown community. (Note: Not all members were included in the distribution)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Response has been discussed by Co-chairs, Program Manager, and Blake Pang (Executive Director, United Way) 			

- Proposed approach: Co-chairs and Program Manager will draft response, Leadership will meet to review and approve.
- Intent is to provide requested documents and clarify issues.

Question: Bettina Schempf: How will Governing Board members provide input to letter?

- A: Could have draft sent to Governing Board

Question: Martha Lyon: Leadership will meet next week?

- A: Yes, Leadership will hold a special meeting next week.
- Traber: We'll work out how to manage logistics to get Governing Board review -- we can send draft out prior to Leadership review.
- Schuster: Think letter should go to full Governing Board. (NOTE: Letter re-sent to full Governing Board by Program Manager, 7/31/18)

Program Manager Report: Written comments were distributed, and are available online (<http://bentonhoac.com/monthly-meetings/>).

- Additional comments: Two opportunities to engage with OSU students are available. See below for contact info.
 - o Jessica Gorman, Assistant Professor in Health Promotion & Health Behavior, will be teaching H572: Community Organizing for Health Promotion and Education in the fall term. This course includes a requirement that all students contribute 10 hours to a community organization/outreach effort/evaluation activity. This will be done in small teams. If any HOAC members know of projects that could use assistance, please contact Jessica at: Jessica.Gorman@oregonstate.edu, 541-737-2323.
 - o Emily Bowling, of the Center for Civic Engagement, is interested in gathering information about needs in the community that might be met through student projects. She would like to share this information with faculty who teach courses on poverty and housing related issues. She provided a list of relevant questions to help build a description of any proposed project (see below). Please direct questions, or submit a brief description of the need based on the list below, to Emily Bowling, Emily.Bowling@oregonstate.edu, 541-737-7673.
 - What is/are the tasks needing to be completed?
 - Why is this project important?
 - Who would the group of students work with (individuals and/or organizations)?
 - What is the timeline or deadline for the task/project?
 - What previous experience or qualifications are required to participate?
 - Is there training or orientation needed?
 - What is the estimated number of participants desired?
 - What is the contact name, phone number, and email address for this opportunity?

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Is there a website for interested parties to get more information? 			
1:40 pm	SMART Team Update	Andrea Myhre	(information)
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Housing and Messaging: Brigetta Olson, Co-Chair: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Lots of advocacy training sessions have been completed ○ Core group of workgroup meeting regularly - tracking policy items ○ Urban Renewal is one of the policy items -- there was a meeting recently with ~150 in attendance. City staff came to the meeting and shared information about plans, intent to have resources to support affordable housing. Should come to voters next spring. ○ Next meeting is August 3 (first Friday), 9am - location Willamette Neighborhood Housing Services ○ Question: Anne Schuster: What is the HOAC Advocacy policy? <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A: (Brigetta Olson) 8 recommendations of policy items, which were voted on by Governing Board in April. Also approved process for new items, and who is authorized to do advocacy. • A: (Sara Ingle, Co-chair): Coordination of advocacy beyond Leaderships and the Program Manager should be done through Shawn Collins (Program Manager). • Anne: Did we adopt Shelter as a policy agenda item in April? <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ A: (Brigetta Olson) No (NOTE: This point was clarified in an email to the Governing Board on July 27. HOAC adopted a position on Shelter in August 2016. See "Statement of Position Regarding the Importance of Shelter Services for People Who Are Experiencing Homelessness" (http://bentonhoac.com/wp-content/uploads/2016/06/HOAC-statement-of-position-regarding-shelters-09-01-16.pdf). This statement is linked from the website here: http://bentonhoac.com/whatweknow/. In December 2017, HOAC approved the update to the Ten Year Plan, which included 8 Keystone Strategies, including Strategy D: Establish permanent location(s) for year-round emergency shelter, and Strategy F: Establish a permanent site for a daytime drop-in center and soup kitchen. In April 2018, HOAC approved 8 policy items, and a statement on process to bring up new policy items, and advocacy. It specifies that Leadership and the Program Manager can advocate for adopted policy priorities and the Keystone Strategies outlined in "Community Strategies to Overcome Homelessness and Barriers to Housing," and that other members may do so in coordination with the Program Manager. See the memo outlining process and advocacy/policy positions, originally sent to the Governing Board on March 21, and revised based on feedback on April 24: http://bentonhoac.com/wp-content/uploads/2016/09/Housing-Supply-letter-policies-updated-04242018.pdf) • Care Coordination: Pegge McGuire, Co-chair <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Exploring overlapping of groups. HOAC Care Coordination group will meet with IHN-CCO UCC (Universal Care Coordination) to look at coordination across the groups. Clear that there are 			

- different lenses through which care coordination is viewed, and there's very little coordination across systems (housing/healthcare for example)
- Comment: Martha Lyon: The work of these groups can be brought to the state level - seeking ways in which systems can be coordinated across state/local levels.
 - MOU recently entered into with Early Learning Hub for more coordinated data/referrals, and to close the loop on referrals.
 - Information collected will inform state better on how services are being delivered and gaps
 - CSC reports data into 27 different systems - many of which have overlaps - dictated by funders
 - Question: Anne Schuster: opportunities to trim the number of systems down?
 - A: Martha Lyon: Would be wonderful, but can't dictate that to the state or other funders.
 - Mental Health: Bettina Schempf, Chair
 - Group looking at what areas there is impact, and what organizations are making progress
 - SORT and other efforts are making a difference
 - Law Enforcement and CIT (Crisis Intervention Training)
 - Strategic work on homeless families, work with School District
 - Looking at ways to intersect with Benton County Health Department
 - Need to focus goals and projects to drive success
 - Case management collaboration and brainstorming in the meetings has been a key value
 - Next meeting August 10 @ 1:30
 - Andrea Myhre, SMART Team Lead: Want to encourage people to attend workgroup meetings if interested
 - Exploring whether ad hoc SORT team will become a more formal HOAC effort. Good efforts on that group to be more coordinated, align work to best practices, build relationship with CPD
 - Possible change of venue for SORT meetings, given recent COI changes
 - Comment: Anne Schuster: City Manager and County Administrator will be meeting with Shawn Collins on August 3 to talk about future of organization, and how to work together.

2:00 pm	Benton County Health Update	Charlie Fautin, Tatiana Dierwechter, Sara Hartstein	(information)
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- Slides will be available at <http://bentonhoac.com/monthly-meetings/>
- The update to the TYP supported some of the work done for the CHIP/CHA
- Sought to align strategies
 - Access to affordable housing has been selected as a community priority for the CHIP
- CHIP process connects 2013-2018 CHIP, the 2017 CHA, and 2040 Thriving Communities Initiative (TCI)
- 2018-2023 Community Health Improvement Plan
 - Organized by focus areas - emphasis on equity
 - Guides work of BCHD, partners and community

- 2040 TCI identified core values in community -- now and in the future
 - Job now is to make those values actionable
- 2018-2023 prioritized CHIP Health Issues
 - Healthy Food Systems
 - Mental well-being and community resiliency
 - Housing, transportation and development
 - Communicable disease
 - This one was added based on data on disease in the community
- Service summary completed that aligned BCHD efforts with the community strategies
 - Identified those strategies from the TYP update where BCHD could have greatest impact
- Communicable disease strategy
 - (Charlie Fautin) Communicable disease work rarely considered until there is an outbreak of some kind
 - But CHA data suggested that there's an epidemic of STD -- true at local and national level
 - Under-addressed -- we talk a great deal about 2 cases of Ebola, but not the epidemic of chlamydia that renders thousands of women infertile, or the dramatic increase of syphilis
 - (Tatiana Dierwechter) HIV Oregon & Early Intervention Services & Outreach Grant -- allowed hiring of new outreach staff
 - Introduction of Blue Valentine - new HIV outreach staff
 - Coordination of strategy across health care providers and other partners
 - Question: Anne Schuster: Can you address Hep A? And is antibiotic resistance a factor?
 - Charlie: Not seeing antibiotic resistant strains here now - more related to behaviors, and the nature of the populations impacted. Hep A is next topic
 - Hepatitis-A prevention a key component of cross-county cooperation (Linn/Benton/Lincoln/Lane). The homeless population, due to lack of access to hygiene and sanitation facilities, is particularly vulnerable.
 - Important to vaccinate both those experiencing homelessness, and those who serve them
 - NO Outbreak of Hepatitis-A in any Pacific Northwest state -- however transience of homeless population presents a risk.
 - Opportunity from State funding to support a Hepatitis-A prevention/outreach staff person and vaccinations
 - Introduction of Jess Horowitz, who will be working with stakeholders, community clients who are at risk to do education, outreach, vaccination
 - Vaccination can't be the only approach -- resources needed for hygiene and sanitation facilities
 - Hand washing, showers, laundry

2:20	2018 PIT Count update	Pegge McGuire, Community Services Consortium	(information)
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Due to time, this topic was postponed to a future meeting

2:30	Shelter Outreach and Next Steps	Jill McAllister, Sr Minister, Unitarian Universalist Fellowship of Corvallis	(information/discussion)
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Downtown livability and vitality has emerged as a key topic in recent discussions around the Corvallis Service Center and the Shelter • There's a good layer of fear and loathing in the community, which has made the discussion focus on anger, fear, blame. Need to shift to more productive conversation on how to move ahead. • Want to share community decision-making processes which may be helpful to consider (handout available at http://bentonhoac.com/monthly-meetings/) • Opportunity to make things better downtown if we put effort into community efforts to improve conditions • Process options <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Community Capacity Building: identify gaps and needs, prioritizing process <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Expectation of commitment to process and each other (relationship building) ○ (others described on handout) • Faith community and others want to offer help to build this process and develop better conversations <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Offer is to make something happen quickly to build conversation and identify paths forward • Another model to consider: Portland Clean and Safe: a model which we may want to consider here <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Downtown clean up ○ Available restrooms ○ Outreach and response to address problems • Looking at long-term future and goals for HOAC: Some of these community decision-making processes may be useful to explore future paths for HOAC • Comment: Andrea Myhre: Appreciate the effort to bring this forward. Need for more training and support for volunteers, and opportunity for greater partnership with Corvallis Police Department to improve outreach and livability downtown. • Comment: Julie Manning: Appreciation to Jill for the leadership you have provided, and the work of the UUFC as part of the faith community to engage with the Ten Year Plan, and what it takes to move it ahead. Your comments speak directly to Item 6 in our strategies, which addresses "everyone has opportunities to participate and feel valued and supported". 			
2:50	Public Comment / Q&A		
<p>Joey Kimdon: (Following are Joey’s written comments, which she provided after sharing her comments. The comments provided were a combination of typed and written amendments – I have reproduced as faithfully as possible. SC)</p> <p>“First, I want to thank everyone for their work and their concern for the quality of life of all people. I am also very grateful for the availability of background and planning documents on the internet. And I want to compliment this group and the many other groups working on improving access to affordable housing and access to mental health and addiction services. It’s really heartening to see the amount of work put into all these workgroups and planning.</p> <p>The specific concern I am bringing today is about locating a low-barrier shelter near downtown. I have not found in the online documents anywhere mandating a low-barrier shelter at all, much less one located near downtown. Given the level of public concern about safety</p>			

downtown, I request either finding a different long-term solution or providing research that shows this is a strategy that is actually working to advance the goals of HOAC, meaning safe housing for all.

We are lucky enough to be in a situation where research is possible. The low-barrier shelter has been around for several years, and there are other cities that have tried such an option as well.

I want to know: is it helping these high-risk people? Some ideas to measure: is the amount of drug use declining? Is the number of harassments declining? Is theft declining? Are needle-transmitted diseases declining? How many people have transitioned from addiction to their own housing? What about exit interviews for suggestions?

I also want to know: is it helping the rest of the homeless population? What I have heard from homeless people is that they don't necessarily want to be consolidated together and they feel vulnerable around drug users. Just because they are homeless doesn't mean they need to accept an unsafe and unhealthy environment.

I have read research on your site, but it mostly addressed overall homelessness. I would like to see some that specifically addresses the low-barrier shelter, associated crime, and the local impact on the homeless and non-homeless.

The Hansen (sic) Tire location, while still not ideal, would be a lower-impact and lower-cost option for this year to provide a place for people who are depending on it this season, buying more time to figure out a different long-term solution that better meets the goals of the Benton County 10 year plan.

Finally, one of the goals of the HOAC includes education and improving the understanding and relationship between homeless and people with homes. Placing the most disruptive, least law-abiding population right in downtown unfairly gives all homeless people a bad reputation.

To Ms McAllister: I love your community building ideas and processes. I want to point out that your ideas are not contingent on having a low-barrier shelter downtown.

Thank you for listening."

Jan Napack: 3 questions and a bone to pick. Has anyone reached out to Rich Carone? Who represents the Shelter Steering Committee? Is there business representation on this? May 7th GT article talked about the Shelter, but no one is attributed to giving this release to the GT, except Shawn Collins was quoted. This implied that it came from HOAC.

Answer: Biff Traber: It was service agencies who were going to deliver the services at the Service Center who released the info to the GT.

The HOAC manager was quoted as the person who endorsed the site.

Terri Homer: Renaissance Building resident. Represent a large group of downtown business owners and residents who feel they were left out of the discussion. There was no community outreach or planning with downtown residents. DCA and DAB has come out against the 2nd Street site. Understand the County asked HOAC to come up with a site. This has morphed into effort to create a larger center. We are supposed to find a long term solution - these services are needed. The Hanson Tire Factory was not available when the search started. Shawn Collins looked at sites, and worked with others to create a combined services location. Understand the landlord will only lease if all three organizations are there. Feel that this will impact quality of life downtown so much that more discussion should take place. Propose that Hanson Tire Factory be reconsidered. A letter of intent for Hanson is in place. Feel that the comments of Jill that opponents are coming from "fear and loathing" are not correct. The Corvallis Police Department is not a personal security service, but we will be calling them to address concerns.