

## Housing Opportunities Action Council Meeting Notes

Wednesday, August 24, 2016

1:30 PM – 3:00 PM

Council Meeting Room

1. Introductions
  - a. Anne Schuster (Commissioner), Biff Traber (Mayor), Jim Moorefield (Willametter Neighborhood Housing Services), Andrea Myhre (Jackson Street Youth Services), Bettina Schempf (Old Mill), Brad Smith (Corvallis Housing First), Lt Dan Duncan (Corvallis Police Department), Chris Quaka (Community Outreach), Kevin Weaver (Project HELP), Mary Zelinka (CARDV), Julie Manning (Samaritan Health Services), Wendy Younger (Linn-Benton Housing Authority), Paula Grace (Benton Community Foundation), Martha Lyon (CSC), Jennifer Chen (Corvallis Housing First), Sara Hartstein (BCHD), Rocio Munoz (BCHD), Tatiana Dierwechter (BCHD), Gina Pieracci (Corvallis Advocate), Brigette Olson (WNHS), Denise Derrick (DHS-SSP), Tanarae Greenman (DHS-SSP), Aleita Hass-Holcombe (CDDC), Sara Power, Parker Williams (BCHD), Jordan Butler (BCHD), Judy Ball (LWV), Greg Olson (CHF), Kent Weiss (City of Corvallis), Jasper Smith, Bill Glassmire (City Council), Paul Canthoru (Candidate Count Commissioner), Mary B. Dunn (citizen), Mike Wells (citizen).
2. Review/Accept Minutes from July meeting
  - a. Amendment: Add Carol Butcher (League of Women Voters) to attendees
  - b. Accepted
3. Adopt Inclement Weather Shelter principles – Leadership Comm (15 min)
  - a. Review document
    - i. Biff Traber: This is to as for an endorsement from the governing board
      1. Does it make sense?
      2. “Experiencing homelessness” is preferred wording and needs to be changed in the document.
    - ii. Chris Quaka: We very much appreciate Jan for creating a very well done and thoughtful document.
      1. Motion to endorse: Julie Manning
        - a. Second: Jim Moorefield
      2. Discussion:
        - a. Carol Butcher: The resources in Benton county are much richer than those of other counties, does this cause us to be a “magnet” and attract people from other counties for our services.
        - b. Jim Moorefield, Clarification: the document can be worded better, but the intent of the document is to outline how it is obvious that people from outside of the county to come here to live, but this is relevant everywhere else around us, so we aren’t necessarily a “magnet” for people to come here from other counties.
          - i. We have a lower rate of homelessness than other counties in Western Oregon
        - c. Greg Olson: Is the national average for people moving around 7% each year? That would be 4,000 people in Benton County
        - d. Martha Lyon: Anytime a community offers a service
        - e. Brad Smith: 1/3 – 1/2 of the beds occupied this year were occupied by those same people last year
        - f. Kerry: We are placing 6/10 families
          - i. 10 – 15% of new families have come to our community using out services
          - ii. 2 years ago we served 117 less people than we did last year
          - iii. Treat this as an action item for the next HOAC meeting to bring current statistics

- g. Brad Smith: The number of beds used on 4<sup>th</sup> street is relatively constant over the past couple of years; we don't really have a trend one way or another.
    - h. Biff Traber: Using the word "magnet" for this document isn't accurately describing our situation
  - 3. Vote: Motion passes unanimous
    - a. Editing: Julie, Chris, and Carol will work on editing the document.
      - i. Need document edits ASAP so the document can be presented
- 4. Agency updates - Cold Weather Shelter (30 min)
  - a. See Community Outreach, INC handout (letter, proposal)
  - b. Explanation: Chris Quaka
    - i. Front: letter recently sent out to provide a short synopsis of one of our largest problems, homelessness
    - ii. 2 page proposal: submitted to city council yesterday.
      - 1. This is a plan on what we would do to provide a cold-weather shelter
    - iii. We came to this service model after a lot of research.
    - iv. We don't serve chronically homeless, we provide emergency food/shelter throughout the week
    - v. We won't provide the shelter if someone else is providing a cold weather shelter, we think this best fits the national model
  - c. Biff Traber: In the first council meeting on August 1st, after realizing dates and some other discussion, I had proposed that we discuss how the money should be used for an emergency shelter. Part of this is a request to the council and to the city for funding. We asked to have these proposals into the council ASAP so that the staff can begin working on it.
  - d. Questions for Chris (COI):
    - i. Point of clarification: The Corvallis Housing First and Community Outreach, INC are the two organizations that are putting the proposals into the city council. We had deadlines, but they weren't firm so they weren't met, but we are almost done.
    - ii. Julie Manning: Section 3: In the proposal you use a singular form of location, but in the discussion today you mentioned a scatter-site location model. Can you tell us more about the board discussion and what a scatter-site is and what it would look like?
      - 1. Chris: The board discussed how we don't have an alternate site because the one location cannot serve both populations, the homeless and the community
      - 2. Chris: A way to relieve pressure from the community is by spreading out the chronically homeless and using volunteers to help. Some examples include churches. We believe scattered-site housing will give more individualized case management and we would also be able to offer a step up of services at each location.
        - a. Julie Manning: How would this impact the budget? Is the proposed budget reflecting a single site?
          - i. Chris: My impression of the budget with this proposal is that it is reflecting a scatter-site.
    - 3. Bettina Schempf: Only inclement weather opening and case management, how do these two work together?
      - a. Chris: Case management would happen at our office but would need some additional resources to be done at the scattered sites. We have a limited amount of people accessing case management, so this doesn't seem to be a large burden for us at the moment.
    - 4. Karen Rockwell: One of the items that is concerning is that it seemed like at the last meeting you seemed to be asking the community not to refer homeless people to your location due to overflow and lack of resources. So how do you now propose an idea to move COI forward?
      - a. Chris: I think it'll be a challenge to ramp up the services with the amount of money and people we have, but we have implemented a plan to begin moving, hoping to minimize the overflow. First, we need help finding a

location or none of this will work. But we needed the proposal to be complete and presented before anything can begin.

5. Tanarae Greeman: What is the temperature for the inclement shelter to open? 37 degrees seems to be far too low, is there a way to change this? Also, I don't understand the budget for the staff because the shelter is only open part of the year, is this budget funding the staff year round?
  6. Jim Moorefield: After doing some research, "When a forecast is severe cold" has meant 2+ days of 32 degrees. My concern of a weather dependent shelter vs. a yearlong shelter is that we will have deaths due to
  7. Paula Grace: I really like the idea of the scattered-sites because it allows the community to get involved and see these people as people. However, I heard you say that this offer will be withdrawn if another shelter comes into play.
    - a. Chris: Correct, if another shelter comes into play then we will withdraw our proposal.
  8. Martha Lyon: How will the communication and logistics work when the scattered-sites open? How will these different locations know their standing and how will people know when/if they are open?
    - a. Chris: Site "A" is a scatter-site and is open year round with the same people living at the site. We will then use social media, police/fire departments and the community to put the word out on when the other sites will open in regards to the forecast, so hopefully people will know a couple of days ahead of time when a shelter location will be open.
  9. Kevin Weaver: What will happen when it floods? Most of the camps are in flood zones, and it floods when it is warm, which isn't considered "inclement weather". The flooding is an extreme concern.
  10. Kent Weiss: How many times over the past several years has the sever cold deprivation been met?
  11. There is a model that has shown success in Eugene that has been open since 2008 with successful communication, so this is very doable and should be considered.
    - a. Biff Traber: This situation is better than nothing during these inclement weather challenges
  12. Carol: Because this is a common practice, we should have someone site those practices so that we can see how exactly it works.
  13. Anne Schuster: What about the case management? The emergency showers?
    - a. Chris: We don't have the funding to provide more services than we do now, within this proposal there is money to do more.
  14. Anne: If you're providing additional services to the normal site, would this keep the populations separate? It seems as though the chronically homeless men would be with the families.
    - a. Chris: We've been and will continue these services, just more often than 2 weeks
5. Corvallis Housing First Update: Brad Smith
- a. Our proposal is being edited to be submitted tomorrow.
  - b. There has been tension between COI and CHF but over the past several months we have had some productive conversations.
    - i. Some of the underlying issues have been discussed and are being figured out. One of the things we agreed on while the two agencies focus on different homelessness problems, it is in everyone's best interest (professionally and individually) to move in a direction to do what is best for the community.
  - c. Proposing:
    - i. 4<sup>th</sup> street shelter to open November 1<sup>st</sup> through the end of March
    - ii. Here is our method of operation to improve the services used by the homeless and the impact the shelter has on the community
      1. Corvallis Police Department: increase patrol activity around the shelter in periods of time before opening and after releasing when more homeless people are in

- the surrounding neighborhood- hopefully an appearance will decrease the problems that have surrounded this area
2. Community outreach and community participation: set up public forums with local neighborhood groups and other groups to figure out the practical nuts and bolts to eliminate the problems could occur
    - a. Proactive meetings before the process begins
    - b. Follow up meetings while the process is in pace to make sure the conflicts that arise can be taken care of
  3. Increase organizational support: extend conversation with local service providers who are looking to collaborate in a more proactive manner. We are looking to have active involvement in the process and become more involved in what the best practices are for a better more functional operations
  4. Provide an increase of services to the cliental: with SHS we will provide onsite health services, continue work with the BCHD, and interact with other agencies providing housing
  5. We want to divide the population between the chronically homeless and those who aren't. We want to address the needs of the most severely impacted individuals.
- iii. Scattered-sites vs single-sites: personally I see the logistics of running a scattered-site pretty challenging.
1. We are proposing to run a single site in terms that are as least impactful as possible.
  2. Our funding works out to be \$5 per head per night, with about 5,000 beds per season.
    - a. This is direct funding from the city for the services, does not include the services from the police/fire departments.
- iv. Questions:
1. Where will prescreening take place?
    - a. Brad: the prescreening process will begin in October with 1 person at a time; it will happen at the shelter and will be a slow, personal process to avoid aggravation.
    - b. Explain the appointment process, how will people get there:
      - i. People can call to make an appointment 4 days a week
  2. What will this cost the police department with more patrol around the area?
    - a. Biff: this cannot be answered because that is part of the proposal.
    - b. Brad: we also constantly talk with the clients before they come into the site to make them aware that if they cause a disturbance to the area, they will not be allowed into the shelter.
  3. Neighborhood community member: What can you do about the heavy drinking before the shelter opens? The neighborhood turns into a "happy hour" a few hours before the shelter opens. And, are you able to let the men out of the shelter later than 7am so that they aren't being released as school buses are picking kids up?
    - a. Brad: We can't guarantee that won't happen, but we will definitely continue working with the people and talking to them.
  4. Andrea Myhre: Last year the council had a tactical action plan, so as far as I know they did this same thing last year.
    - a. Brad: As the season went on we created better communication with the police department.
  5. Paul: Impressed with how Brad Smith is presenting the action plan for the shelter and it seems very pleasant, but unfortunately this plan doesn't end up working.
    - a. Biff Traber: lets hold this discussion because we are not voting today, this is discussion for the proposal.
  6. Community member: Is it realistic to keep the men in the shelter until 8 or 9 a.m. so that they don't interfere with kids and the school bus?
    - a. Brad: this depends on our permit; we are looking to see if that is possible.

7. Kevin: Is there a way to differentiate the people who utilize, don't utilize or may utilize the services but have been kicked out due to behavior?
    - a. Brad: there are individuals who remain in the community but are not welcome back to the shelter so they no longer use the resources.
  8. Is relocating this a possibility?
    - a. One property we actively looked at did not work out due to finances, since then we have not found another facility that is correctly zoned and can structure a shelter. We are not "married" to this site, if there is a site that is correctly zoned we would be happy to move there.
  9. Bill: please look at the costs of the shelter when it isn't in use as well as when it is in use.
  10. Karen Rockwell: THANK YOU for the services from both organizations! You're doing great work.
6. AST update – Martha Lyon and AST members
    - a. Martha Lyon: I'm not the right person to give the report, however we have some outstanding questions from our meeting and the AST and has continued to operate without a formal facilitator and administrative assistant. Some questions developed from our meeting include "Should the admin be the facilitator?", "Does the facilitator need additional training?", "Who is the target population?", "What is the goal of the AST?"
      - i. "Who case manages those who come unaccompanied?"
        1. DHS meets personally with these people and develops a plan to move forward
      - ii. The biggest push was to define the terms and to publish the terms. How are we going to keep it going?
      - iii. Is the AST apart of the HOAC? – this question has been left undecided.
  7. Committee Updates
    - a. Planning process update – Tatiana Dierwechter
      - i. Update to our 10 year plan, IGA is in place, we have been getting small things together and are ready to
        1. We have put together a "snap shot" of the planning process as well as a website and some social media to help project to the community what is going on during this process
          - a. This will all be ready to launch around labor day
        2. Anne Schuster: How are you doing the community mapping?
          - a. Tatiana: We've gone through all core partners to identify the key stakeholders for future interviews, PLEASE let us know if you have any additions to our list so that we can count them in.
        3. Anne: How do you develop a plan for this?
          - a. Tatiana: We already have a plan to look at community feedback and what has been done in the past to create some additions/edits for the next year.
  8. Ran out of time to complete the remaining agenda items.
  9. Next Meeting: September 28<sup>th</sup>, 1:30 – 3 p.m.