

# Housing Opportunities Action Council

## Lead Administrator: Summary Report

Benton County and the City of Corvallis have contracted with United Way of Benton & Lincoln Counties to serve as the backbone organization, and host the position of Lead Administrator (aka, Program Manager) for HOAC from November 1, 2016 through June 30, 2018. Shawn Collins began serving in this role November 1, 2016.

Following is a summary report of the activities of the Program Manager, September 2017-October 2017.

### Project Updates

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**Cold Weather Shelter:** As of October 25, we have 6 days until the cold weather shelter season opens November 1. Activities in the past month have been primarily focused on completing the renovation, and staffing.

*Renovation:* While there's still a great deal to be done before opening day, the interior of the building changes daily, and the pace has picked up considerably in the past week. Electrical rough-in work has been done for the bathrooms, and additional work will be completed in the next several days. Drywall was being installed as I left the site this morning, and should be completed by end of day. A variety of small tasks, painting and repairs, are getting wrapped up, and there will be volunteers at the site daily as we work through the final press to opening. Opening of the shelter November 1 is still the target, but we cannot open before final inspections are complete, so coordination with the City staff and all contractors is critical at this point.

*Staffing:* Hiring of paid staff, and scheduling of volunteer crews has been a primary focus in the last month. A Shelter Manager, Harry Reich, has been hired, and other positions are being finalized this week. Harry has been a volunteer at the Shelter in the past, and is very familiar with the general operations and the clientele – we're fortunate to have his leadership and commitment as we begin the season. Volunteer training will begin on the 26<sup>th</sup>, and Sherrie Day and Roz Keeney, the Volunteer Coordinators, have done a great job keeping all involved on task and focused to develop the training materials, and line up volunteers. We are still seeking volunteers – anyone interested in volunteering at the Shelter should contact the Volunteer Coordinators at [Corvmensshelter@gmail.com](mailto:Corvmensshelter@gmail.com).

An Open House will be held at the Shelter, 211 SE Chapman Place, on October 29 from 2-4pm.

**Ten-Year Plan Update & Workgroups:** The Ten Year Plan update document has been shared with the HOAC Governing Board for review, with the expectation that after it is finalized and adopted, it will be shared to the City Council, the Board of Commissioners, and the broader community. This effort would not have been possible without the commitment of the Benton County Health Department Healthy Communities Team, HOAC members, and the many community partners who participated in the process. A presentation on the update process and outcomes was made at the recent Oregon Coalition on Housing and Homelessness conference in Eugene, which was well received and has generated a number of requests to the Healthy Communities Team for follow up information.

The Housing Supply and Messaging workgroup, and the Care Coordination workgroups have had their first meetings, and the Mental and Behavioral Health workgroup will meet for the first time on October 27<sup>th</sup>. The work of these groups will be critical to future refinement of plans, and development of initiatives aligned to the updated Ten Year Plan.

### Perspective

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The past month has been filled with tasks related to the Shelter, but I've also been able to attend several conferences and summits focused on housing and homelessness, and how to build community support for needed changes. I've come away from each of those events impressed by the activities going on in communities across Oregon, and here in Corvallis and Benton County. The problems we face are shared by many, and the approach that has been adopted by HOAC, focused on collaborative efforts, shared plans and priorities, and broad community engagement, is one we should be proud of, and continue to develop. For anyone interested in discussing affordable housing and homelessness, and approaches we might take going forward, I can be reached at [shawn@unitedwayblc.org](mailto:shawn@unitedwayblc.org), 541-757-7717, or through [contact@bentonhoac.com](mailto:contact@bentonhoac.com).