

Housing Opportunities Action Council

Governing Board

Minutes 03-22-17

Board Members in Attendance: Anne Schuster (Co-Chair), Biff Traber (Co-Chair), Julie Manning, Kari Whitacre, Martha Lyon, Jen McDermind (alt), Miguel Mendez (alt), Michael Olkin (alt), Nicole Hindes, Karyle Butcher, Chris Hawkins, Corrie Latimer, Kenny Lowe, Aleita Hass-Holcombe, Letetia Wilson, Lt. Todd Bailey (alt), Andrea Myhre, Shawn Collins (Program Manager)

Community Members: Greg Olson, Molly Chambers, Paul Marinelo, Bill Glassmire, Nathan Brutell, Anibal Ortiz, Richard Sumner, Eva (intern Old Mill), Kevin Schultz, Roberta Smith, Judy Ball, Jeffrey Burns, Chris Gray, Tatiana Dierwechter, Rocio Munoz, Sara Hartstein, Neil Goudriaan, Kent Weiss, Hyatt Lytle

Time	Type	Presenter	Topic / Notes
1:30pm	Report	Co-Chairs and Program Manager	Introductions Approve January/February Minutes Program Manager report

Approval of January/February minutes: Moved by Julie Manning, Second by Martha Lyon. Approved.

Lead Administrator report:

- Written comments distributed at meeting, and available at www.bentonhoac.com/monthly-meetings/ Summary of written comments:
 - o Mid-Point update process moving into new phase, moving from data gathering and analysis to discussion of goals, strategies, and priorities.
 - o Advocacy and participation in grant opportunities was raised at the March Leadership meeting – will need to be a focus of future agenda item.
 - o Research into best practices included a trip to Eugene, with visits to a Rest Stop, Opportunity Village, Cornerstone Housing, and Shelter Care. Take away: Local innovation is possible, and can deliver high impact, especially if paired with strongly coordinated services.
 - o Cold Weather Shelter work continues, with a recent City Council Work Session which focused on options being pursued, budget requirements, and challenges. Request from Council for monthly updates.
 - o AST continues to evolve and explore ways to become more effective.
 - o Benton County Board of Commissioners update on March 28.

Announcements:

- Anne Schuster: Oregon Senate Bill 397 is being considered this session. This would direct DHS to convene a workgroup, with the goal of recommending a common confidential information release form, to enable effective data sharing among state agencies and other community organizations.

<p>- Karyle Butcher: The Corvallis League of Women Voters statistical report on homelessness in Corvallis has been approved by the League’s Board, and will be distributed shortly. Thanks to Judy Ball for her efforts and expertise in compiling this view, and a request from the Co-Chair Traber that this report be shared directly to the HOAC Governing Board when available.</p>			
1:40pm	Transitional Housing Options for Corvallis	Andrea Myhre, chair of SMART team, and Aleita Hass-Holcombe	Presentation of white paper on transitional housing
<p>Andrea Myhre: SMART team takes on initiatives at the request of the Governing Board, and uses ad hoc workgroups to do research, and make recommendations to HOAC. Camping and homelessness was referred to SMART for research and recommendations, and the White Paper resulting from this effort is now available for review.</p> <p>Aleita Hass-Holcombe: This was the first workgroup formed under the SMART team, so they have been blazing the trail. Six served on the workgroup: Kevin Shultz, Pegge McGuire, Ed Epley, Bob Bernhardt, Jim Swinyard, Aleita Hass-Holcombe. The white paper has been distributed to the Governing Board, and will be made available through the website after the meeting.</p> <p>Summary of the paper: We are at a crossroads in the community. We can be reactive, or we can be proactive. The report outlines some of the actions which have been taken historically in Corvallis, what has been done in other communities, and outlines several possible approaches to take in Corvallis now. There is a page at the end of the paper with a list of recommendations to HOAC, which will be taken up for discussion in April.</p> <p>Co-Chair Traber encouraged all to review the paper, and come prepared to discuss in April. City Council is looking to HOAC for recommendations.</p> <p>Julie Manning expressed appreciation for the work in the proposal, and recommends to all that future discussions take into account the system-level framework that it outlined in the Health Department materials.</p> <p>Aleita – agrees, and suggests that we think about camping/transitional housing solutions as a starting point for people to begin a path to permanent housing. The proposals in the white paper address an early point in the continuum of need.</p> <p>Karyle Butcher asked how this connects to City priorities, especially those connected to the Housing Task Force and HCDAB recommendations? Biff responded that it’s expected HOAC will make recommendations to Council, and sees this report as fitting into that framework. Tatiana Dierwechter added that “cross-walking” proposals with HCDAB is included in the goals/strategies they will present.</p> <p>Any updates or corrections to the paper can be sent to Aleita, with a CC to Shawn.</p>			
1:55pm	The Benton County Ten Year Plan to Address Housing and Homelessness, Mid-Point Update	Tatiana Dierwechter and Sara Hartstein	Review of the process, and the Draft Goals and Strategies document
<p>Tatiana Dierwechter, Benton County Public Health, Healthy Communities Team</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - All slides and handouts are available on the website for the March meeting. - Introduction to the Mid-point Update: process, goals for this session 			

- Goal is to review the document, highlight items which are clearly under local control, and identify any new interventions that are needed.
- Prioritization work will begin in the April Leadership meeting, with voting in the April Governing Board meeting.
- To facilitate a more rapid process, HOAC Governing Board and Leadership meetings will be leveraged as work-sessions. Leadership meetings will be open to all HOAC Governing Board members for these sessions.

- Comments:

Julie Manning: Appreciate the table that shows connection between original plan, and the revised set of goals. Notable that #9 is the only one that has no parallel in original plan -- glad to see it there, and that this is a key priority. It moves upstream, to focus on what's important for community integration.

Co-Chair Schuster: Want to underscore that there are some in the community who are willing/able to provide funding, so we don't have to imagine that there will be no money available, even if federal resources change -- we have to acknowledge local opportunities.

- Review of sections 1-9 of the Goals and Strategies document, with questions noted below.

Section 1: Community and Organizational Systems and Policy Change

Karyle Butcher: Something is missing -- there are many times we are talking about these kind of policy changes with only those we agree with -- how do we engage the NIMBY segment?

Sara Hartstein: Section 9 may provide an opportunity

Anne Schuster: People respond to the personal -- we should frame conversations around how these changes can make individual lives better (safer in the park, etc)

Section 2: Coordinated Data & Evaluation Systems and Common Intake

Biff Traber: Is this really about coordinating care, or setting common data protocols?

Bettina Schempf: Many times there are not housing questions/issues when people present at an agency -- including info at intake is a value.

Section 3: Prevention

Biff Traber refers to Kent Weiss: Livability Code is not displacing renters -- there are some temporary dislocations. We are not seeing large scale displacements. Think the reference in this document is a mis-characterization, and should be re-stated.

Martha Lyon: There is a specific challenge with the Code - in that tenants are fearful of retaliation, and will not make complaints. There is an impact.

Biff Traber: Would say we have a tool, but the fact folks are fearful of retaliation is not a result of the code. Don't want to critique the code un-necessarily.

Sara/team -- will address language to make clear it is not a critique of the Code itself.

Section 4: Street Outreach and Rapid Response

Hyatt Lytle: At Ward meeting, Karen Emery said the Parks & Rec department will start addressing refuse in the camps every other week.

Anne Schuster: There will be a social worker starting at the library in April.

<p>Section 5: Emergency Response Anne Schuster: reference to Stepping Up initiative - a tri-county initiative beginning in Lincoln County that diverts mental health cases out of courts. This is something we should explore.</p> <p>Section 6: Comprehensive Care Coordination Language based on the charge of the SMART coordinated care workgroup. Strong sentiment of value in coordination from community in interviews. Kari Whitacre: Fair Housing laws have an impact - makes it difficult to do Social Determinants of Health questionnaire as part of intake, as this may be used as a discrimination element for housing. Biff Traber: Would ask that the referral pathways and service coordination gaps analysis be made available as part of this process. Anne Schuster: Note that there is a new App available: MHU - Mental Health and You. (Info and links to download at: http://chcsbc.org/mental-health-app/)</p> <p>Section 7: Temporary Housing</p> <p>Section 8: Permanent Housing Coordinated with Supportive Services</p> <p>Section 9: Community Integration and Neighborhood Belonging Stories/social media - could leverage PIOs at City/County to improve awareness</p>	
2:50pm	Public Comment
<p>Community Member: Paul Marinelo: Suggestion to provide coffee at future meetings, and question about what to expect as shelters close April 1.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Answered by Jen McDermand, Corvallis Housing First: The shelter on 4th will close, with operations to clear the building continuing over first couple of weeks in April. Those currently in shelter will likely begin camping in areas around Corvallis April 1. (Note: Both the men's and women's cold weather shelters will close April 1.) <p>Community Member: Neil Goudriaan: Related his outreach efforts to Tyler Waggoner, a homeless youth recently profiled in the Barometer (Hidden Hardships, The Daily Barometer, February 26, 2017: http://bit.ly/2nhRqQf). Waggoner is involved in the Next Steps program through Jackson Street Youth Shelter, and Goudriaan has reached out to help connect to employment opportunities. Related the difficulties of engaging with the system, and the need to outline the program and social costs related to the system.</p>	
<p>Meeting Adjourned: 3:00 pm</p>	

Next meetings:

April 4, HOAC Leadership, 1:30-3:30 (Open to all Governing Board members)

April 26, HOAC Governing Board, 1:30-3:00