

Housing Opportunities Action Council

Governing Board

Minutes 09-26-2018

Board Members in Attendance: Anne Schuster (co-chair), Biff Traber (co-chair), Art Kyle, Letetia Wilson, Bettina Schempf, Nicole Hindes, Blake Pang, Chris Hawkins, Andrea Myhre, Julie Manning, Michael Olkin (alt-Holt), Aleita Hass-Holcombe, Martha Lyon, Karyle Butcher

Community Members in Attendance: Ari Basil-Wagner (guest speaker), Jim Swinyard, Jim Day, Kent Weiss, Michelle Mayers, Jan Napack, Roberta Smith, Cassandra Robertson, Sara Ingle, Brent Pawlowski, John Pawlowski, Rika Bierek, Maggie Cooper, Dawn Jones, Sara Power

Time	Type	Presenter	Topic / Notes
1:30 pm	Report	Co-Chairs and Program Manager	Introductions Approve July Minutes Co-Chair Comments Program Manager report
<p>Approval of July Minutes: Motion: Bettina Schempf, Second: Andrea Myhre. Approved</p> <p>Co-Chair Comments: Co-Chair Traber: Clarifying comments on role of Program Manager, and specifically work related the Shelter have been requested. A letter is in development by Leadership to clarify UUFC work, and the Program Manager role. This will get sent to Governing Board for comments.</p> <p>The UUFC (Unitarian Universalist Fellowship of Corvallis) is not currently a member of HOAC, but given their central role to providing emergency shelter, it has been suggested that the Governing Board appoint Jill McAllister, Sr. Minister of the UUFC to the open at-large position on the Governing Board.</p> <p>Motion: Julie Manning. Second: Andrea Myhre. Approved</p> <p>Co-Chair Schuster: Went to Jill's Community workshop recently (September 7-8). Found the pairwise process used to identify priorities very helpful. Notes will be shared when they become available. Top priorities: Safety, essential services, livability. Want to highlight "The Block Project" in Seattle, which is helping one family per block by putting tiny homes in each as a possible model of interest. See: http://the-block-project.org/</p> <p>Additional comments: Aleita Hass-Holcombe: Want to mention that it was safety of all in the community that was a priority – for both the housed and the unhoused.</p>			

Biff Traber: It was a great process, with representatives from across the community present. Look forward to the report when it becomes available.

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

Question: Martha Lyon: What's going on with the "village" concept being worked on by Sustainability Coalition?

Answer from Cassandra Robertson: Sustainability Coalition workgroup is exploring the model that has been developed in Eugene by SquareOne Villages. Looking at whether this is feasible in Corvallis/Benton County. Seeking to integrate sustainability. November 1, there will be a presentation at First Presbyterian by SquareOne.

Anne Schuster: Pat Farr would be willing to do a tour of programs in Eugene if any are interested.

Karyle Butcher: LWV (League of Women Voters) has had someone (Lynn Jarvis) at these meetings. Want to make sure that service providers stay connected to this effort.

Martha Lyon: Agree -- services are needed to get benefits of "housing first" model.

Karyle Butcher: Question about how effective HOAC can be going forward, given the recent struggles, which bruised the reputation of HOAC in the community.

1:40 pm	SMART Team Update	Andrea Myhre	(information)
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Status of HOAC Workgroups

Bettina Schempf: Mental Health: Sub-group looking at education and training for mental health professionals and service providers. There is an ongoing shortage of qualified mental health professionals. The MH workgroup is paused while some work goes on with HOAC strategic planning, and as other groups like Care Coordination have some overlapping work.

Sara Ingle: Housing supply workgroup is tracking policy initiatives. Rika Bierek is working as an intern with the group, to track advocacy opportunities and policy progress. She is employed through a partnership with Benton County and OSU.

Martha Lyon: Care Coordination: Multiple groups working in this area. A joint meeting of the HOAC Care Coordination group, IHN-CCO Universal Care Coordination group, and the IHN-CCO Social Determinants of Health workgroup has been held to look for overlapping efforts and seeking some alignment. HOAC and CCO groups may undertake some separate efforts to look at intake forms - similar to work that has been done by the HEART Board in

Linn County. Not clear the charter of the Social Determinants of Health (SDoH) workgroup. They were building to make recommendations into the CCO 2.0 process -- but timing has been a challenge. The SDoH workgroup identified housing as a priority, but housing is not something the current IHN-CCO works on. Some discussion underway about other CCOs that have been involved in housing, and how that might be done within the context of IHN-CCO.

Comment/Question: Julie Manning: CCO 2.0 references the Oregon Health Authority RFP for the next period of CCO (Coordinated Care Organization) operations. There are 16 CCOs in Oregon -- all will have a chance to respond to the RFP for a new period beginning in 2020. It creates an opportunity for the State of Oregon and CCOs to re-examine priorities, and change CCOs to reflect community needs. If HOAC has interest in providing input, it might be worth inviting Bill Bouska of IHN-CCO to come explain the CCO 2.0 process. Cherlyn Dahl would be another good guest speaker, particularly around the SDoH workgroup.

Martha Lyon: What about having Kim Whitley, head of the DST (Delivery Systems Transformation) present?

Andrea Myhre: The three workgroups, focused on plan priorities, have struggled a bit. But there are other groups working on ideas in the community that may need some recognition or better connection to HOAC. The Homeless Vulnerable Patients group, the Sustainability Coalition's "Village" group, and the SORT team are all examples of efforts that have evolved, but are not formally connected to HOAC. SORT makes the most immediate sense (and is connected to priority area 4.3), but the idea of becoming a formal HOAC group needs to be reviewed by the SORT team membership.

Biff Traber: Encourage SORT becoming a more formal group.

Martha Lyon: Suggest it is not the members of that team, but rather their parent organizations, that would need to approve a more formal relationship to HOAC.

2:00 pm	Discussion of HOAC and community strategies to address homelessness	Ari Basil-Wagner, GOBHI	(information/discussion)
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Intro by Biff Traber: Context for this discussion: There's been a good deal of discussion about the future of the organization over several months this spring, building to the planned Strategy meeting in June. That meeting didn't take place due to scheduling. However, the struggles that took place over the summer about the location of the Shelter, and other co-located services, underscore the need for some strategic planning and discussion about the future of the organization, priorities, and future direction.

Comment: Julie Manning: Thanks to the City and County for providing the opportunity to work with Ari in this process.

Ari Basil-Wagner: Was asked to help facilitate conversations, based on the work done with Criminal Justice Assessment. But HOAC didn't request this - so if that's not needed/wanted, will bow out.

Have been asked to facilitate conversation around planning, models for organizational structure, and what the group would like to see going forward. Also asked to facilitate strategic planning around tasks related to the Ten Year Plan.

Andrea Myhre: We have a plan, and workgroups, and lots of work is being done - but we missed the step of getting buy-in across the full group, and making sure there's commitment and trust around the table.

Bettina Schempf: We have not reflected on the concept of collective impact. If we're really taking an approach of collective impact, there may be different folks that need to be at the table.

Blake Pang: Want to make sure all interested parties are a part of this process. Comfortable with Ari's approach, but getting broader community involvement will be key to success. If we're able to come together and agree with a direction and plan as a community, and be brave about what's needed and commitments, then we'll have progress.

Ari Basil-Wagner: The community has great energy around the housing topic. It's about the "hows" not the "ifs" - which is positive. Question is how do we build synergy to move this ahead?

Biff Traber: We created HOAC as an improvement over the HOC. But we need to decide if this is a benefit, or not.

Karyle Butcher: Not sure agree we have accomplished a lot. Many have commented to Karyle that HOAC is dysfunctional. Why wasn't HOAC out in front on the Shelter project? Why is HOAC not well known in the community? We should be careful to avoid simply putting a happy face on things. We have issues, and they need to be addressed honestly. There is potential, but we have work to do.

Ari Basil-Wagner: My work is to help identify: What do you want to do? What do you need to support that, and how do we do that?

Aleita Hass-Holcombe: Disagree with Karyle - there is a great deal that's been accomplished. The Ten Year Plan update is an example. Don't want to simply start over.

Anne Schuster: Frustration that there's a wealth of information in the group, but only 40% of folks talk. We're losing out on that expertise.

Ari Basil-Wagner: Important to create a safe environment for discussion. Important to use principles of Trauma Informed Care. Need collective processes, celebrations, discussion.

Bettina Schempf: Relationships are key. But there's been an issue as Boards ask questions about HOAC and what's happening. Not all have the same knowledge about the work, and Board pressures can create challenges. As a group, we don't often reflect on the mission/vision, and build better means of communicating when things get difficult. The relationships among the group were not tight when there were issues recently.

Andrea Myhre: Don't believe there is clear agreement across the group on the problems, solutions, approach.

Ari Basil-Wagner: Hear that some of the problems are inherent in the difficulty of having community conversations. Need to have clearly shared values. Hearing that there needs to be some work on shared values, mission, vision.

Martha Lyon: HOAC, as it began, was intended to make recommendations to the community -- but was not intended to make specific actions. When we moved into "HOAC 2.0" - we jumped to action without re-affirming values, etc. HOAC doesn't have a set of common values, or goals. If we had taken a vote on where the shelter ought to be, we might not have been able to, as there hasn't been enough work done to support a shared vision/values. Getting clear on "why we exist," and getting clear on process that makes decisions is going to be important. The community has often blamed things on HOAC, but it's not clear that there's enough structure there to drive significant action. Don't want to set up HOAC so the community can say "what has HOAC done to solve this" or "why haven't you solved this"?

Ari Basil-Wagner: Hearing frustrations about how the group is perceived in the community. It's a challenge for people to understand the details at times. The tension over whether HOAC has accomplished anything is real, and needs to have space in the conversation. As a starting place, want to start with purpose, mission, values. Once that's defined as a group, then go to an exploration of the plan and how to accomplish, and the organizational structure to best support.

Bettina Schempf: The reason we keep coming back, is all recognize there is a problem that kids, families and individuals are still homeless.

Blake Pang: First meeting attended as a member, it struck him how few members felt empowered to vote on an issue. Speaking as the backbone organization, would like to make sure there's some clear expectations about what United Way can do to better support the organization.

Chris Hawkins: There are some who are not present, and others who have left the organization. How do we get them back?

Karyle Butcher: The tension between organizational leaders and their charge, and HOAC's work, can cause problems and is foundational to issues.

Martha Lyon: HOAC has to acknowledge that there's more than one way to get things done. We're a whole community and each organization has its own ways and approaches. The values are in getting people housed. There are many ways to do that. We have to find common ground, and not expect that all will follow exact same approach.

Ari Basil-Wagner: The motives of folks in the group are good - but there are things getting in the way. Believe that rightly done, Corvallis will be the place people call to find out how to address homelessness.

Want to set schedule for a retreat:

- Option 1: Extend Oct 24th meeting to 4 hours – Option 2: seek another 4 hour block

Discussion suggested there was a conflict with the RE: Conference that makes the Oct 24th date difficult.

A Doodle Poll will be created to seek other dates: Oct 12 was suggested

A copy of Ari Basil-Wagner's SOW will be distributed to the Governing Board.

2:50

Public Comment / Q&A

Brent Pawlowski: Grew up in the community, but have seen a significant downturn in livability. Central Park is an example. "Homeless people" outnumber children. Pot smoke in the park.

Fighting in the park. We don't know how many "homeless" are truly homeless, transient, living off the grid. Would like to see parks cleaned up, and address bad behavior. Parks are being hi-jacked. Human waste and needles. Speaking as a fed-up resident. In addition to giving out free housing, please address bad behavior. Quote from Program Manager comments about camp clearing "not helping." Homeless camps are criminal camps, and should be cleared. Asking Mayor: Please clean up the community.

Maggie Cooper: Physical therapist, office above Inkwel. Participated in many meetings over shelter location. In those meetings, had surprising experience, and made a commitment to Councilor Wyse to share comments. Surprising experience was at July 16 Council when funding was approved for 2nd and Western. 7 of 9 Councilors were guided by HOAC recommendation. Had heard of HOAC, but hadn't heard of recommendations, and a process for vetting. Felt that Council was the wrong place to talk to - but rather HOAC. Who is HOAC? How does the public interact with them? How does the public have any input? As a business person who has been involved in these conversations at Council in the past, it felt like there was a lack of transparency over the process, and that there was no opportunity for public input. If you want to be guided by the community, have the meetings at a time when working people can attend. You can't just talk to one another. There would be less outrage and indignation if people knew who you were, and could attend.

Dawn Jones: Want to comment on the discussion today, and affirm what you're doing, as a group and as member organizations. See the intent of HOAC as uplifting and affirming the work of member organizations. The name of the group suggests that the group takes action -- appreciate what you do, but may need a name change to better reflect what you do.

Meeting Adjourned: 3:10 pm