

**City of Bend and Deschutes County
Emergency Homelessness Task Force Meeting
Action Planning Meeting: Addressing Unsheltered Homelessness
December 13, 2021**

The meeting of the Emergency Homelessness Task Force (EHTF) was called to order at 2:05 p.m. on Tuesday, December 13, 2021, online and by phone.

1. Introductions & Strategic Plan Overview

Brittani Manzo, Policy Strategist and Facilitator, presented the following slides:

- Group Agreement and Norms
- Vision
- Milestones

2. Strategies for Addressing Unsheltered Homelessness

3. Brainstorming Actions:

The participants were asked the following question, “What work is already underway and aligned with these strategies?” Participants provided the following input in terms of actions, challenges, and needs:

- Expanding low barrier shelter capacity
 - Actions
 - The City of Sisters is interested in increasing capacity for a shelter
 - The Door, La Pine – ensuring year-round, low barrier shelter
 - City of Bend Navigation Center and third shelter site
 - Estimating and projecting need
 - Winter warming shelter in each city, including the Confederated Tribes of Warm Springs
 - Shepard’s House capital campaign for a shelter in Redmond by Spring and Summer 2022 (40 to 80 beds)
 - Summer cooling centers
 - New groups interested in providing services
 - Homeless Leadership Coalition (HLC) efforts to build capacity of new providers – Notice of Funding Opportunity (NOFO), Emergency Solutions Grant (ESG) and Coronavirus spending
 - Agencies exploring ideas around transitional housing
 - As shelters are planned and expanded, develop referral processes with kitchens, schools, community centers, etc. – feedback loops to ensure gaps in – hospital system, etc. (referring agencies)
 - Redmond: Mountainview Fellowship and Veterans of Foreign Wars safe parking partnering with REACH (Relationships, Empowerment, Action, Compassion, Heart) for services
 - Needs

- How to transition these and kitchens to be year-round?
 - New service providers – support in nonprofit status
 - Information session – capacity building for existing and new providers
 - 200 beds, which should increase inversely aligned to transitional housing development (youth, elderly adults, women)
 - Other
 - HLC and ESG-Coronavirus funding
- Improving access to shelter
 - Actions
 - Coordinated Entry System: should shelter be integrated into coordinated entry? creating a robust referral system
 - Transportation
 - Connecting people to appropriate types of shelters
 - Streamlining process – coordinating access
 - Runaway Homeless Youth and youth identification – no coordinated referrals – youth identified in school district not always referred; community resource list for youth
 - Homeless Management Information System shelter capacity updates – sharing information about bed availability
 - Connection to other services
 - By-name list
 - Oregon Health Authority (OHA) planning grant for each tri-county community assessment for youth services and shelter (September 2022)
- Creating ample space for managed camp to meet the present need
 - Actions
 - Active safe parking
 - Tiny home villages
 - Hayden Homes, Bob Bohac, Deschutes County efforts for tiny home village in Redmond on county property
 - Mail delivery – address for authorized encampment
 - City of Bend: siting additional safe parking sites
 - Estimating and projecting need
 - Site management, service procurement
 - Needs
 - Centering people experiencing homelessness in determining inclusion and priorities for authorized encampment spaces
 - Community discussion, reasonable location siting, proactive outreach, addressing concerns
 - Siting encampments considerate and inclusive of people accessing outdoor shelter; food service, health care, mental health, bus system – prioritizing choice for people, multiple locations will be needed
 - Community conversation and education: service providers, municipalities, open forum and conversation to surface concerns

- City of Redmond considering land with Deschutes County (Urban Growth Boundary, unincorporated areas, Oregon Department of Transportation)
 - Streamlined, standardized guidance and standards to adhere to (down the road, population-based, location-based), building on Veterans' Village and Hope Village – clearing house at the County to outline elements; City's process to approve partners -- known partners will not recreate the wheel
- Improving services to meet individuals needs while living unsheltered
 - Actions
 - Shower access and bathroom access
 - Garbage pickup
 - Nonprofits and agencies stepped up to fill gaps
 - Rapport building and trust building (community partners, clients)
 - Access to food and meals
 - Health care
 - Mail service - Bend Church (connect to outreach providers), both JBarJ locations (outreach, clients and past residents) and Bethlehem Inn (for residents for limited time)
 - Access to basic needs: dumpster, hand washing stations, port-a-potties
 - By-name list – include service needs
 - Case management – brief interviews for needs and longer term for exit from street planning
 - HLC Outreach Committee to deduplicate and coordinate
 - Deschutes County approved funding from the American Rescue Plan Act increasing the homeless outreach team (two Case Managers, one Peer Support Specialist) – La Pine and Redmond
 - Navigation Center (request for proposal due December 22, 2021)
 - Safe place for pets – veterinary services
 - Best Care Treatment: Measure 110 funding (outreach and harm reduction service expansion)
 - Measure 110 – drop in centers for recovery; decreasing barriers to access treatment
 - Community-wide conversations on safety – Police calls around trespassing from community; non-criminalization efforts underway – arrests focused on criminal activity (conversations around CAHOOTS (Crisis Assistance Helping Out on The Streets) model, Deschutes County Behavioral Health embed model); formalized efforts and conversations
 - Humane Society partnerships for fostering, boarding, education for responsible pet ownership
 - Fair Housing of Oregon may be supportive with expanding access for people with pets
 - Challenges

- Dignity Service – taken into consideration with new programs (Navigation Center, authorized encampment): PO Box for mail at post office
- Basic needs should be met on a day-to-day basis, remote and dispersed to where folks are
- Storage access (none available in any communities beyond storage bin)
- No treatment centers – when shelter is unavailable
- Needs
 - Support for people upon becoming houseless: where is it ok and not ok to park? Garbage bags; formalizing guidance
 - Post Office general delivery was common (downtown), as Bend grew, that is no longer an option
 - Decrease barriers to pets – specifying types of pets and service animals allowed; process to streamline and decrease barriers; within food service settings specify
 - Pets and assistance in helping the owner collect documentation for reasonable accommodation process for shelter
 - peer support specialists to meet folks where they're at and bridge to other services, build trust, support navigating homelessness
 - Navigation Center? Cleveland Commons?
 - People are reluctant to retrieve services, meals, access employment opportunities without safe, secure places to leave their belongings
- Other
 - Unused City land
 - Shipping containers – secure storage
 - sleeping bag, tent, backpack (2'x8' lockers at the Bethlehem Inn in Bend), lockable

4. Break

5. Action Planning:

The participants were asked the following question, “What is needed in order to fully implement these actions over the next three years?” Participants provided the following input in terms of actions, challenges, and needs:

- Expanding low barrier shelter capacity
 - Needs
 - Institutional support for new providers
 - Support for transitioning time limited shelters to year-round
 - Develop transitional housing
 - Create, build and zone for additional shelter
 - Support youth housing and service needs; in identifying land, funding opportunities – consider families, unaccompanied youth needs who can't be served in traditional settings

- Engaging faith communities and other large land and parking lot owners in safe parking
 - Community education and awareness counter to NIMBYism, address root causes of unsheltered homelessness
 - Private sector engagement: companies are recognizing they have a role, coordinated effort and approach to appeal to private businesses
 - Identify funding and revenue streams for new shelter
 - Overt communication and asks to landowners: your land could be helpful, tax breaks, leasing to the city
 - Funding
 - Connect with shelter providers to understand gap in capacity (what are the resources? mental health support? Skills, capacity and training – understand and coordinate to meet needs)
 - Costs of unsheltered homelessness to support fundraising and development; cost savings models
 - Developing population-specific funding opportunities: sustaining low-barrier emergency shelters (prioritization, hospitals and police partnerships); who are the stakeholders with significant discharge, develop funding opportunities
 - 75 beds = \$10 million purchase - \$1.5 million operating
- Create ample space for managed camps to meet the present need
 - Actions
 - Active safe parking
 - City of Bend siting additional safe parking sites
 - Tiny home villages
 - Estimating and projecting need
 - Hayden Homes, Bob Bohac, Deschutes County efforts for tiny home village in Redmond on county property
 - Mail delivery – address for authorized encampment
 - By When
 - Do not reinvent the wheel on public education
 - HLC requests for comment, advocacy, lobbying can be complicated, particularly in an election year
 - Telling true stories – what happens when you have a terminal illness and need to go on Social Security Disability Insurance?
 - Need grassroots advocacy to take stances and support for HLC community engagement committee
 - Media partnerships, telling the full story regularly – moving outside bubble to change the conversation
 - Business community support, other community support to amplify issue and need for partnership and action
 - Training resources for journalists
 - Needs
 - Create standards for managed camps, centering people living on those sites in design (mail delivery, services, etc.)

- Streamlined, standardized guidance and standards to adhere to (down the road, population-based, location-based), building on Veterans' Village and Hope Village – clearing house at county to outline elements; City's process to approve partners – known partners will not recreate the wheel
 - Host community conversations to overcome siting barriers
 - City of Redmond considering land with Deschutes County (Urban Growth Boundary, unincorporated areas, Oregon Department of Transportation)
 - Community buy-in and education – HLC community engagement committee
 - Centering people experiencing homelessness in determining inclusion and priorities for authorized encampment spaces
 - Community conversation and education: service providers, municipalities, open forum and conversation to surface concerns
 - Siting encampments considerate and inclusive of people accessing outdoor shelter; food service, health care, mental health, bus system – prioritizing choice for people, multiple locations will be needed
 - community discussion, reasonable location siting, proactive outreach, addressing concerns
- Improving services to meet individuals needs while living unsheltered
 - Needs
 - Make access to mail and hygiene utilities universal for people experiencing homelessness
 - Create space for community conversations on safety,
 - Sustaining Built for Zero work, supporting to ensure not volunteer run but integral to the system (sustainability) and identifying gaps
 - Develop treatment centers
 - Build on work with Funders for Housing Opportunity (FHO) and Humane Society to address needs of people with pets and decrease barriers to services
 - Increase funding for peer support specialists (in outreach? case management?)
 - Central location for health care services access
 - Legal and authorized space so service providers can find clients

6. Confirming Strategies

7. Summary, Next Steps, and Closing

Manzo discussed moving this into the format of the strategic plan which will include the partners that are needed and what funding resources may be looked at.

Adjourned at 4:40 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

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Kayla M. Duddy,
Deputy City Recorder