

**City of Bend and Deschutes County
Emergency Homelessness Task Force Meeting
November 30, 2021**

The meeting of the Emergency Homelessness Task Force (EHTF) was called to order at 10:30 a.m. on Tuesday, November 30, 2021, online and by phone.

Convene Meeting: Mickie Derting, Bob and Anne Bohac, Brittani Manzo, Carlos Salcedo, Carolyn Eagan Colleen Sinsky, Colleen Thomas, Curt Floski, David Brandt, Elaine Knobbs-Seasholtz, Elizabeth Wilson, Eric King, Erik Kropp, Ian Leitheiser, Jayson Janes, John Lodise, Jon Riggs, Juan Olmeda, Kathy Skidmore, Kay Vincent, Keith Witcosky, Kristen Tobias, Mary Winters, Megan Perkins, Mike Krantz, Molly Wells Darling, Nick Lelack, Patty Wilson, Phil Chang, Shane Nelson, Shelly Smith, Stacey Witte, Tammy Baney, Tara Feurtado

1. Welcome and Summary of Progress To-Date

Eric King, City of Bend City Manager, presented the following updates on managed camps:

- County and City Staff will present a detailed proposal and framework of the Joint Houselessness Office at the January 2022 joint Deschutes County and City of Bend meeting
- League of Oregon Cities Pilot County & City or Cities Joint Houselessness Office Program
 - Up to five joint offices with funding up to \$1 million for each program
 - Cities interested need to submit a letter by December 10, 2021
- The City of Bend has a managed camp request for proposal out that has been approved by Council
 - Proposals due by December 9, 2021 and there will be a pre-proposal meeting by the end of the week

Mickie Derting, Strategic Initiatives Manger, presented the following overview of the homelessness visual tools:

- The goal for the content is to humanize the houselessness community and tell their stories, to educate and increase awareness, give holistic perspective and unbiased knowledge of the houseless ecosystem in the region
- The tools will be tied in with the strategic plan
- Will provide information about a joint homelessness office if approved
- Is funded by the City of Bend – went through an RFP process and a local agency has been selected which the owner has lived experience of being houseless in her youth
- The goal is to expedite the timeline so that it may be published by early January 2022

2. Overview of Strategic Plan and Feedback

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

- Strategic Plan
- Vision
- Strategies
- Milestone
- Action Planning and Community Engagement

Task Force Members discussed the following feedback on the Vision:

- Clarify in the Vision Statement that the purview currently is Deschutes County, but make it clear that the intent is to support all of the Central Oregon
- The wording “experiencing a health crisis” may be too broad – look into some refined language
- Have it 2030 – 2032 seems too far and this needs to be addressed right away

Task Force members discussed the following feedback on the Milestones:

- More appropriate to say “No young people or seniors will experience housing instability without immediate connections to community supports and shelter”
- The hardest people to keep safe or stable in a shelter situation are unaccompanied minors, the elderly who often have significant mental health and physical health issues – they are vulnerable because they are not the kind of people to get quickly off the streets on a low barrier shelter basis
- Individuals over the age of 65 are not tracked the same way youth are
- There is a gap of individuals that are houseless and need assisted living
- Put the actions into a different order to get people there more logically – start with the broadest ones and work towards the younger and older people which would cause less curiosity
- Chronic may mean something different than what the term may imply – suggest looking at a different phase or word
- Define what chronic homelessness is for the Task Force to know if they meet that benchmark
- Change the second bullet to say “150 people experiencing chronic homelessness will be permanently and supportively housed and receive ongoing wraparound services based on their stated needs”
- Words like “all” and “no” can be overwhelming
- Reframe the milestones to be in the affirmative

Task Force members discussed the following feedback on the Strategies:

- Establishing a joint office should be the highest priority because that is the infrastructure to implement the plan with at least the County and one or more cities
- After the joint offices is built start work on the fifth strategy
- Remove the word “improving” and use “increasing” from strategy two
- Expand the circumstances under which services become available to people
- There could be skepticism on the order of the strategies – mainly around the joint office
- There may be skepticism around language planning to “end” homelessness

- Chronic homelessness cannot be compared to someone's 10-year plan to end homelessness
- The Task Force is not looking at lowering barriers of existing shelters, it is expanding the shelters that have lower barriers in strategy one
- Add language around increasing integration and communication
- This is an issue beyond the scope of what the City of Bend and County can accomplish on their own – could there be some level of advocacy or policy work that could be done to advocate at the State and Federal level for expanded resources?

3. Confirming a Community Vision

Members discussed including the entire Homeless Leadership Coalition (HLC) and the City of Bend Neighborhood Associations to the partnership list.

4. Developing a Mission Statement for the County/City Joint Office

Members discussed the following on the mission statement for the County and City of Bend Joint Office:

- The joint office is about serving the service providers
- Cities can use the joint office to implement ideas and advanced policy
- Missing statement to include “creating capacity, establishing focus, and coordinating expertise to implement the strategic plan”
- Add a statement capturing efficiency, streamlining and avoiding duplication
- A good government should be listening and putting action behind words and creating opportunities for providers to come to the same table as the City and County
- Eliminate the time lag between a problem developing and informing about what is going on and what the response needs to be – effective and timely response
- Joint office to be housed in the County Administrations because its broader than most of the Health Services
- Possibly make room for evidence-based practices language

5. Task Force Recommendations

- **Community Engagement**
- **Moving Forward**

6. Gratitude and Closing

7. Adjourn

Adjourned at 12:02 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

Kayla M. Duddy,

Deputy City Recorder