

**City of Bend and Deschutes County
Emergency Homelessness
Task Force Meeting
March 22, 2022**

The meeting of the Emergency Homelessness Task Force (EHTF) was called to order at 1:00 p.m. on Tuesday, March 22, 2022, online and by phone.

1. Welcome

City Councilor Megan Perkins and County Commissioner Phil Chang welcomed the EHTF members to the meeting.

2. Collaborative Office: Expectations and Timeline

Mickie Derting, Senior Management Analyst, City Councilor Perkins and County Commissioner Chang presented the following updates on the House Bill (HB) 4123 – Collaborative Office Pilot Program:

- Deschutes County was selected to receive \$1 million over the course of two years
- The program will include the City of Bend, City of Redmond, City of Sisters, and City of La-Pine
- The Program is required to include high level coordination, centralized communication and strategic visioning and identify opportunities to more effectively leverage existing funds, access new resources and to create more equitable responsive systems
- The Deschutes County Collaborative Office will not provide direct services
- HB 4123 passed in the legislature and is now waiting for the Governor's signature
- At a minimum this pilot program will require a signed Intergovernmental Agreement (IGA), an oversight board consisting of members from each participating local government, a strategic plan and commitment to continue sustainable funding beyond the \$1 million
- Next steps will include:
 - Friday, April 8, 2022 Joint City and County meeting – City Manager's and one Councilor from the other participating cities will receive an invite
 - Create the IGA and identify responsibilities of the office – City and County staff have already started the framework
 - The advisory body will consist of one Councilor from each City participating, homelessness experts and people with lived experiences, diversity, equity inclusion (DEI) and accessibility experts, housing and land use experts, and an Executive Director reporting to the County Administrator – there will be key staff included to support the effort
 - Present the EHTF Strategic Plan to the other participating cities
- The funds received will help set up a governance structure, develop the strategic plan and create the joint office

- If the County and participating cities finish the work specifically assigned and there are funds left over, those funds can be used for the implementation of the strategic plan
- The City of Bend is looking to receive \$1.5 million for assistance towards increasing shelter capacity and \$400,000 for cleanup and sanitation services

3. Overview and Discussion of the Strategic Plan

Brittani Manzo, Policy Strategist and Facilitator, reviewed the following on the Deschutes County and City of Bend Strategic Plan to Address Houselessness

- Vision
- 2022-2027 Strategic Plan
- Strategic Priorities
- Action Plan
 - Strategic Priority 1: Engage the Whole Community
 - Strategic Priority 2: Establish a Collaborative Office to Address Houselessness
 - Strategic Priority 3: Expanding Services for People Experiencing or At Risk of Homelessness
 - Strategic Priority 4: Addressing the Crisis of Unsheltered Homelessness
 - Strategic Priority 5: Improve Access to Affordable Housing for People Experiencing Houselessness

4. Discussion: Outstanding Feedback and Additional Input

Members provided the following feedback on the Strategic Plan:

- Strategic Priority 1: Engage the Whole Community
 - Concerns that people are busy from participating in a number of groups that they are a part of – maybe make the advisory group a subcommittee of another group
 - Embrace and bring in the new community members – have the awareness that people are on the same meetings
 - Take what is working and build on it rather than recreating
 - Reach out to organizations on what is being proposed – it's about capacity
 - Have a separate standalone advisory group that leverages the expertise of the other groups in the community without trying to fit into another set of priorities
 - Public awareness of the needs and ways to meet those needs is an important role and goal of the structure of this plan
 - Community engagement with the community on who the homeless are – contract with someone to help communicate?
- Strategic Priority 3: Expanding Services for People Experiencing or At Risk of Homelessness
 - Add Tax-Foreclosed Properties and Private Philanthropy to the list of potential funding sources

- Cannot find sources to assist with property taxes for people who cannot afford them and who are facing foreclosure – maybe setup a fund for assistance
- Emergency Solutions Grant – exploring what could include that upwards advocacy to shift the federal formula allocations that are disproportionately hurting Oregon and Central Oregon (Central Oregon to take it on)
- Developing permanent supportive housing will make a long-term solution
- There should be some focus on planning services that already exist so that they are synchronized instead of being incompatible with each other
- Add an action around advocacy
- Highlight the general issue and examine where there might be incompatibilities or paradoxes in the way services are delivered – address those so that services can coordinate instead of getting in each other’s way
- A lot can be accomplished by training local professionals to address substance use disorders and mental health conditions simultaneously
- Increase and expand capacity – not just for Deschutes County Behavioral Health but also inhouse behavioral health support on the housing level
- Strategic Priority 4: Addressing the Crisis of Unsheltered Homelessness
 - Need the communities buy in to be successful
 - Frame it appropriately in that when much of the community who have experiences being a victim of low-level theft (i.e. shoplifting, trespassing)
 - Decide what will be communicated – what is okay and not okay
 - Engagement – find good examples and successful examples
 - Community engagement – mention the symptomatic nature of homelessness – a very visible manifestation of much larger failings
- Strategic Priority 5: Improve Access to Affordable Housing for People Experiencing Homelessness
 - Have affordable housing be broader – include a part about social service workers
 - Have an advocacy priority for this group for systemic upstream prevention of homelessness that would include at least the vocal support for projects that are going to bring those units online

5. Next Steps & Closing

Manzo said March 31, 2022 would be the last day for members to send in feed back and an updated version of the Strategic plan will be sent out next week.

Adjourned at 3:00 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

Kayla M. Duddy,
Deputy City Recorder