

**City of Bend and Deschutes County
Emergency Homelessness Task Force Meeting
October 26, 2021**

The meeting of the Emergency Homelessness Task Force (EHTF) was called to order at 10:30 a.m. on Tuesday, October 26, 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 Overview

Brittani Manzo, Housing & Homelessness Policy Strategist & Facilitator, presented the following slides:

- Emergency Homelessness Task Force Purpose
- Group Agreements
- Timeline
- Services
- Strategic Plan

2. Updates on Emergent Priorities

Molly Wells Darling, Behavioral Health Intensive Adult Services Program Manager, presented the following updates on Emergency Protocols:

- The project is to be structured around events and how the County can support the service providers
- The County's Emergency Operations Plan or Emergency Management Team are not working on this - this is different than the County having a disaster declared at which that would fall under Emergency Management Team through the Sheriff's Department
- Members include individuals from the County, City, Sheriff's Office, Red Cross, Shepard's House, Bethlehem Inn, Relationship Empowerment Action Compassion Heart (REACH), LaPine Community Clinics, Mosaic Community Clinics and the Homeless Leadership Coalition (HLC)
- Members solicited input from the homeless and service providers on how to meet the needs of the community's homeless population –
 - The objectives are to develop a plan to improve the understanding of the needs for the homeless population in relation to events that occur or to inform disasters that the Sheriff's Office manages
 - Create communication based on the feedback received from service providers that communication needs to be better

- HLC is working on their Street Outreach program and will be looking at assigning specific street outreach workers to two different camps to help with coordination and events
- HLC is working on mapping the camps locations – Sheriff's Office to help with the GIS mapping
- There have been discussions on communicating out on issues that are happening in the community that are emergencies
 - Everbridge System –
 - Service providers would help get individuals with cell phones, signed up for the specific location where they are camping – if there is an emergency they can be notified through the bridge text that goes to their phones
- Evacuation Plan – have temporary sites where service providers could go to, to help first responders
- Emergency Management Teams are working on a pets and disaster program
- Two objectives – identify roles and responsibilities and to create a visual matrix of service provider procedures and services offered during an event
- Creation of a COAD leader
- Next meeting will be in Mid-November

Colleen Sinsky, Central Oregon Frequent Users System Engagement (FUSE) Program Manager, presented the following updates on Permanent Supportive Housing:

- Project team consists of individuals from Housing Works, Neighbor Impact, Deschutes County Behavioral Health and FUSE
- Working on developing a permanent supportive housing project that will have approximately 33 units in Bend called Cleveland Commons
- Cleveland Commons will include safe affordable units, evidence-based services, health care, substance use disorder services, behavioral health services and wraparound services
- Currently working on the pre-development planning ahead of applying to the State for capital and services funding
- FUSE met with architects to work on defining the specific population focus – working on pulling other partners into the conversation far enough to have the application into the State
- Deschutes County allocated \$2 million of American Relief Plan Act (ARPA) funds to this project
- Challenges include
 - Securing stable long-term funding for supportive services
 - There is no dedicated source of funding – grant cycles for supportive services are generally one to two years but, FUSE needs to know that they have 10 to 15 years to make the project viable
 - Cleveland Commons has a smaller number of units compared to the actual need
- Currently there is a Request for Proposal (RFP) out to leading consultants in the area to develop the right sized funding model that could be replicated beyond this project

Eric King, City Manager, and Carolyn Eagan, City Recovery Strategy and Impact Officer, presented the following updates on the managed camps

- The City Council has aggressive goals around providing additional capacity - around 500 units over a two-year period
- The acquisition of the Bend Value Inn for Project Turnkey will provide 30 units and the Second Street Shelter that is being operated by Shepherds House will provide 80 units
- The City is exploring smaller outdoor sites and is currently drafting an RFP - would like to have multiple sites in consideration, geographic disbursement, some options that are publicly owned and the sighting of which is authorized under State Legislation
- Safe Parking Program – REACH is assisting the City with this program
- The City will be sharing the Safe Parking Program sites at the November 3, 2021 City Council Meeting
- The City is looking at options for indoor shelters with winter coming – lease or purchase of a hotel
- Council will have standing agenda item focused on homelessness – the City has an active website with real time information
- October 28, 2021 City and County Joint meeting will focus on the governance structure and leveraging ARPA funds
- City is struggling with the capacity of non-profits and social services to support the outdoor shelters

The Authorized and Encampment Task Force Subcommittee plans to meet before the November EHTF meeting.

3. Gaps Analysis

Members discussed the following on the Gaps Analysis:

- The Oregon Department of Transportation (ODOT) homeless camps sweeps
 - The City has quarterly meetings with public agencies that have a specific land management priority around not just addressing but, talking about innovating ideas for those who have houses on public lands – there is an agreement on putting people first and then the property management
 - Camp cleanups happen all over the State, not just in Bend
 - ODOT manages their own property, City of Bend Police Department does not manage it for them and does not provide security – only called to those locations for public safety issues
 - Cloverleafs are built for a reason and are not build for houses or humans – it is part of the safety mechanism for highway construction
 - Root problems of sweeps is not having enough shelter beds and people still need a sanctioned place to camp
- There are not enough detoxification beds
- Addictions and mental health long-term solutions, long-term programs and long-term resources are limited

- The Stabilization Center is great for a short stay, but there is a need for more beds to fulfill that need
- Medical needs for respite care for people coming out of the hospital in meeting recovery time and beds
- The community should have a low barrier shelter for youth 18 to 24-year-olds
- Develop a list of policies or changes that could be used to advocate at the state or federal level for more resources
- There is need for places where people can use their Housing and Urban Development (HUD) housing vouchers
- Other systems that need support or capacity - addiction treatment options
- Adult foster beds – program would incentivize adult foster care to add additional beds
- Need better connection and partners with the healthcare
- Once shelters are established, the community's hospital professionals would be open to communicate contracted beds
- HLC membership – encourage agencies become members
- Task force to start talking about workforce development and training
- Need navigators to help with unemployment benefits, food stamps, Oregon Health Plan, and assistance programs

County Commissioner Chang and City Councilor Perkins reported on the possible County and City joint homelessness office.

4. Strategy Development

Members discussed the following Core Functions and Qualities of the Deschutes County and City of Bend Joint Office:

- Core Functions
 - Community leadership
 - Strategic direction
 - Strategic planning
 - Community engagement
 - Prioritizing City and County resources
 - HLC support
 - Advocacy
 - State and regional liaison
 - Coordinating and streamlining efforts and sustainability
 - Unified Planning (not duplicating) responsible fiscal stewards
 - Policy setting
 - Include Sisters, LaPine, Redmond
 - Informed by CEO's high-level view of gaps and needs
 - HLC - partner
 - Committee staffing
 - Common application: Cascade East Transit (CET), Regional funding for unmet needs
 - Seeking additional State and Federal funding

- Funding sustainability
- City level needs and support
- Hold role clarity and accountability
- Qualities
 - Nimble
 - Responsiveness
 - Supportive
 - Political leadership
 - Fluid communications
 - Complementary
 - Leveraging strengths of government (housing, land use)
 - Efficient
 - Accountable
 - Flexible, adaptable
 - Trauma-informed priority and policy-setting
- Other
 - COBs: What other support would be helpful
 - Tools: regional needs, analysis, budgeting, resources
 - County: advisory to the budget committee
 - Enabling body: helping to line up resources to address needs
 - Emergency management as an example of success

5. Next Steps

Manzo discussed the following next steps:

- Authorized encampment Subcommittee – happening within the next couple of weeks
- Preparation to finalize the EHTF Strategic Plan

Adjourned at 12:02 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

Kayla M. Duddy,
Deputy City Recorder