

Coordinating Committee to End Homelessness (CCEH) Meeting Minutes



May 18, 2011
Portland Housing Bureau

Facilitated by: Marc Jolin & Shannon Singleton

Prepared by: Zane Potter

Reviewed by: Steering Committee & CCEH

Present: Sonja Arigbon, John Atten, Cathie Boerboom, Stacy Borke, Kari Brenk, Caitlin Campbell, Melissa Crocker, Jennifer Chang, Rev. Paul Davis, Dustin DeWitt, Christina Dirks, Louise Dix, Sally Erickson, Jacob Fox, Tina Hadley, Donald Hice, Jim Hlava, Amanda Hurley, Marc Jolin, Jenny Kalez, Tiffany Kingery, Laura Koperstein, Laura Langslet, Jes Larson, Scott Laymod, Molli Mitchell, Susan Montgomery, Michael Moore, Rachel Phariss, Rachel Post, Daniel Roby, Natasha Roe, Arianne Roy, Erika Silver, Shannon Singleton, Barry Joe Stull, Rene Sutherlan, Suzanne Trujillo, Larry Turner, Lynne Walker, Monika Weitzel, Tony Williamson

I. Introductions – Marc Jolin

II. Updates

Timeline for release of the Street and Shelter Counts Cross (Jennifer Chang, PHB)

PHB is currently working through some data inconsistencies and is hoping to wrap-up the analysis in the next two to four weeks. The report is projected to be publically released in late June. PHB is still committed to engaging community partners and receiving feedback from those who participated in the Street and Shelter Counts prior to public release of the report.

Jurisdictional dialogues in ending homelessness (Marc Jolin, JOIN)

Both City Commissioner Fish and County Commissioner Kafoury met with the CCEH's Steering Committee to discuss the next few years of the 10-Year Plan. The Steering Committee was very appreciative of both Commissioners being present at the meeting and is hopeful the jurisdictional dialogues continue to use CCEH's input.

Winter shelter site search (Jennifer Chang, PHB)

PHB is beginning the search for a winter shelter site earlier this year. Ideally, a site for men and couples and site for only women is sought. If you know of site, contact Jennifer Chang: 503.823.2391 or Jennifer.Chang@portlandoregon.gov

Findings from the Analysis of Impediments to Fair Housing Impediments (Jenny Kalez, PHB)

Ms. Kalez gave a brief overview of the Analysis of Impediments (AI) report and its findings. Every five years the consortium, which consists of the City of Portland, City of Gresham and Multnomah County must submit a consolidated plan on how the consortium's federal dollars are spent. The consortium must also develop an action plan to affirm their commitment to fair housing. This involves looking at what restricts peoples' access to housing and is done through the involvement of about 60 stakeholders.

The report identified seven themes and recommendations within each area, which include:

1. Discrimination in Housing: Discrimination on the basis of race, color and national origin still exists and prevents people from accessing housing and many are unaware they were

discriminated against. The committee recommends funding for the education and enforcement of fair housing laws.

2. Fair Housing Understanding: Rental property managers, agents and renters do not understand fair housing laws and renters/buyers do not know their rights. The committee recommends creating a fair housing advocacy committee and resources for a public information campaign.
3. Areas of Reduced Access to Opportunity: Neighborhoods that lack good access to public transit, schools and sidewalks disproportionately affect those with disabilities, low-income, communities of color, and immigrant and refugee communities. The committee recommends developing opportunity mapping as a way to see what areas to develop.
4. Fair Housing Data: There is a lack reliable and available data on discrimination in Multnomah County, especially in East County/Gresham. Specifically, there is a shortage of mobility devices for those with disabilities but no quantitative data to support this observation. The committee recommends funding audit testing for all areas of the County including Gresham.
5. Accessible, Affordable Housing Stock: The location of affordable/accessible housing reduces the opportunities for lower-income households. The committee recommends increasing the number of housing choices for all households and creating a database of accessible units.
6. Unintended Gentrification Through Policies: Various policies have caused gentrification and the census data shows that people of color are moving to East County because of these policies. The committee recommends making public investments that create areas of opportunities for low-income households.
7. Low-income and Vulnerable Populations: Data indicates that female heads of households experience poverty at a higher rate which disproportionately affects their housing choice. The committee recommends continuing, and increasing rent assistance for low-income residents.

For more information on the report visit: <http://www.portlandonline.com/phb/fairhousing>

Questions/Comments:

- If a landlord discriminates with a protected class, is there a way for those discriminated against to know where to rent? *This issue was a big issue in our group. The people should call Legal Aid Services of Oregon, 211info or Fair Housing Council of Oregon.*
- Frustration was voiced with regards to the complaint process for those that are discriminated against and the funding that goes to the organizations that should be protecting the rights of renters.
- When a complaint is filed what currently goes on? Is the complaint posted somewhere so people know? *We'll look into that and the information will be sent back to CCEH.*
- A hot button issue was the Unintended Gentrification Through Policies theme. Work should be done to study how much choice Section 8 participants have. Also, a landlord can still prevent a Section 8 participant from receiving housing, but things are looking better.

III. Portland Housing Bureau, FY 2011-2012 Budget (Jacob Fox, Assistant Housing Director)

Mr. Fox gave a brief background on his work in affordable housing and wanted to thank all the members of CCEH for the work they do for people experiencing homelessness. Mr. Fox explained that the Portland Housing Bureau (PHB) recently concluded a strategic plan. In doing so, PHB identified four key priorities.

These include: more rental housing for the most vulnerable households, moving people quickly from homelessness to housing and keeping people house, helping communities of color purchase or retain homes they already own and providing a safety net to low-income Portlanders through shelters and transitional housing. PHB is a new bureau and is actively working on creating a new culture. Some of the big projects PHB is working on include the Bud Clark Commons and Block 49.

The structure of PHB's budget includes four types of funds: General Fund (GF), Housing Investment Fund (HIF), Federal funds and Tax Incremental Financing (TIF). Most of the money in HIF as already been spent and severe reductions in TIF will occur in the near future. A request of \$5.5 million in one-time GF was made and the last report was that PHB received \$3.8 million of this request from the Mayor. Funding for Short Term Rental Assistance (STRA) was greatly reduced and PHB is looking for ways to backfill this loss.

For more information on the budget visit: <http://www.portlandonline.com/phb/budget-request>

Questions/Comments:

- Do you have any numbers on the development of affordable housing for non-smokers? *Not sure if we've taken a stance on that issue. We may think of creating a criterion for our future Rental Development Notice of Funding Availability.*
- In addition to PHB's vision of healthy neighborhoods, it is important to recognize the importance of the relationships that are built in neighborhoods. These relationships can be healing for the communities.
- It is important to attend all of the various budget hearings and thank the leaders for all their support.

IV. Announcements

The grand opening of the Bud Clark Commons is Thursday, June 2nd at 10:00 am. Transition Projects Inc. will have a new address and it is important for clients to affirmatively change their addresses.

Temporary Assistance to Needy Families (TANF) proposals are working through the State Legislature. The current proposal avoids reducing the time a family could receive TANF benefits to 18 months and keeps it at 24 months. It is not too late voice your opinion to the Governor and the Legislature.

A bill that would require ODOT to give at least a five day notice before performing a camp sweep on state-owned land did not pass.

Cascade Aids Project announced two job openings. For more information visit: <http://www.cascadeaids.org/>

The Housing Authority of Portland changed its name to Home Forward.