

Coordinating Committee to End Homelessness (CCEH) Meeting Minutes



June 15, 2011
Portland Housing Bureau

Facilitated by: Marc Jolin & Shannon Singleton

Prepared by: Zane Potter

Reviewed by: Steering Committee & CCEH

Present: E.V. Armitage, Perlia Bell, Liora Berry, Kimberly Black, Kari Brenk, Francesca Caselli, Jennifer Chang, Gary Davis, Rev. Paul Davis, Eileen Devine, Patty Doyle, Sally Erickson, Gabriella Gomez, Jim Hlava, Pam Hester, Amanda Hurley, David Indest, Marc Jolin, Kym Jones, Laura Koperstein, Peggy Kuhn, Mary Li, Molli Mitchell, Michael Moore, Erik Olson, LeRoy Patton, Rachel Phariss, Laura Rodriguez, Natasha Roe, Erika Silver, Shannon Singleton, Ian Slingerland, Barry Joe Stull, Rene Sutherland, Donna Turquoise, Lynne Walker, Monika Weitzel, Jenny Woodson, Tony Williamson

I. Introductions – Marc Jolin

II. Updates

Street and Shelter Counts update (Jennifer Chang, Portland Housing Bureau)

Ms. Chang stated that the City of Portland and Multnomah County collaborated closely this year to issue a combined report of the Street Count and the One Night Shelter Count. The report is scheduled to be released Tuesday, June 21st on PHB's website. Overall, the number of people experiencing homelessness slightly increased. The increase was most likely due to the economy and an improved count methodology through partnering with various organizations, especially in East County. For more information, contact Ryan Deibert: 503.823.2368 or Ryan.Deibert@portlandoregon.gov

Multnomah County budget update (Mary Li, Multnomah County)

Ms. Li stated that Multnomah County's budget was adopted last Thursday, June 9th and can be described as an unqualified success for homeless issues. Each department was asked to make a 2% reduction in their general fund. This resulted in the loss of five employees and was done to prevent cuts in service levels. Highlights include:

- Commissioners Kaufory and Cogen secured \$2 million in new services to address homelessness;
- The Bridges to Housing Program, which provides services to families with the highest barriers, received permanent funding for 139 family sized units;
- The Runaway Youth Shelter was preserved;
- Home Forward, Multnomah County and the Portland Housing Bureau pledged more than \$1.5 million (\$500,000 each) in STRA;
- The 30 Families in 30 Days Program, which places families in housing, has been refunded;
- The County will begin working on a permanent basis with East County law enforcement on collaborative efforts to resolve issues with people experiencing homelessness;
- The Action for Prosperity Program will continue to serve families with the aim of re-uniting parents with their children. An emphasis will be placed in serving African-American and Native American families;
- The County provided new funding for the Rose City Resource Guide;
- The County will work to get 5-7 beds of long-term shelter for girls being commercially exploited.

Ms. Li urged CCEH members to contact the Commissioners and applaud them on the budget.

Questions/Comments:

- Is the Gresham Police Department working with you? *Yes. This communication flows through JOIN.*
- Do you have a report on mental health? *Mental health is funded with state and federal dollars and uses very little of the County's general fund. Currently, the state is going through their process and our projections indicate that the County could see a reduction of anywhere between \$10 and \$15 million.*

VA update (Eileen Devine, VA Medical Center)

Ms. Devine stated she has taken a job at the regional offices. David Indest has replaced her previous position. The VA is currently halfway through its 5-year plan to end veteran homelessness. 50 VASH vouchers will become available next month and the VA will look to contract out these services. Also, the Health Care for Homeless Veterans (HCHV), which provides community-based residential treatment for Homeless vets, is seeking applicants for the HCHV contracts. For information on both of these programs and contracts contact Eileen Devine: 360.567.4643. Portland has been selected as a location for a Community Resource and Referral Center (CRRC). Ideally, the CRRC will be located in Old Town/Chinatown and is scheduled to open in the fall.

Questions/Comments:

- What percentage of Veterans are women or have families? *I am not sure, but the VASH population is prioritized to include women and families.*

2011 CCEH Achievement Awards (Marc Jolin, JOIN)

Mr. Jolin said the deadline for submitting nominations for the CCEH Achievement Awards is extended to Monday, June 27th. The Awards recognize individuals or organizations with extraordinary commitment to ending homelessness in our community. Awards will be given in four categories – Individual, Organization/Private Entity, Program and Technical. Submit awards to Jennifer Chang: Jennifer.Chang@portlandoregon.gov

III. Communities of Color in Multnomah County: An Unsettling Profile (Dr. Ann Curry-Stevens, Portland State University School of Social Work)

Dr. Ann Curry-Stevens presented “Communities of Color in Multnomah County: An Unsettling Profile”, a study released by Portland State University, School of Social Work in conjunction with the Coalition of Communities of Color. People of color make up more than 26% of the population in Portland and Multnomah County and compose approximately 45% of students at Portland Public Schools. As the document demonstrates, people of color consistently lag behind whites on nearly every indicator, from poverty rates to jobs. The report counters the commonly-held notion of Portland as a “liberal and progressive enclave”, citing evidence of great disparities existing between Portland’s diverse communities. The report shows Multnomah County as a “uniquely toxic place” for people of color, especially in comparison to other counties throughout the United States. Some of the data presented includes:

- Communities of color earn half the incomes of whites, earning \$16,636 per year, while white people earn \$33,095 annually. Disparities close to this magnitude exist regardless of one’s family and household configuration;
- The child poverty rate is 33.3% for communities of color, while white children is 12.5%;
- 30% of communities of color did not graduate high school, compared to 7% of whites;

- Communities of color access management and professional positions at half the levels of Whites. One of every two Whites access these positions, while less than one of every four people of color access these positions;
- Communities of color have unemployment rates that are 35.7% higher than whites;
- Child welfare disproportionately removes African American and Native American children from their homes and places them in foster care;
- Less than one-tenth of 1% of the City of Portland's contracting dollars goes to minority-owned businesses despite protected contracting practices at the City and County;
- Communities of color in Multnomah county suffer more than similar communities of color nationally;
- Compared to King County in Seattle, Multnomah County has worse disparities and worse outcomes on every measure examined.

To combat these disparities, the report identified the following recommendations:

- Implement needs-based funding for communities of color;
- Support equity initiatives in existence;
- Expand funding for culturally-specific services;
- Change the dominant discourse on race.

Questions/Comments:

- Was the Slavic population considered in this report? *In this report the Slavic population was identified as white. However, the Coalition for Communities of Color will be releasing reports for each population in the near future and there will be a report for the Slavic population.*
- Were people able to identify more than one race? *Our database was composed of singular identified people. The Coalition for Communities of Color is recommending that multiple identifications be used in the future.*

<http://www.coalitioncommunitiescolor.org/docs/AN%20UNSETTLING%20PROFILE.pdf>

For more information on the report, contact Coalition Coordinator Julia Meyer: (503) 288-8177 x295 or juliam@nayapdx.org

IV. Announcements

The new Housing Connections website will be launched July 1st.

The 60-month time limit to the Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF) program will not be cut by the Oregon Legislature.