

Coordinating Committee to End Homelessness (CCEH) Meeting Minutes



March 16, 2011
First United Methodist Church

Facilitated by: Marc Jolin & Shannon Singleton

Prepared by: Mary Welch

Reviewed by: Steering Committee & CCEH

Present: Sonja Arigbon, EV Armitage, Stacy Borke, Heather Brown, Caitlin Campbell, Jennifer Chang, Gary Cobb, Gary Davis, Rev. Paul Davis, Ryan Deibert, Dustin DeWitt, Louise Dix, Bob Durston, Christina Dirks, Lisa Fay, Roger Fuchs, Donald Hice, Jim Hlava, Amanda Hurley, Liv Janssen, Marc Jolin, Marylee King, Peggy Kuhn, Jes Larson, Alison McIntosh, Molli Mitchell, Michael Mellick, Ibrahim Mubarak, Rachel Payton, Rachel Phariss, Natasha Roe, Erika Silver, Shannon Singleton, Kerri Smith Slingerland, Donna T., Larry Turner, Tom Wehrley, Bobby Weinstock, Renata Wilson, Monika Weitzel

I. Introductions – Marc Jolin

II. Updates

\$1 Million Special Appropriation to Address Homelessness in Downtown: Through the Roadmap Home collaboration, the downtown outreach team has been reinstated and made 338 contacts to youth in the last two months, as well as placed 4 youth into permanent housing and provided 17 youths with job training. The Permanent Housing Placement Initiative has successfully placed 52 individuals in permanent housing, including 19 women who have moved from emergency shelter. Both collaboratives have made significant progress in strengthening partnerships with law enforcement and businesses in the downtown core to move people from the street and shelter into housing and connect with services.

Winter Shelter Closings: The Family Warming Center will close on April 30, 2011. The shelter housed 74 families and served 108 families for a total of 336 people. The Women's Warming Center will close on April 12th, 2011. Salvation Army Harbor Light will close on April 8th and SAFES will close on April 24, 2011.

Vector Control Enforcement and Advisory Committee Opportunity: The purpose of the committee will be to provide strategic planning advice to the County regarding vector control issues. Individuals interested in serving on the committee should contact Ben Duncan at: Ph (503) 988-3400 or benjamin.e.duncan@multco.us.

Other: There have been changes in Fair Housing law regarding service and companion animals. CCEH members expressed an interest in hearing and update on this subject at a future CCEH meeting.

III. 10 Year Plan Report Out on 2010 Annual Outcomes (Community Partners)

At the beginning of 2010, the group compiled annual goals based on the 9 action areas of the 10-Year Plan. There are 34 goals for 2010 and we are currently working to finalize outcomes. Some highlights include: secured permanent housing placements for 544 chronically homeless individuals, 396 families, and 1,008 non-chronically homeless adults. We also assisted 63 youth to enter college and 109 gain employment. Additionally, the Gateway Domestic Violence Center opened on September 9, 2010 and served 562 individuals and our community secured 90 VASH vouchers for Veterans. A more comprehensive written summary of 2010 goals will be available in late April/early May 2011.

IV. Legislative Update on the 2011 Housing Opportunity Agenda (Alison McIntosh, Housing Alliance and Neighborhood Partnerships)

There is a huge budget deficit of \$3.5 million dollars statewide and the draft budget is expected to be announced sometime this month. Some issues up included in various bills are as follows:

- The affordable housing tax credit is set to expire in 2014 and there is a proposal to extend this to 2020 in the Oregon House
- SB 491 – The Tenant Foreclosure Bill is being proposed that would protect tenants when owners are being foreclosed on.
- SB 190 – This bill would expand tenants rights around utilities by allowing them to pay a portion of the utilities when landlords get foreclosed on and utilities to an entire building are shut off and would also require giving the tenants notice that utilities are being shut off.
- Several bills around TANF, violence against the homeless (making “homeless” a protected class), and behavior modification therapy after sentencing.
- Bills on property tax statuses – the LTE/SDC statutes are set to expire and the bill proposes to increase the set aside for both programs
- SB 447 would require ODOT to be more diligent about giving advance notice (30 days) and higher posting requirements when sweeping camps
- HB 2229 for Oregon Homeless Veterans Coalition Advocacy and Assistance Services
- SB 778 would set higher regulations for “Rapid Refund Loans” which are high fee and predatory to low income people
- There is a bill proposed to create “Oxford” style housing for veterans
- H2053 would require the Department of Human Services to file a Racial Impact Statement when making changes that will affect communities of color

See handouts for more details on these and many other proposed bills.

IV. Other Legislative Updates & Services

- (Gary Cobb, Central City Concern) A good resource to find more information on bills up for proposal can be found in the LINUS report on the Oregon legislative website. A health transformation systems team has been put into place to give recommendations on integrating services and achieving better outcomes. It is important to let our legislators what programs are working and give testimony on important issues.
- (Sally Erickson, Portland Housing Bureau) At the federal level it is important to call your representatives and senators to make sure they support the programs and services that have been successful. You can go to NAEH.org for legislative updates and information. The HUD McKinney funds are proposed to be cut as well as CDBG so it’s important that we get high level support to preserve these programs from our congressman. There is a proposal to dissolve the AmeriCorps program and SB 523 would allow vehicles to be towed from public property without allowing occupants to get emergency items out of the car first.

Other Comments

- Representative Tina Kotek is a champion for housing services and health.
- There are changes with the Oregon Health Plan. In the past, it has been a lottery system, now, there are a small number of slots available to enroll new members.
- Interfaith Mental Health Workshop held at the First Unitarian Church on April 9th
- There will be an Urban League Wellness Tour on Friday April 19th
- The TB Clinic has moved from Harbor Light to Transition Projects
- Next Meeting: Wednesday, March 16, 2011, 3-5 p.m. For more information, contact Jennifer Chang at (503) 823-2391 or Jennifer.Chang@portlandoregon.gov