



Homeless Services Masterplan Subcommittee

Community Development Building

51 Winburn Way

February 28, 2024

MINUTES

CALL TO ORDER: 5:30 p.m.

I. WELCOME & AGENDA REVIEW: 5:30–5:35 p.m.

- Attendance: All members were in attendance with the following exceptions: **Henigson-Kann** present via Zoom, **Slattery** absent
- Agenda overview

II. PUBLIC FORUM: 5:34–5:40 p.m.

Note: Anyone wishing to speak at any Housing and Human Services Advisory Committee meeting is encouraged to do so. If you wish to speak, please rise and, after you have been recognized by the Chair, give your name and complete address for the record. You will then be allowed to speak. Please note the public testimony may be limited by the Chair.

- Comments submitted digitally by Dennis Kendig and supplied to all subcommittee members, Dennis spoke on the comment briefly, expressing the disappointment of Southern Ashland Retail Storefront owners not being represented on the Subcommittee and the issues that they face to homelessness in the area; Dennis is thanked for his comment.
- **Fields** asks the group if they would like to have back and forth or comments towards those in the public forum; **Calvin** suggests that HSMS members can ask questions; **Rohde** thinks that discussion should be allowed, **Fields** says brief comments/discussion are okay.
- **Price** raises the question to the group of the possibility of including the businesses mentioned by Dennis in the process; **Calvin** clarifies that they can and will be included in the plan.

III. APPROVAL OF MINUTES: 5:40–5:43 p.m.

- Approval of previous meeting minutes with no changes; staff decision to change “Avram” to “Sacks” for consistency.
- **Fields** appreciates the detailed minutes; no discussion/comments from other members.

IV. UNDERSTANDING THE PLAYERS ADDRESSING HOMELESSNESS: 5:43–6:25 p.m.

- Staff member **Reid** presents her presentation on the topic – slides available.
- Looking at the players at the federal, state, regional/county, and local level.
- CDBG funds use the HUD definitions of homelessness; Business Oregon disperses the CDBG funds; overview of funding and what the City could utilize.
- Night lawn costs have not been calculated separately (yet) and will be provided once available; police receive no grants for their work.
- **Bloom** and **Kaplan** state that the city has contracted with a consulting firm to find (and possibly write) grants as needed, but grants are typically written by the department.
- Identify gaps through funding (buildings, etc.), need to capture \$ amount/inventory for



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facilities, volunteer time, food, staff time, etc.

- McKinney-Vento definition of homelessness is usually unable to qualify for HUD funding due to difference in definitions; approximately 4% of students enrolled in the Ashland School District are homeless per this definition.
- Approximately 100 HUD vouchers are active at any given time within Ashland, with 2,100 vouchers administered at any given time in the County; rent threshold from HUD creates a barrier to using vouchers in Ashland; waitlist is approximately 3 years to receive a voucher and have 3 months to use it (or extend it).
- HUD doesn't pay for individual rooms; **Sacks** shares that there was recently an exception made by HUD in Texas for Tiny Homes with communal bathrooms and kitchens.
- HUD CoC (Housing and Urban Development Continuum of Care) overview; rapid re-housing, permanent housing, transitional housing (funding no longer allowed unless in conjunction with another method), supportive services only, coordinated entry – “no wrong door approach,” etc.
- HMIS (Homeless Management Information System) is funded through CoC funds; ours is Medford/Ashland/Jackson County OR-502.
- Homeless Prevention methods not funded unless you have no other homeless issues.
- Summary of projects currently funded, total funding approximately \$380,000 for projects.
- Resource list shared – not exhaustive, just the beginnings.

V. **UPDATED SUBCOMMITTEE WORK PLAN:** 6:25–7:30 p.m.

- **Calvin** provides forms to eliminate unneeded information or to add new information.
- Recommended to interact with people face-to-face, over the phone, etc. as SWOT information is collected, ask their opinions, etc; identify gaps and priorities to create Phase 1 but do NOT identify options to invest.
- Discussion in larger group: **Bachman** likes the plan and recommends we start the work and revise the plan as needed; members break into smaller groups to discuss the approach, tasks, timeline, etc.
- **Bachman** and **Reid** leave at 6:45; **Leonard** leaves at 7.
- **Kaplan** and **Calvin** recommend new wording for page 2 of the approach, tasks, timelines memo to change from “...second phase could include an assets...” to “...second phase more fully complete an assets inventory...”; no issues voiced.
- **Bloom** would like to see a priority list given to City Council; **Calvin** and staff member **Reid** voice concerns and agree with one another that the City needs to determine what their objectives are before a priority list could be created – this is outside the scope and timeline of the group.
- **Rohde** likes the framework; **Henigson-Kann** states that the job is not to solve but to outline and create a framework.
- **Sacks** is worried about the amount of work that everyone will need to do outside of the meetings, and we need to evaluate who has the capacity to do what items; also expressed concerns about the big picture, absence of elderly, shelter, and night lawn in the plan; reassured by **Fields** and **Calvin** that he can write these things in using the form provided by **Calvin**, but will also be captured with HMIS data.



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- Ad hoc committee for 2200 Ashland Street Shelter is brought up.
- **VanEgdom** voices concerns that families and children will be left behind by underrepresentation of the group.
- **Staff Member Reid** expresses the concerns that she has heard in the community that the city has been too reactive and needs to be more thoughtful in their approach; we need to create the big picture information to help the City Council make thoughtful decisions.
- **Fields** ask if there are any objections to moving forward with the created approach, tasks, timelines, etc.; no concerns voiced.
- Members decide that they need to address the night lawn and shelter but that it is not necessarily done within this subcommittee. Members propose that it could be addressed as a special meeting item with the HHSAC (Housing & Human Services Advisory Committee aka "Parent Committee").

VI. SERVICES INVENTORY PLANNING IN GROUPS: 7:30–7:40 p.m.

- Subcommittee members signed up for one of the 3 options listed in the agenda for their portion of the research work (outreach & supportive services, emergency shelter and transitional housing, and permanent housing); survey will be sent to all subcommittee members so absent members can be included.
- **Sacks** recommends asking the community what they would like to see happen or change.

VII. CONFIRMING COMMUNICATION WITH HHSAC & CITY COUNCIL:

- Not discussed at this meeting.

VIII. DEBRIEF:

- Not discussed at this meeting.

IX. ADJOURNMENT: 7:40 p.m.

Next Meeting Dates: Tuesday, March 12th 5:30–7:30 PM

& Wednesday, March 27th 5:30–7:30 PM

In compliance with the Americans with Disabilities Act, if you need special assistance to participate in this meeting, please email linda.reid@ashland.or.us. Notification 72 hours prior to the meeting will enable the City to make reasonable arrangements to ensure accessibility to the meeting (28 CFR 35.102–35.104 ADA Title 1).

