



Homeless Services Masterplan Subcommittee

Community Development Building

51 Winburn Way

March 27, 2024

MINUTES

CALL TO ORDER: 5:37 p.m.

I. WELCOME & AGENDA REVIEW: 5:37–5:38 p.m.

- Attendance: All members were in attendance with the following exceptions: **Henigson-Kann** present via Zoom, **Leonard, Bloom, Bachman, and VanEgdom** absent
- **Fields** starts the Agenda overview

II. PUBLIC FORUM: 5:38–5:39 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.

- No speakers for public forum present; a public memorandum from Dennis Kendig was circulated to Subcommittee members prior to the meeting

III. COMMENTS FROM COUNCIL LIAISONS: 5:39–5:40 p.m.

- No updates other than upcoming council meeting on April 1st which HSMS is invited to attend if they wish; **Calvin** encourages those interested to read Councilor **Bloom's** Council Corner article online

IV. ANNOUNCEMENTS: 5:40–5:41 p.m.

- “Announcements” section needs to be added to agendas going forward & kept on meeting minutes

V. APPROVAL OF MINUTES: 5:41–5:42 p.m.

- Approval of previous meeting minutes

VI. UPDATES ON SERVICES INVENTORY AND DATA GATHERING: 5:42–5:53 p.m.

- **Neisewander** to pick up **Price's** two inventory organizations
- **Reid** shares that in her experience the organizations were happy to be heard, found that numbers and volunteers were less than they used to be and wanted to improve, found that a volunteer coordinator would be most beneficial to them and that they have lost a significant number of volunteers since the pandemic started; **Dennis Kendig** asked why there are less, to which **Reid** shared that COVID and liability issues contributed to the issue, and it has been hard to get volunteer to come back
- **Sacks** suggests that HSMS members could send their questions from the questionnaire ahead of time to the organizations; also mentioned that contacting ACCESS was difficult and asked if any HSMS members had a connection that could possibly help
- **Neisewander** has started reaching out to broader service providers that just those that



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specifically provide services to homeless population

- **Calvin** suggests that **Neisewander** is a resource herself and should be added to the inventory; **Neisewander** expresses her concerns with being the one to advocate for the night lawn and feeling unheard, wants others to see and advocate for those people that are there and the issues that they face
- **Rohde** would like the online service inventory sign-up to be updated and/or an updated version of the paper copy to be circulated again to clarify who has what
- **Kaplan** expresses concerns about not getting calls back from service providers, **Fields**, **Neisewander**, and **Turner** all chime in with the same concern

VII. **GATHERING COMMUNITY PERSPECTIVES:** 5:54–7:00 p.m.

- **Calvin** describes the “who” demographics and what they could possibly entail and asks the question: if specifying a population, how do we ensure inclusivity without redundancy?; **Slattery** states that there are multiples within each category and that they would need further dissecting; **Fields** states that the service and population questions could be the same people but different questions; **Sacks** wants to know the questions that will be asked before deciding the groups
- **Kaplan** reminds everyone that the original charge from Council is that it is to be inclusive of those with lived experience specifically, not the general public, but that inclusivity is good; what can they add?
- **Rohde**: completing the list shows accountability
- **Calvin**: quotes direction and explains view; **Kaplan** clarifies the public’s involvement and the “required” broadness
- **Reid**: it is hard for an organization to have just 1 opinion; discussion about having opinions from multiple people within an organization
- **Sacks**: should focus on homeless people and resources needed before opinions, focusing on immediate needs first, face-to-face interaction with service providers; **Rohde**: we will need something (a product, etc.) to bring to the public for outreach; **Slattery** agrees but is concerned about paralysis by analysis, we need to cast a smaller net (harder to target population without knowing what net we are throwing)
- **Sacks**: needs clarification on the end date and its flexibility for the HSMS to be able to do all that it aims to do
- **Neisewander**: how do those that work with homeless population get feedback, what freedom do they have to speak out and share these issues, need to include both sheltered and unsheltered population
- **Fields**: a significant population felt left out during 2200 Ashland purchase so it will be important to engage the community; states that personally she would want to focus on lived experience, but include a broader “stakeholder” population – balancing act; lots of nodding in agreement from the group
- Brief disagreement on Phase 1 vs Phase 2 end goals: **Sacks** questions what is in our mandate and wants recommendations, **Calvin** states that Phase 1: identify the needs; Phase 2: if time allows, make recommendations; Staff Member **Reid** states that the council will need to be the one to address the needs (using what information the HSMS brings



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them); **Slattery** and **Sacks** think that the HSMS should be telling council the recommendations but not the *how*, **Neisewander** expresses concerns on this as well, **Sacks** wants the group to identify possible areas or things to solve but allow the council to decide how; **Kaplan** agrees to some degree, says that the SWOT analysis will highlight what the HSMS recommends (which things have gaps) and needs to be ready by end of June; **Calvin** says that the “recommendations” are the summary/synthesized issues/needs of the homeless population but phase 2 is where to invest; **Slattery** concerned that there will not be enough time to complete Phase 1 and 2 by June, but that we are trying to make the process be “shovel ready”; staff member **Reid** clarifies that everyone seems to be mostly on the same page and that the recommendations made by the HSMS will be through the SWOT analysis but will not be “packages” such as in the Housing Production Strategy (HPS) which was hired out to be completed and took over 1 year, expresses the view that the allowed timeline is way too short to get through all of the work required to meet the Council’s desired results; **Reid** and **Slattery** agree that in the allowed timeline we can get “to the doorstep”; **Henigson-Kann** echoes the sentiment that the recommendations will come from the SWOT analysis and the larger part of the process is finding where to collect data from and what will it look like; **Rohde** expresses the view that the recommendations should be the central point and that the recommendations are backed by the data/process that the HSMS completes

- Small group work (6:35-7:30p.m.)
 - Businesses: **Slattery and Price**
 - People Experiencing Homelessness: **Turner, Sacks, Reid**
 - Providers: **Neisewander & Staff Member Reid**
 - General Public: **Rohde, Fields, Kendig, and Allen**
- **Calvin** goes over instructions for completing the form; each group needs to identify their population, demographics, methods, survey questions, etc.
- **Neisewander** expresses concerns about asking questions of the populations that she normally works with and does not want to make them uncomfortable
- **Price** shares that businesses are wanting to help the homeless population with jobs, etc. but that they (the homeless population) need stability & help getting out of homelessness
- **Turner** shared that those with the new Rapid Rehousing assistance have not been receiving all of the supportive assistance that they were supposed to be
- Group share out showed that each group came up with very similar questions; group information compiled and submitted to staff member **Reid** and then sent out to the group

VIII. **DEBRIEF:**

- No debrief

IX. **ADJOURNMENT: 7:45 p.m.**

Next Meeting Dates: Tuesday, April 9th 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).