

**STATE OF OREGON
ENDING HOMELESSNESS ADVISORY COUNCIL**

MINUTES OF MEETING

January 21, 2011

10:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.

**Department of Human Services
500 Summer St. NE Salem, OR 97301**

Members Present: Bill Hall, Mitch Morrow, Jon Stubenvoll, Michael Ward, Susan Ban, Marilyn Miller, Jean Lasater (for Dona Bolt), Janet Byrd, Sharon Fitzgerald, Trell Anderson, Rem Nevens, Kris Billhardt, Kevin Finney, David Leslie Cindy Pasko, Sharon Miller, Sally Erickson, Annette Evans, Ann Williams, Mitch Morrow, Craig Keyston, Marisha

Excused: Sharon Fitzgerald, Rep. Deborah Boone, Margaret Carter, Rick Crager, Martin Burrows, Val Conley, Ed Angeletti, Evelyn Roth Sen. Chip Shields

Guests: Marcia Johnson, Nancy Kline

OHCS Staff: Mary Carroll, Coleen Trogden, Lisa Joyce

I. CALL TO ORDER: Co-Chair Bill Hall calls the meeting to order at 10:00 a.m.

II. Approval of minutes for October 15, 2010 EHAC Meeting

Motion – moves the motion

Seconds – Trell Anderson

Meeting minutes approved

III. New Business:

A. New EHAC members Marilyn Miller, representing Oregon Commission on Children and Families and Rem Nivens, representing Oregon Youth Authority introduced themselves as newest members of EHAC.

B. Mary Carroll reported on the planning for the proposed Oregon State Homeless Conference. EHAC staff met with members of the Oregon Housing and Homeless Conference committee (OCHH) which holds a yearly conference in Hood River to explore co-sponsoring the OCHH conference. It was decided that it made more sense for OCHH to continue sponsoring their yearly conference and for EHAC to sponsor its own statewide conference. For 2011, EHAC will sponsor homeless workshop tracks at the OHCS' bi-annual Housing Conference in October

in Salem. Rick Crager, Sally Erickson, Janet Byrd and Mary met with staff from the Washington State Coalition for the Homeless about our interest in cosponsoring a regional homeless conference in 2013. The Washington State Coalition has sponsored yearly conferences for 20 years, and have very high-quality workshops, presenters, and speakers. Average attendance is 500 people, and they have a long list of sponsoring agencies and businesses. EHAC members who volunteered to work on the conference are Trell Anderson, David Leslie, Cindy Pasko, Sally Erickson and Janet Byrd.

C. Lisa Joyce reported that OHCS staff is working on the Annual Report on the progress of the State's 10 year plan to end homelessness, which is required by executive order. The second year's report is being held to include the January 2011 Point in Time (PIT) Count. We will also include information on the impact of the economy in the report, including the recent news that over 750,000 people are now on food stamps, which is a 50% increase in just 2 years.

D. Point in Time Count: The HUD-mandated homeless count of sheltered and unsheltered people will be compiled differently than in past years. This year, the Continuums of Care will be responsible for organizing the counts in their jurisdictions and will directly input the data into the City of Portland's HMIS database. For the first time, all of the statewide homeless data will be in an HMIS database and will be accessible by local agencies. This data will be very useful for advocacy during the legislative session.

E. HOMELESS DATA: Lisa distributed a draft of a county by county poverty report that is being developed by OHCS. This will be used by local partners and contains data on poverty rates, housing burden, and homeless and anti-poverty program information. This report will be available on the OHCS website by the end of January.

Lisa also discussed the recently released national report from the National Alliance to End Homelessness, called "The State of Homelessness". The report shows that Oregon has an overall decrease of 16% of overall homelessness and a 15% decrease in chronic homelessness. We know that these numbers are not accurate and OHCS will be in communications with NAEH on the data sources, including the AHAR in 2008 and 2009 that they used to compile this report. The 2008 homeless data report in Oregon was problematic and unfortunately that data is still being used. Trell asked what message is being used to the legislature about this report. Won't it confuse our message about the need to continued funding for housing and homeless programs? Lisa responded that she hasn't had any questions about this particular report, and it may turn out that members are unaware of this report. Her response would be that we don't use that data and our data does not show a 16% decrease in homelessness. She will be prepared to articulate that

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message if necessary. Part of that message is the factors that drive homelessness – including unemployment, lack of adequate affordable housing and supportive services.

D. Report on Oxford Houses in Oregon

Nancy Kline is a volunteer with the Recover Association Project (RAP) and a professional fundraiser who has worked with domestic violence sector. She provided a report on the 167 houses in the state which currently house 1350 adults and 250 children. This model of housing provides a low cost option for at-risk populations that could be adapted for different populations to meet the need for affordable housing.

These models of Oxford Houses are self-sustaining housing run by the Recovery Association Project (RAP), which manages the revolving loan fund, hires and trains outreach workers and provide support for the houses. RAP's Oxford Houses serve men and women who are re-entering society from a correctional system, have experienced homelessness at some point and need a safe housing option for their addictions recovery. The Oxford House organization is looking at expanding its model to serve other at-risk populations, such as domestic violence survivors, youth aging out of the foster care system, etc. Oxford Houses has been successful at housing families with children. They have opened up a house in Clackamas County for domestic violence survivors and are involved with the warming centers in Multnomah County. Oxford residents can build a successful rental history, become reunified with their children and receive counseling, parenting support, budgeting and other supports while they live in the houses. Typical residency lasts about 18 months. The only cost to establishing new Oxford Houses is the upfront costs (about \$4,000) because once the house has been established; there are almost no ongoing costs because the residents pay for their share of housing costs. There is a revolving fund to establish the house, which is paid back over a period of time by the renters.

The infrastructure needed to begin establishing housing for domestic violence survivors would be supported by the current RAP board. If enough houses are established, another revolving fund could be established and other issues could be worked through for each region.

Nancy will be presenting the options of Oxford Housing models to numerous stakeholders and system providers.

IV. Reports

A. Report on the Department of Education's Regional Homeless Summits

Jean Lasater reported on the nine regional summits between the McKinney-Vento Homeless School Liaisons and local communities to give community members information about what programs and opportunities are available in their communities. Local ESDs and Homeless

Education Liaison's will be involved in local Continuums of Care planning processes and preparation for implementation of the HEARTH Act. The turn out has been very strong and the discussions have created networks for stakeholders

B. Report on Central Oregon's 10 year Plan to End Homelessness

Cindy Pasko reported on the kick off of the implementation of the 10 year plan for Deschutes, Jefferson and Crook Counties. On July 22, there was a series of town halls throughout the three counties to establish a regional voice for the 10 year plan. The turnout was very high – approximately 250 attendees. Conveners prepared presentations on 10 year plans and encouraged feedback from the various participants on barriers and solutions from the communities. The feedback from the community, including homeless people, elected officials, policy makers and others was incorporated into the plan. One other outcome was that local communities wanted their own 10 year plan in addition to the regional plan with local goals and strategies.

The process identified the need for local champions in some communities to continue to encourage local involvement especially from the smaller communities.

(NOTE: at this point in the meeting, the recording ends. The remainder of the meeting minutes comes from staff notes)

C. Report on the Baldock Rest Area and Homeless Project

Bill Stewart, Clackamas County District Attorney reported of a year-long collaborative effort to address the homeless campers at the I-5 rest area in Canby, the Baldock Rest Area. A team of stakeholders including Oregon Travel Information Council (which manages the rest area), Clackamas County Human Services, Clackamas Co Sheriff's Office, Clackamas Co District Attorney's Office, ODOT, Canby Center, Oregon State Police, Oregon Law Center and OHCS/EHAC staff participated in a process to relocate and re-house some of the long-term homeless campers, enforce existing anti-camping rules and address criminal activities at the rest area. Over 100 people per night camp at the rest area, including 37 long-term homeless persons who have been there for years.

OHCS provided \$30,000 to Clackamas County Human Services to provide intensive case management, rent assistance and flexible funds to help with car repair and moving costs. The team coordinated efforts so that campers were helped to relocate before the anti-camping enforcement commenced. Following the relocation and continued supportive services, calls to OSP for criminal activity were cut by 55%. No displacement to surrounding communities was reported and no criminal prosecutions were made by the DA's office.

A report on the collaborative effort was created and will be available for other communities who are facing the same type of problems.

STAFF/WORKING GROUP REPORTS

A. Housing Alliance legislative Agenda and Neighborhood Partnership's leadership and messaging training

Janet Byrd reported on the successful series of trainings and workshops held in conjunction with DEMOS, a non-partisan public policy research and advocacy organization. Advocates, staff and community leaders from housing, services and community justice agencies have participated in a series of messaging and media training. Neighborhood Partnership's contract with DEMOS will continue.

B. Report from the 10 Year Plan Subcommittee

Bill Hall reported that OHCS is finalizing the contract with Heather Lyons and the Corporation for Supportive Housing to provide technical assistance to 17 rural counties which do not yet have local 10 year plans. Staff from OHCS and CSH will work with local community stakeholders to develop the issue areas that will receive the intensive training. The training will be in the form of a charrette, which is an intensive training model that condenses months of work into a one week process. At the end of the charrette process, local communities will have about 75% of their local 10 YP completed.

C. January 2011 Point in Time Count

Sally Erickson gave a brief presentation on the statewide Point in Time Count, which will be undertaken in the last week in January. For the first time, the regional Continuums of Care will be responsible for organizing their local counts and will be able to directly input the data into the City of Portland's HMIS system. OHCS has contracted with the City to extend its HMIS licenses to the agencies conducting and inputting the count data.

Adjourned at 12:00pm