



Oregon

Housing and Community Services

John A. Kitzhaber, MD, Governor

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Farmworker Housing Facilitation Team

Meeting Notes

Thursday, January 23, 2013

10:00-12:00 PM Room 124B

Oregon Housing and Community Services

FACILITATOR: Theresa Wingard, OHCS

ATTENDEES:

Anzhela DePlois, DOR	Jean Godfrey, CFG	Marc Overbeck, OHPR
Betty Markey, OHCS	John McCulley, CFG & BMG	Maria Elena Castro M., OHA
Carol Kowash, OHCS	Kathleen Kincade, OSHA	Natasha Detweiler, OHCS
Claudia Cantu, CASA	Laurie Hoefler, LSO	Stephanie Page, ODA
Doug Carlson, HUD	Mallory Rahe, OSU	Teri Watson, OSHA

WELCOME/INTRODUCTIONS: Introductions made. Six members attended by phone.

SUB-COMMITTEE REPORTS:

NEEDS AND RESEARCH

Stephanie Page (ODA) reported that the Needs and Research sub-committee has been working on crop mapping and has completed mapping for Marion, Clackamas and Wasco counties. Their plan is to map the entire state. Stephanie will invite those who are involved in the project to the March meeting for a presentation and update. She plans to invite the GIS specialist as well to demonstrate the mapping results.

Claudia Cantu (CASA) asked about the resources set aside by OHCS for a needs study. Betty Markey (OHCS) recalled that estimates for a study exceeded \$200,000 and that OHCS had set aside just \$30,000. No other funds were identified to fill the gap, and after an extended period of time of reserving the funds, they are being targeted to another purpose. Theresa Wingard (OHCS) noted that the Alice Larson study was being utilized in place of the needs study.

Stephanie Page noted that ODA is drafting several concepts they will be working on through 2015. The list of concepts is due by April, 2014. She advised the group that ODA is working to clean up their statutes. The farm mediation statute (ORS 36.250-36.270) is being revised as it was initially intended for foreclosure which ODA doesn't do today. The work is now more labor related. They will revise the statutes to clarify who is eligible for services and delete foreclosure and cost for services language as the mediation services are free.

POLICY AND STRATEGY

No report

ALIGNMENT AND STREAMLINING

Claudia Cantu (CASA) reported that Mike McHam (OHCS) and Jeff Rapp (RD) have been working together on the market strategy. Claudia expects the market strategy report to be completed in the next few weeks.

Claudia noted that she has been working with Carole Dicksa (OHCS) and Charlotte Rollier, State Engineer/State Environmental Coordinator (RD), on streamlining the environmental process for housing developments which are utilizing both HOME and RD resources. The goal is reduce costs and speed up the process by only requiring the applicant to advertise one time. RD uses a shorter form than OHCS and there is some concern that using one criteria form for both will not meet specific requirements. Doug Carlson will meet with Claudia to understand the concerns and see if there is any way he can help, noting that HUD would adopt a form if all requirements were covered. Following the conversation with Claudia, Doug may offer the services of an environmental specialist from his office to provide assistance. Betty Markey (OHCS) noted that OHCS pays for the notices with admin dollars and reimburses the applicant.

BRAINSTORMING SESSION:

Team mission: The team agreed that the mission statement drafted in 2010 was still a good one for this team: *“Federal, state, local and non-governmental leadership working together to improve housing and economic opportunities for farmworkers”*

Top Concerns: When assembled in 2010, the team identified the following as top concerns:

1. Develop continuity and cooperation between funding groups' application processes (HUD, RD, CFC): Today the team felt this was being addressed by the Streamlining Sub-Committee.
2. Align definitions of farmworker (state vs. federal): Work was done previously to align state and federal definitions of farmworker. However, there is a new federal definition for Migrant/Seasonal Farmworker, which includes broad categories of work such as dairy and animals (including fishing) that have been used by Migrant Education but not by HRSA in the past for purposes of consideration around health needs; and also excludes some reforestation categories that had been part of the definition.) Federally Qualified Health Centers are now required to use the new definition and collect data accordingly on their patients.
3. Determine the current unmet need for farmworker housing. The team spent a good deal of time discussing housing needs:
 - Kathleen Kincade (OSHA) noted that Oregon OSHA was the farmworker representative for the state; including farmworker safety and labor housing registry
 - Karen Shawcross (Bienstar) did bring up a set aside for farmworker housing at the last NOFA meeting.

- Carol Kowash (OHCS) advised the group to e-mail her with concerns/requests prior to the next CFC.
- Claudia Cantu (CASA) suggested the group determine unmet needs in counties like Ontario and Umpqua then focus farmworker housing set asides in these areas.
- Betty Markey (OHCS) noted that RD units receive rental assistance which might be a real consideration when determining what kind of housing projects to fund. Where farmworkers actually want to live is also an important consideration. There have been indications that a percentage of farmworkers may wish to live in general population housing versus housing targeted solely to farmworkers
- Others noted concerns about on/off farm not being in the NOFA, liens on property and determining where the need for housing is located.
- Carol Kowash (OHCS) noted that the Agriculture Workforce Housing Tax credit program is a mix of on and off farm stating that most of the credits are going to community based housing.
- Stephanie (OBD) noted that the Needs sub-committee had planned to send the Alice Larson study to the Ag groups for feedback to advise where they see the need for FW housing. Noted that it is time consuming and that other responsibilities had interfered with the group spending time on it. Stephanie will circulate the draft Ag group letter to the team so that they can decide the best way to move forward.
- It was noted that there is new NAWS (National Agricultural Worker Survey) data and suggested that farmworkers be interviewed to ask where they prefer to live.
- Jean Godfrey (Columbia Fruit Growers) stated farmworkers in Hood River want to own their homes. She added families have been purchasing all available homes in the manufactured home parks. Jean noted there are county zoning regulations on farmworker housing that affect what can be done.
- Claudia Cantu (CASA) noted that her surveys showed where the farmworkers want to live has been dependent on the location surveyed.
- Anzhela DePlois (DOR) felt the biggest issue was that migrant workers don't have a place to stay and are also hard to house.
- Kathleen Kincade (OSHA) felt there was a valuable distinction between seasonal workers who are year round and migrant workers who are passing through.

Effective Collaboration: Laurie Hoefler, LSO, noted it would be good to map out the connection between agencies and the roles they play. She suggested this as an agenda item for the May meeting.

Frequency of Meetings: The team agreed the meetings needed to be no less than bi-monthly (current schedule). There was some discussion on having more meetings on the off season but, also noted was the legislative session which could affect some members. (Calendar dates will be an agenda item for the next meeting.)

Member attendance: The team discussed ways to encourage members to attend. Several team members committed to become more active attendees. Theresa Wingard (OHCS) advised the group that statute requires certain agencies attend however, getting people to attend is difficult. She has contacted many absent members asking that they send a representative if they are unable to attend (also provides phone-in option). Theresa suggested members take a more active role in contacting members they know. Several members committed to making contact with current members. Stephanie Page (ODA) and Claudia Cantu (CASA) committed also to reach out to Agripac,

ConAgra, wine growers, the Onion association of Malheur County and Eastern Oregon/Idaho vegetable Association

Information Sharing:

- Doug Carlson (HUD) thought there used to be an OHCS policy and strategy group that covered legislation, tax credits and communication which included the Director of OHCS and wondered if it was active. This is not the same as the policy and strategy sub-committee.
- Marc Overbeck reported that the Primary Care Office has completed its analysis of health professional shortages for the year. All shortage areas that had been “Migrant Farmworker” have been revised to be Low Income and Migrant and Seasonal Farmworker” shortages. Maria Castro, who is OHA’s Migrant Health Coordinator and works with the Primary Care office will be engaged in a lot of work this year to promote cultural competency throughout the state in safety net clinics. Also, his office will be conducting a Primary Care Needs assessment over the course of the next year, and using this as a basis for identifying shortages in the provision of health care to MSFW.

Team Decisions: The team decided to focus efforts on one main project in 2014. Once that project is completed the team will decide where next to focus their energy. For 2014 the group will focus on:

- Determining the current unmet need for farmworker housing and how to address it.
 - Marion County will be the pilot county the team will assess.
 - Members of the team will provide statistics from their office/agency to use in the assessment
- The Needs and Research and Alignment and Streamlining sub-committees will continue to meet and complete projects they are currently working on.
- The Policy and Strategy sub-committee will become inactive at this time.

ACTION ITEMS:

Natasha Detweiler (OHCS) will update farmworker housing map
Theresa Wingard (OHCS) will research the OHCS policy and strategy group
Stephanie Page (ODA) will send the draft Ag letter to group

NEXT MEETING:

Agriculture Workforce Housing Facilitation Team
Thursday March 27, 2014
10:00 AM- 12:00 PM
OHCS/North Mall Office Building
725 Summer St NE, Room 124A
Salem, Oregon