

Office of Governor Tina Kotek — RJC Housing, Homelessness, and Human Services December 20, 2024 – Zoom 2:30 – 4:00pm

Facilitator: Andre Bealer

MEMBERS

Χ	Chris Bonner		Jimmy Jones		Melinda Bell
	Cameron Herrington	Х	Kim McCarty	Χ	Nathan Teske
	Cathryn Murray		Marisa Zapata	Χ	William Miller
	Jackie Follis	Х	Maria "Meg" Guerrera		

OTHER ATTENDEES

Χ	Andre Bealer	Х	Svetha Ambati	Х	Matthew Tschabold
Ε	Javier Cervantes	Х	Yasmin Solorio	Χ	Danny Moran

Topic/Lead	Notes/Main Points	Decisions/Action Items
Welcome and Introductions	Kim and Meg provide brief introduction.	
Gov Office Legislative	Danny Moran, Deputy Legislative Director for the	
Team work overview	Governor's Office, provides brief overview on committee	
(Danny Moran)	engagement opportunities with the legislature this upcoming session.	
	 Last Friday was the pre-session filing deadline. This is the deadline by when all legislators and agencies need to submit LC's either to the Chief Clerk's Office in the house or the Secretary of the Senate's Office. Legislators can continue to introduce new bills all the way through February. Leadership offices have a little more flexibility. Browse bills that have already been filed: https://olis.oregonlegislature.gov/liz/2023I1/Committees/HHOUSH/2024-12-11-11-30/MeetingMaterials Me're still waiting on new committee assignments. 	
	 With capitol construction still ongoing, there is opportunity to continue engaging with public testimony in a virtual way. Important to note both legislation you want to see 	
	passed, as well as legislation you do not want to see pass. Flagging possible issues early on is important.	
	Important Dates	

- January 13: New legislators are sworn in. State of the State address from Governor.
- January 21: Session starts
- April 09: First chamber Work Session deadline
- May 14: File revenue forecast
- May 23: Second chamber Work Session deadline
- June 29: Session concludes, Constitutional Sine Die

Will Miller: Do you have a one-pager for these LC's?

Danny: Do not have a one-pager, recommend going to chair of the committees. Have not seen one-pagers but I bet those offices may have those or at some point during session.

Contact info: danny.moran@oregon.gov, 503-551-8636

Draft workplan review

Meg and Kim review draft work plan.

Goal 1 Culturally Specific Organizations

Chris: How does Housing Oregon support as a lead/responsibility on the doc?

Meg: They are all for being equitable. If we gain support to move this forward, we would be gaining a lot of terrain.

Chris: Trying to figure out if this is what were saying to be considered during creation of legislative policy, how would we involve them? Who would vet different organizations doing the work or the accountability factor?

Meg: This is the start, great question. I'm unsure, and was just filling in answers on the workplan document. I asked myself these questions on who will lead this, but I feel it might be the Gov Staff in area of housing service. If you have ideas, please send to the group.

Nathan: For section 1b, I support this. Since we have a few staff from the Gov Office here, just want to make quick comment. OHCS has incredibly slow and difficult procurement process. We've waited sometimes for a year or more. It is hard to plan and budget when we aren't sure the timing of things. I've interacted with staff, and they are often not able to keep timelines they announce. Certainly, want to mention.

Meg: Same boat, we've waited up to a year to see money. We try to survive on grants to support our

Committee requests presentation from DOJ/AG on procurement and timelines

Committee requesting information from OHCS on number and location of properties at risk of expiring affordability restrictions, data available for analyzing demographics of residents residing within at-risk properties, as well as future plans to extending rent restrictions/financial sustainability of said properties.

capacity. That means when the state gives priority to the culturally specific and non-profit developers. We get that housing developer fee that sustain us in the long run and helps us build more.

Nathan: Yes and this is after the award has been made. The timing of things are often out of staff control.

Matt: Sometimes it's a fiscal piece. Some of these process questions — I don't have a specific response. Separate from affordable housing financing side, the state does have question on procurement as I believe timelines are under Attorney General's Office. Don't want to put responsibility on anyone, but sometimes it's the amount of funding. There is also the back up from mounts of one-time funding. Theres always process improvements to be made, like forecasting next biennium. I think what is helpful is we should have an agency rep here if we want to get into the detail of "hey there's delays here in X program, can we talk about what's going on here?"

Also recognizing there's hundreds of contracts to be reviewed at the start of a biennium. We don't have limitless hours to review, are there recommendations on which programs need to be prioritized at start of fiscal year? Where are cash flow issues? Where can we make process recruitments? Is there a framework prioritizing review that's helpful when we know certain organizations are critical or don't have ballot sheets? I'd like to invite agency to talk about that.

Nathan: I think it's the DOJ piece where things get stuck. Sometimes states have their own personnel capacity, like folks on vacation etc.

Matt: DOJ does represent all state agencies, if that were to change, it would need to be done through the legislature. This may be something the committee could bring up. Governor does not have authority to change that or has a position on it.

Meg: That may be an opportunity to connect with DOJ to do a presentation on the process or any way to accelerate things. I know housing is a priority for governor, maybe we can start that conversation and move things forward. Culturally specific affordable housing developers, operators, owners, service providers – we want to keep them sustained over time.

OHCS has worked really hard – for example land

acquisition program. It takes 90 days to get a decision, but it helps hugely land developers.

Who will lead this work, let's think about that and who might be the agency that can lift this work. Any comments?

No comments

Goal 2. Maintenance of effort

Matt: Tough decisions had to be made. Cost increases across the enterprise. Governor's budget needs to be balanced. 23-25 is funded with one-time funds. She was able to maintain current funding levels, with inflation adjustment, for current homelessness response — includes funding for tribal housing services, long term rent assistance, and addition and prevention programs. She was able to find a path to fully fund and maintain current levels. In total is a bit over \$700 million dollars. Does include set asides as well.

A question that has come up is expansion – she knew this was a priority to the committee and heard during the full RJC meeting.

Meg: Great updates. Really appreciate attention to that. I think shelters are a need right now. The transition from shelters to a more stable housing is highly important. The relationship and communication with housing providers is highly important. Kim works in an organization which is their mission to help eviction prevention.

Kim: Its especially important to think of culturally specific organizations, governor budget (ARB) talks about \$63.5 million for infrastructure and programs. We really want to emphasize is its too easy for organizations to pit against each other when funding is limited. Want to ensure culturally specific orgs aren't put into that scenario. Rent assistance is a powerful and effective tool. Concerned there might be a narrative the POC are returning and overutilizing resource. And if there are more resources when budget picture changes where we could maybe put in \$150 million, we think rent assistance is a super powerful tool. Support for culturally specific organizations and how they get those tools out to disenfranchised communities is really important.

Meg: Any more ideas you'd like to include here?

Goal 3: Preservation and Not Losing Ground

Meg: Not extremely knowledgeable in this area. OHCS is starting to work on how to preserve those properties that might go out of affordability and how they can be captured or acquired by a non-profit developer. It's not something that OHCS has for us yet. I suggest we invite preservation team from OHCS to come and let us know how we can support this. We obviously want to support this and don't want to lose ground.

Distinction here is preservation vs having existing property that is already supporting the community. There are units that are being out of services because we don't have money to rehouse them. Not 100% sure if OHCS is doing both of them as a preservation. Want to see what other areas they are working on. Any comments?

Chris: What does "POP" stand for? Specifically 519 or 520?

Matt: POP is Policy Option Package. It is a request for new funding from the legislature, when agencies develop request for new program or increased funding for existing program the technical assistance is Policy Option Package.

Kim: RJC lens is assessment of who is living in these buildings, who are likely to lose agreements, who is vulnerable. Many low-income communities are POC but we need assessment building by building to understand vulnerabilities and timelines. Don't know if OHCS can do that bout would like to have that conversation with them.

Chris: Can we add that to the workplan?

Meg: Yes

Nathan: Bienestar is requested funding, and they did ask us to report number of immigrants and it was part of the criteria.

Meg: Don't know if fair housing would interfere with. But we should invite them and ask those questions to have clarity on what is it and how many units are at risk. We also need to know that – how many are out there and mechanisms (if any) that OHCS is proposing to sustain those properties.

Discussion questions from co-chairs

- Make Gov't
 Agencies
 accountable, ex:
- Housing Authorities re: developer priority
- The Agricultural
 Farmworker
 Facilitation Group
 (screenshot attached)
 and participation over time.
- How the H&H Committee can support the Governor in assuring Tribal housing services protections.
- Committee work during session.

Question from co-chairs: System Change, how can the H&HC support the Governor's and OHCS in changing systems that marginalized certain groups? What happens at the staff level? How do we secure that Equity is at the heart of all process when their term is over?

Meg: This is a long process we will be looking into and areas of how we can support governor, especially in Tribal housing protection area.

Matt: Good alignment in tribal housing. GRB includes maintaining current funding levels for housing services. In addition, it proposes it to change it into kind of a block grant structure since they're sovereign and flexibility for how funding is used. I know group has already had a presentation on work OHCS had done on tribal funding program. We can get an update presentation if that's helpful.

Meg: Totally in agreement with that. Would be greatly helpful.

Meeting concludes.

Request for update/presentation from OHCS on tribal funding program.