



Oregon Housing and Community Services

John A. Kitzhaber, MD, Governor

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Farmworker Housing Facilitation Team

Meeting Notes

Thursday, November 27, 2013

10:00-12:00 PM Room 124B

Oregon Housing and Community Services

FACILITATOR: Theresa Wingard

ATTENDEES:

Alan Trunnell, CASA	Kathleen Kincade, OSHA	Margaret VanVliet, OHCS
Anzhela DePlois, DOR	Karen Shawcross, Bienstar	Natasha Detweiler, OHCS
Doug Carlson, HUD	Laurie Hoefer, LSO	Stephanie Page, ODA
Ian Tolleson, OFB	Marc Overbeck, OHPR	

WELCOME/INTRODUCTIONS: New member, Kathleen Kincade, joined the group. She takes the place of Trudi Tyler who retired from OSHA in November.

OHCS TRANSITION STATUS – Director Margaret VanVliet provided an update on the OHCS transition. The transition was prompted a year ago by the Governor’s direction for OHCS to align its work with other state agencies, to develop a new service delivery model and to develop a fiscally sustainable business model.

There has been a good deal of time spent over the last year studying 49 OHCS programs, 7 federal agencies and the funding provided by the State. Collaborative efforts have been made on scenario building using the good information gathered on program delivery. There has been input at both streamlining and policy levels.

Margaret noted the process is just now wrapping up. She will make a recommendation to the Governor in December and then make a report in February when the legislature meets for the short session. She believes the Governor will have a good deal of input on her proposal and expects him to take the lead in setting priorities for the agency.

Margaret shared the OHCS Transition Summary Status Report (link below) with the group. She noted that recommendations for transition fall into three broad categories; scenarios, program administration change ideas and strategic policy questions. Throughout the process a number of other agencies have been involved in the transition conversation including DHS and OYA. She believes this to be a much bigger conversation about government doing things differently noting there are housing dollars sitting in at least 14 other agencies including OYA, DHS and Corrections. Margaret



noted there could be value in administering all housing dollars differently to target specific populations or efforts that coordinate with identified statewide goals.

Margaret will be reporting to the Ways and Means Committee in February. There will be no changes with how OHCS spends dollars this biennium as the changes will be effective in the 15/16 biennium. Margaret expects the OHCS 15/16 budget to look much different than the 13/14 budget noting that the agency is facing a severe deficit and that this will continue to be refined over time, moving into the 17/18 biennium.

OHCS will concentrate on becoming focused; aligning and setting priorities. Margaret noted that transformation will occur on the ground when partners begin to utilize OHCS funds. She stated that our partners know how to serve their clients best advising this is where the conversation begins. She observed that all needs are connected but it always comes back to stable housing as the foundation.

Margaret noted that originally there were 21 data systems. The number has been reduced to 17 with a goal of 12. OHCS is looking at what data is collected and how it is used, ultimately to have a rich dialog and analysis that can inform results of our work with families by understanding what approaches produce the best outcomes for households served.

When asked what HUD was doing to change their delivery system, Doug Carlson advised the group that the states set their own policy. He noted that its HUD's goal to make delivery of funds fit into the State's model.

There are 10 OHCS advisory bodies; the Farmworker Housing Facilitation Team (FWHFT) being one of those. Margaret plans to recommend one high level policy advisory body which would connect the work of several existing advisory groups. She stressed the importance of not losing the special knowledge that members of groups like the FWHFT have. She expects to make a recommendation to the Governor in December but notes there will be time for dialog before any changes are made.

In December and January there will be three, four hour sessions geared around the NOFA process, the multifamily finance process that defines how developers compete for funding. OHCS just completed the first NOFA round and funds have been awarded. Margaret stated that all of the applications were for really good projects which made for some very difficult decisions. The coming sessions are designed as a conversation about the new process, the lessons learned and any differences or improvements for the next NOFA round in the spring of 2014. Margaret noted that the NOFA is OHCS' only competitive grant and the biggest single resource OHCS puts out. She talked about the idea of segmenting dollars to be allocated for special populations. There have been recognized needs in farmworker housing, family reunification, at risk families, keeping children out of foster care and re-entry after incarceration. Marc Overbeck suggested there be a set aside for migrant worker housing.

SUB-COMMITTEE REPORTS:

Sub-committees did not formally report at this meeting however, Stephanie Page advised the group that the Needs and Research sub-committee has been working on crop mapping and have several

counties completed. She will make a full report at the March meeting. Kathleen Kincade noted that OSHA has a link to registered camps on their website (link below).

The team discussed the idea of having meetings less often that would be more inclusive, more focused and set policy. The January agenda will reflect a brainstorming session to talk about the purpose of the group, what they want to accomplish, how the members of the team can work more collaboratively, the sub-committees and how they will be addressed in the future, the idea of naming a team chair and creating a team mission.

HAND-OUTS AND LINKS

- The OHCS transition website is located at:
http://www.oregon.gov/ohcs/Pages/do_transition_planning.aspx
- OHCS Transition Summary Status Report
<http://www.oregon.gov/ohcs/DO/transition/11-01-13-Transition-Summary-Status-Report.pdf>
- HB3367 - The farmworker housing tax credit and FWHFT name change to agriculture workforce is located at:
<https://olis.leg.state.or.us/liz/2013R1/Measures/Text/HB3367/Enrolled>
- Agriculture Labor Housing Registry website:
[DCBS - Report Catalog](#)
- ORS 456.585, Farmworker Housing Information statute:
<http://www.oregon.gov/ohcs/DO/Farmworker/ORS-456-585.pdf>

ACTION ITEMS:

- Theresa to locate team's mission statement.
**The following mission statement was found in the 1/20/10 meeting notes:
Team Mission/Purpose Statement – final version “Federal, state, local and non-governmental leadership working together to improve housing and economic opportunities for farmworkers.”

The original group identified these as their top three concerns:

- Develop continuity and cooperation between funding groups' application processes (HUD, RD, CFC)
- Align definitions of farmworker (state vs. federal)
- Determine the current unmet need for farmworker housing.

NEXT MEETING:

Agriculture Workforce Housing Facilitation Team
Thursday January 23, 2014
10:00 AM- 12:00 PM
OHCS/North Mall Office Building
725 Summer St NE, Room 124A
Salem, Oregon