



HB 2100 Task Force on Homelessness & Racial Disparities | MEETING SUMMARY

Meeting date | time February 15, 2023, | 5:00–6:30pm | **Meeting location**
Virtual

Facilitator
Mary Frances Kenion

Task Force Members in Attendance: Alan Evans, Ariel Nelson, Jennifer Parrish Taylor, Jessica Pratt, Jill Smith, Jimmy Jones, Katrina Holland, Marisa Espinoza, Nicole Witham, Paula Hall, Sen. Wlnsvey Campos, Vanessa Timmons

Non-Voting Proxies/pending appointments: Maria Vargas (pending appointment), Dolores Martinez (pending appointment)

Additional attendees included members of the public.

Agenda topic: Agenda Overview |

Facilitators shared an overview of the agenda which included:

- Welcome/Roll Call
 - Group Agreements
- Lessons Learned from Houston
 - Matt White (Housing Innovations)
- Draft Recommendations Review
 - Discussion
 - Motion to Vote
- Next Steps and Timeline

Agenda topic: Welcome/Roll Call |

The meeting was opened with a welcome, formal roll call*.

**All Task Force members and non-voting proxies listed above.*

Agenda topic: Group Agreements

The Facilitator reviewed Task Force group agreements:



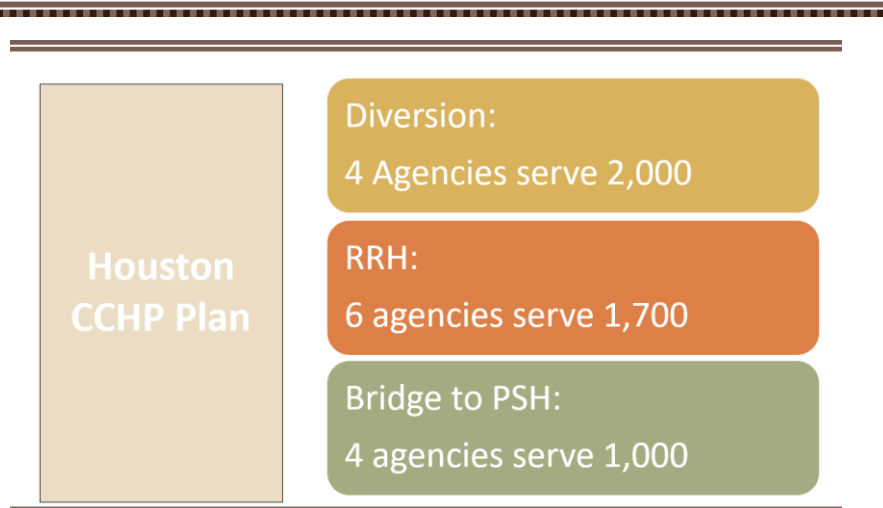
Group Agreements

Agenda topic: *Lessons Learned from Houston, TX*

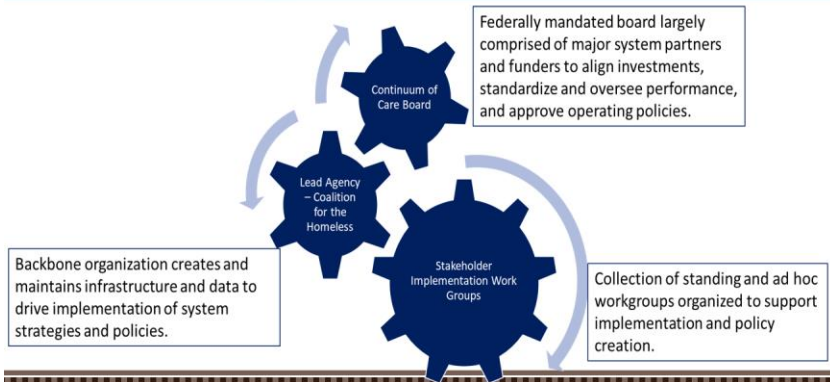
Guest speaker, Matt White of Housing Innovations, shared lessons learned from Houston, TX. Key points below – all content can be found in the accompanying PDF of the PowerPoint presentation on pages 7-21 and via the recording.

Consolidated Funding; Braided Contracts

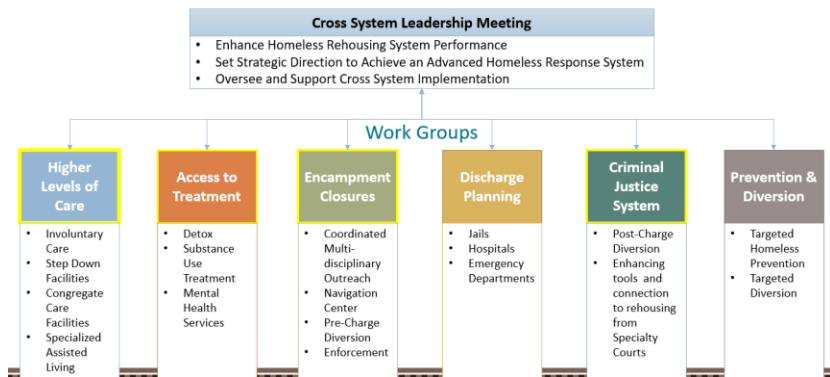
Funders	Funding Sources:	Contract Administrator:
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • City of Houston • Harris County • Philanthropy 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • ESG-CV, ESG Annual • CDBG-CV, CDBG Annual • HOME-ARP, HOME • CoC Program • City General • County General • Private/Philanthropy 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Coalition for the Homeless (CFTH)



Homelessness System Governance Structure



Goal - Create a Structure to Support Cross System Partnerships to Effectively End Homelessness



Houston Homeless Encampment Strategy

Intensive Outreach and Engagement – Multi-disciplinary outreach teams engage encampment residents in housing-focused case management

Clearance and Closure with Supports

Housing Surge – Resource-intensive housing fair. Everyone is housed.

Clearance – All structures and belongings removed from encampment.

Closure – Camp closed and cordoned off, all persons accept housing or temporary navigation center (interim housing) with option to store belongings

Downtown Locations

Before



After



Task Force Member Q&A for Matt White:

Q: What is the demographic breakdown of decision-makers? Are the demographics consistent with our state [Oregon] or is it slightly different?

A: The City of Houston is 23% Black or African American but three fourths of the homeless population identify as Black or African American. About half of the community identifies as Hispanic but only about 10% of the homeless population identify as Hispanic. The backbone organization is about a 100 person organization and I do not have the detail on demographic breakdown of who is actually managing the homeless system, but can get that information for you.

Q: Can you please explain the makeup of the backbone organization? How did they come together? Are behavioral health partners or providers included?

A: The backbone organization is the Houston Coalition for the Homeless – they have an advocacy role but function as a quasi-governmental organization – they receive city and county funding which is then allocated out to direct service providers. The Coalition manages grants, does monitoring, and reporting on behalf of the city and county. They are not just the convener.

Q: Regarding accessibility to affordable housing – is there a large number? How does it differ from Oregon for access to housing and then when a person is housed in Houston, what's the rate of people continuing to stay in that housing after they've been placed?

A: Houston is somewhat unique in that they are not to the extent that the state of Oregon and other West Coast communities, Washington and California, a very high-cost rental market so there is a relatively large supply. It's not all affordable, but there is a large supply of housing in Houston. One of the aspects of Houston's success is the Coalition established a centralized landlord recruitment and retention approach so they have staff whose sole function is to engage large property management companies and private landlords, and they provide incentives for landlords who agree to house persons who are exiting homelessness. This has shifted away from service providers, so they no longer have to recruit landlords. Houston's recidivism rate is between 10-15% and this is commensurate with what we see nationally in terms of recidivism rates.

Agenda topic: *Draft Recommendations Review and Discussion*

The facilitator reviewed the draft recommendations, flagging edits made by Task Force members in advance of the meeting (as highlighted in green). Task Force members discussed changes and requested additional edits as follows:

- Area 1, recommendation 1:
 - Change funding request language to “ongoing” funding instead of “one-time” to the leading sentence
 - Change Oregon Housing Choice Grant language to individuals who “can verify with a certified provider their disability” from “totally and permanently disabled” in bullet 2.
 - Change Oregon Housing Choice Grant language to individuals who are age “55” and older from age “65” in bullet 3.
- Area 2, recommendation 2:
 - Bullet 4 - add “within the 2023/2024 fiscal year” to the direct allocation for culturally specific, culturally responsive, culturally based organizations section.
- Area 3, recommendation 5:
 - Add “by the end of the 23-25 biennium” to the leading sentence.

Full Task Force member discussions are captured in the meeting recording. Task Force member Jimmy Jones made a motion to approve the recommendations as amended and represented on the screen. Task Force Chairwoman Jennifer Parrish Taylor seconded the motion. The facilitator took a vote by voice, following the roll call list of voting eligible members.

The result of the vote was 11 yes votes, 0 no votes, and 1 abstention. Motion to adopt all recommendations with amendments passed.

Area 1: Solutions Regarding Eligibility and Funding of Services

1) An unprecedented crisis requires extraordinary measures. A billion-dollar problem cannot be solved with inadequate local, state, or federal resources. The Task Force requests an ongoing funding of \$1.1 billion:

- \$510 million for rapid rehousing and permanent supportive housing with no less than \$102 million provided to the Oregon Balance of State
- \$190 million to expand Oregon's Housing Development Grant Program (“Trust Fund”)
- \$190 million with no less than \$38 million provided to the Oregon Balance of State to establish an Oregon Special Needs Assistance Program – a set-aside of locally flexible funding for:
 - federally recognized tribes that border within Oregon
 - culturally specific organizations representing historically underserved populations
 - culturally based organizations
 - recovery-based shelter or transitional housing operators
 - re-entry based operators
 - returning citizens who are at-risk of homelessness
 - disability-serving organizations
 - migrant seasonal farmworker organizations
 - domestic and sexual violence providers
 - human trafficking providers
 - youth-serving providers
 - LGBTQ+ serving providers
- \$50 million to preserve existing services and funding for antipoverity programs that intersect homelessness set-aside for Community Action Agencies
- \$100 million to establish a state-funded housing choice grant program, the Oregon Housing Choice Grant, for Oregonians who are rent burdened (spending 30% or more of their income on rent) and meet one of the following eligibility criteria:
 - Working families with children under 18
 - Individuals who can verify with a certified provider their disability
 - Individuals who are age 55 and older
- \$50 million to establish a Direct Service Provider Hiring and Retention Fund a stopgap fund to bridge over the benefits cliff that faces frontline service providers, reduce turnover, and ensure living wages for employees in the homeless services sector
- \$5 million to expand the landlord risk mitigation fund to provide landlords with an incentive and added security to work with tenants receiving local, state, or federal rental assistance. Targeted program will offer:
 - Up to \$1,000 and up to fourteen days’ rent loss to the landlord in reimbursement or some potentially required move-in upgrades, and up to \$5,000 in qualifying damages caused by a tenant during tenancy.
- \$3 million CoC capacity building grant to establish local planning groups within the Oregon Balance of State
- \$2 million insurance mitigation fund for smaller organizations with annual operating budgets at or below \$5 million that are typically disadvantaged by state insurance requirements to receive funding

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Area 1: Solutions Regarding Eligibility and Funding of Services

- 2) The Task Force recommends the department may disburse state and federal homelessness funds through grants and loans to local governments as defined in ORS 197.015, tribes as defined in ORS 273.462, individuals, housing authorities as defined in ORS 456.005, nonprofit corporations as defined in ORS 65.001, culturally specific organization or culturally responsive organization as defined in ORS 456.005 and community action agencies as described in ORS 458.505.
 - 3) The Task Force recommends the Oregon Housing and Community Services Department receive authority from the Legislative Assembly to, in its sole discretion, to allocate homelessness funding in any method that ensures statewide geographic coverage without regard to existing or prior distribution formulas, including through a competitive grant or contract process.
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Area 2: Changes to the State’s Funding Structure

1) The Task Force recommends the Oregon Housing and Community Services Department work with its partners in the Interagency Council on Homelessness to establish universal goals to address homelessness across the state and employ the tools of targeted universalism to then design and implement coordinated programs and policies that are tailored to meeting the needs of all Oregonians.

Through this process, OHCS could develop specific solutions to address unmet needs, incorporating those solutions into a universal goal-oriented framework to equitably benefit all groups involved. Under the targeted universalism framework, OHCS would develop strategies that operationalize equity, direct resources and achieve outcomes for those most impacted by homelessness.

With this approach, policymakers and community stakeholders across Oregon can account for how different groups are situated within structures, culture, and across geographies to obtain the universal goal and account for the culturally specific needs of different protected class groups, vulnerable populations, and underserved communities. Targeted universalism is a method of policymaking and programming that sets out to move all groups toward the universal policy goal, as well as a way of communicating and publicly marketing such programs in an inclusive, bridging manner. It is an approach that supports the needs of particular groups, including those in the majority, while reminding everyone that we are all part of the same social and civic fabric.

Area 2: Changes to the State’s Funding Structure

2) The Task Force recommends the Oregon Housing and Community Services Department adopt a competitive funding structure for administering state and federal resources to address homelessness that prioritizes both maintaining existing service levels and expand funding availability and eligibility beyond historically funded organizations, geographies, and institutions by:

- Direct allocation, through formula funding or other means as determined in partnership with each sovereign nation, to the nine federally recognized tribes that border within Oregon
 - Direct allocation, through formula funding or other means as determined by the Agency, to [Community Action Agencies](#) based on community engagement and input, for anti-poverty initiatives that intersect with homelessness priorities
 - Direct allocation, through formula funding or other means as determined by the Agency based on community engagement and input, to Continuum of Care (CoC) and local planning groups structured similarly to coordinated homeless response offices established in [House Bill 4123](#) (2022)
 - Direct allocation, through formula funding or other means as determined by the Agency based on community engagement and input, to culturally specific, culturally responsive, culturally based, and other organizations [within the 2023/2024 fiscal year](#) that are focused on reducing disparities where there is a demonstrated overrepresentation in homelessness [in communities that are historically underrepresented](#).
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Area 3: Modifications for Contracting Processes

- 1) The Task Force recommends the 82nd Legislative Assembly to expressly direct and grant the authority to the Oregon Housing and Community Services Department to create opportunities for people with lived experience of homelessness and/or housing insecurity to inform state policymaking and to provide direct compensation to people with lived experience of homelessness or housing insecurity for their expertise. Compensation and support may be operationalized as formal advisory board structures, focus groups, surveys, and by other means. The Task Force recommends that the legislature permit the agency to contract with local non-profits and other entities to facilitate direct connections and compensation for people with lived experience who are providing their feedback to improve homeless services.
- 2) The Task Force recommends the Oregon Housing and Community Services Department receive authority from the 82nd Legislative Assembly to identify, procure, and implement a comprehensive grants and financial management system no later than December 2025.

Area 3: Modifications for Contracting Processes

- 3) The Task Force recommends the 82nd Legislative Assembly direct both the Oregon Department of Justice and Oregon Department of Administrative Services to review, revise, and negotiate language changes to contracts within 21 business days of receipt.
- 4) The Task Force recommends the 82nd Legislative Assembly direct both the Oregon Department of Justice and Oregon Department of Administrative Services to review insurance requirements for smaller organizations with annual operating budgets at or below \$5 million that are typically disadvantaged by state insurance requirements to receive state funding. The Task Force recommends these requirements be revised with the intention of investing in historically underfunded and underrepresented communities and organizations.

Area 3: Modifications for Contracting Processes

- 5) The Task Force recommends the Oregon Housing and Community Services Department adopt a funding cycle **by the end of the 23-25 biennium** on a biannual timeline to support transparency for current or prospective grantees:
 - a. January – OHCS hosts statewide listening sessions to inform funding cycle priorities.
 - b. February – OHCS announces funding cycle opportunities.
 - c. March – OHCS holds statewide pre-bidders conference.
 - d. April – OHCS releases applications for funding with a deadline of 45 days minimum for completion
 - e. May/June – OHCS reviews applications and makes notice of intent to award.
 - f. July – grant agreements are fully executed.
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Agenda topic: Reminders and Next Steps

- The finalized draft report will be shared with the Task Force via email by 3/3/23 for comments, edits, and endorsements.
- All edits to be finalized at the 3/15/23 meeting.
- Report submitted to the Legislative Assembly with a copy to the Oregon Housing Stability Council the week of 3/20/23.

Agenda topic: Closing

The Task Force meeting was concluded at 6:30 p.m.