



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

Meeting date | time January 10, 2022 | **8:00-10:02am** | **Meeting location** Virtual

Facilitator Sophia Tzeng
Note Taker + Timekeeper Mary Frances Kenion

Task Force Members in Attendance: Alan Evans, Andrea Ball, Ariel Nelson, Sami Jo Difuntorum, Lizzy Atwood Wills, Jennifer Parrish Taylor, Paula Hall, Marisa Espinoza, Vanessa Timmons, Sen. Dick Anderson, Rep. Wlmsvey Campos, Sen. Kayse Jama, Jimmy Jones, Katrina Holland

Additional attendees included members of the public.

AGENDA TOPICS

Agenda topic: Human Centering + Introductions/Icebreaker |

Task Force members kicked off the meeting by sharing “where they are” and “where they want to be”. The range of responses from Task Force members included:

ICEBREAKER

1

Where are you? / Where do you want to be? (one word or phrase)		
Now 8:00 am	End of Session 10:00 AM	End of Week 1/15
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Fried • A bit tired. • Ready for the week • Tired • Recovering from Covid • grateful • Getting kids out the door for school? 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Relieved • Refreshed • With additional clarity • A path forward to change • Grateful • Satisfied 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ready for the long weekend • Excited for the positive change • A concise plan with implementation timeline • Glad it's over! • Great

Agenda topic: Task Force Goals + Outputs |

The Facilitator shared the session goals and outputs. Goals included:

- Aligning on Task Force process
- Generating feedback to finalize findings
- Clarifying and voting on recommendations

Desired kickoff meeting outputs included:

- Session capture
- Final Report
- Executive Summary, findings and recommendations

Agenda topic: Task Force Workplan + Final Week |

The Facilitator reviewed the Task Force workplan and final week (see below).

Task Force Workplan

	Grounding	Discovery			Design	Iteration	Implementation
	Week of 11/29	Week of 12/6	Week of 12/13	Week of 12/20	Week of 12/27	Week of 1/3	Week of 1/10
Task Force	S1: KICKOFF 1.5 hrs	3 hrs, w/Prework Interviews (19)		S2: SYNTHESIS 2 hrs, w/Prework	S3: DESIGN 2 hrs, w/Prework	S4: IMPLEMENTATION 2 hrs, w/Prework	S5: REFINEMENT 1/14 submission
Stakeholders		Survey and Insights Development Interviews Data, policy and financial research and analysis				Further Survey, Interviews and Research As Needed	
Project Leads <i>Chair and Co-Chair</i>		Weekly check-In w/Agenda Design	Weekly check-In w/Agenda Design	Weekly check-In w/Agenda Design	Weekly check-In w/Agenda Design	Weekly check-In w/Agenda Design	Weekly check-In w/Agenda Design
OUTPUTS	Roadmap Discovery Plan	Draft Discovery and Insights Report Draft Design Framework				Final Report + Recommendations	

It was noted that the goal to best comply with Oregon Public Meetings Law would be to vote on recommendations.

	1/10	1/11	1/12	1/13	1/14	1/15	?
	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat	
Task Force	8-10a Final Session w/vote*	<i>Comment</i>	2-3:30p Office Hours	<i>by noon Final Feedback</i>	<i>Submission**</i>	HB2100 TASK FORCE DEADLINE	Optional Reflection Meeting
Outputs	Final Report Version 1	Final Report Version 2 <i>(with Exec Summary)</i>	Final Report Version 3		Final Report		

The Facilitator revisited Task Force Collaboration commitments and encouraged Task Force members to make additions:

Task Force Collaboration

REMOTE COMMITMENTS

1. Share your thoughts - aloud or write it on the doc
2. Mute if not talking
3. Crafting is encouraged (it helps me to focus to do something with my hands)
4. Snacking welcome!
5. Pets included
6. Children and Grandchildren

INTERPERSONAL COMMITMENTS

1. Give grace and forgiveness
2. Take space and make space - openly share and support your colleagues as they openly share experiences
3. Take good care - manage your boundaries
4. Engage in lively conversation, even if it feels awkward
5. Be thoughtful and compassionate
6. Does it need to be said, does it need to be said by me, does it need to be said by me right now

Agenda topic: *Findings* |

A range of findings on behalf of the Discovery Team were presented to the Task Force and included:

STAKEHOLDER SURVEY FINDINGS

Stakeholder Survey Findings

Primary causes of higher rates of homelessness among people of color in Oregon

- Systemic racism
- Housing discrimination
- Exclusion from wealth-building opportunities
- Supply of affordable housing
- Cross-system exclusion and disparate treatment
- Experience in the homeless service system

Feedback on system design, assessment, prioritization, and program design

- Resource scarcity
- Accessing and navigating coordinated entry
- Assessment and prioritization tool design
- Contribution of organizational and provider biases

Stakeholder Survey Findings

Feedback on +/- on what about the current housing and services landscape is working well and what could be improved

- Increase workforce diversity at all levels
- Sustain staff through improved pay, benefits, and caseloads
- Provide anti-racism and cultural competency training and incorporate into supervision and accountability
- More culturally-specific services
- Improved outreach strategies
- Intersectionality: a variety of identities and experiences that need to be addressed including AI/AN, AAPI, Latinx, Immigrants, doubled-up, LGBTQ, people with SMI, disabilities, older adults, and unaccompanied youth
- Including and engaging people with lived experience
- Connecting and engaging culturally-specific organizations
- Ongoing research and improved data collection

Stakeholder Survey Findings

Feedback on +/- on what about the current state system for funding for homelessness services is working well and what could be improved

Plus

- Coordination of resources
- Influx of new resources during pandemic
- Consistency and stability of non-competitive funding

Delta

- Improved funding for rural areas
- Improved allocation process
- Funding for homelessness response programs to meet the needs of people of color
- Upstream funds for housing and health care, not just emergency services

Feedback on contracting process and eligibility

- Challenging to navigate and complete, especially for small and medium sized communities
- Slow or delayed funds
- Lack of diversity and inclusion in designing the process

ECOSYSTEM POWER MAP

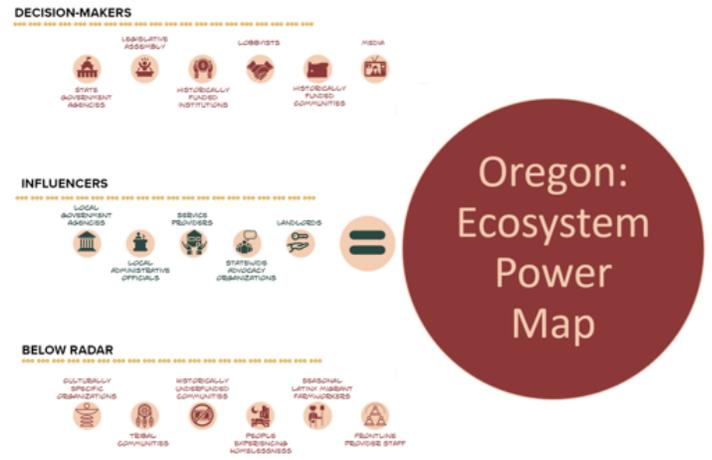
During the review of the ecosystem power map, a Task Force member noted that the original text was not a fair statement because Task Force members were not able to fully weigh in on the power map. It was further noted that smaller groups didn't have an opportunity to have conversations with other groups in order to understand opinions/statements with overall flaws because of timing.

The facilitation team made live edits to language to strike "Task Force members" and reframe to "discovery team interactions with Task Force members."

Another Task Force member noted that the power map may not feel aligned with their lived experience and realities and folks who may have been categorized as holding more power may not recognize this but it is important to look at this collaboratively. Full discussion available on recording.

Findings: Ecosystem Power Map

- Each mode of research in the discovery process shed light on structures and power dynamics that perpetuate racial inequity in Oregon.
- This Ecosystem Power Map created by the Discovery Team provides a visual representation of power imbalances in efforts to address homelessness in Oregon, analyzed and identified through discovery team interactions with Task Force members and the Discovery Team (through interviews, survey responses, and policy analysis).



INTERVIEW FINDINGS

Interview Findings: Funding Structure, Eligibility, and Contracting		
	What Works?	What Could Improve?
ALL	Full state coverage Greater flexibility during pandemic	Reduce administrative, data, and reporting burdens and requirements
Decision-Makers: State Actors	Getting money out the door	Less “rubber stamping”; more data-driven evaluation and outcomes-based contracting Better statewide coordination, infrastructure & planning; aligned state funding deadlines More input from excluded communities; include equity experts in decision-making and benchmarking
Historically funded institutions	Consistent funding Close collaboration between CAA’s and State	Leave CAA base funding intact; set-aside other funds for CSO’s; direct contracts with larger CSO’s Advance communications re: funding and more streamlined and speedier contracting Focus on population-specific outcomes instead of process/partnerships Enforce federal best practices and improve data systems
Influencers	Diversification of funding and decision-making during pandemic	Direct contracts to CSO’s; support CBO capacity; more administrative funding; streamline contracting More Lived Experience input State-level policy leadership and better State and Local coordination Focus on equity outcomes and minoritized/excluded communities
Below Radar	Getting money out the door Diversification of funding and decision-making during pandemic	Direct contracts to CSO’s; support CBO capacity, more admin funding, advance communications Statewide DEI audit of funding and contracting process; more lived experience & CSO input; more transparency, consistency and equity in scoring rubrics Contracts focus on equity outcomes and minoritized/excluded communities; encourage/require hiring from culturally-specific populations/communities at State, Local and CBO level; and better define and enforce requirements to partner with tribes and CSO’s

Additional Interview Findings: How best to include the most excluded, invisible, and negatively impacted groups

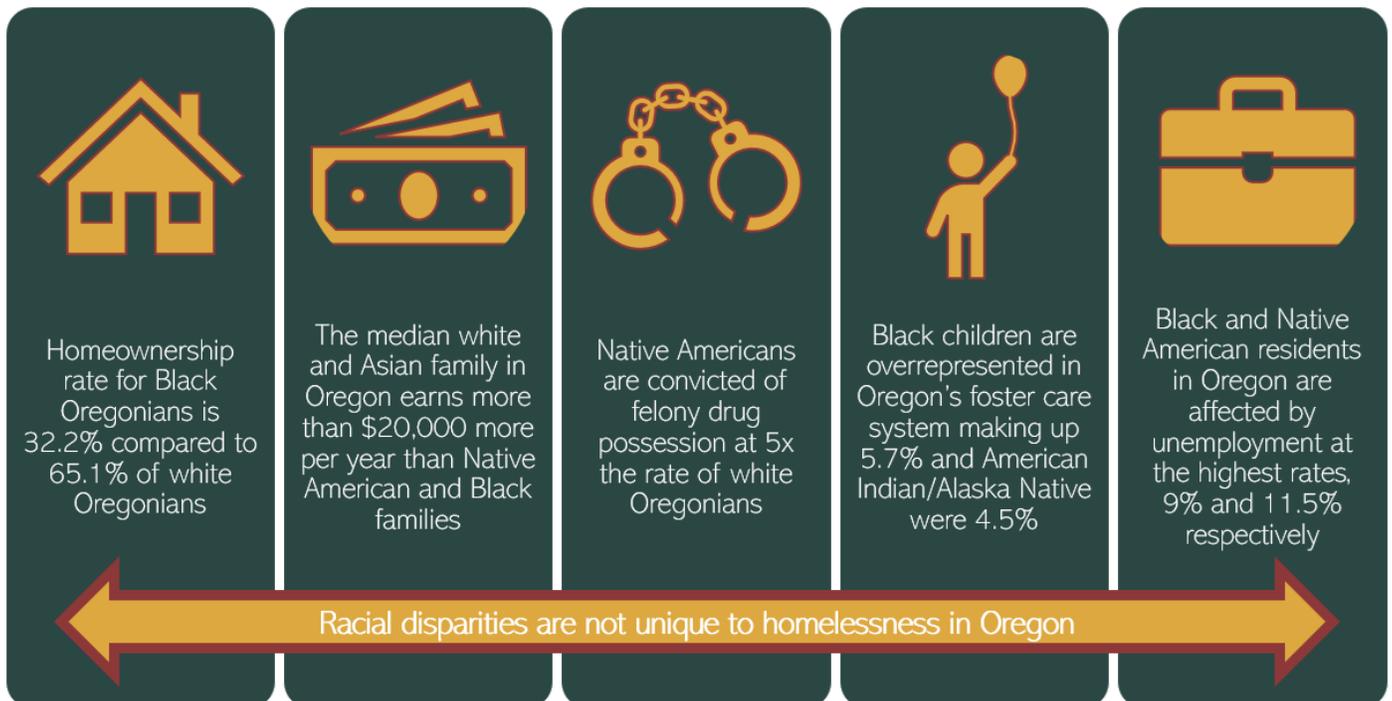
- Strengthen organizational capacity within CSOs;
- Support development of cultural responsiveness in all organizations;
- Target rural organizations for support with operating costs, sustaining qualified workforce, and challenges of serving a large low-density geography;
- Provide targeted outreach and TA to CSOs and Tribal organizations regarding future funding opportunities and how to successfully apply;
- Dedicate additional State funding to serving excluded/invisible populations;
- Maintain investment in all geographic areas in the state; and
- Conduct a statewide gaps analysis to develop a geographically-specific and localized understanding of who has been left out and where.

RESEARCH & DATA

Data sources to inform research and data findings included:

- Homelessness service **system performance data** and **demographic data** were analyzed at the state and Continuum of Care levels.
- Sources of data include **publicly available data** from the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development's **Point-in-Time Count**, **Stella P data in HDX 2.0** (limited to read-only access) and estimates from the Census Bureau's **American Community Survey**.
- Other national and Oregon-specific publicly available data as cited in the draft report

INTERSECTIONAL DATA FINDINGS



POINT IN TIME DATA FINDINGS

3x Black Oregonians are represented in homelessness more than three times their share of the total state population

4x Tribal community members in Oregon are represented in homelessness more than four times their share of the total state population

15.2% of Oregonians experiencing homelessness as families identify as Hispanic or Latinx

People who identified as American Indian or Alaska Native  More Likely to Experience Unsheltered Homelessness

SYSTEM PERFORMANCE MEASURE DATA FINDINGS



Agenda topic: Problem Statement |

The Facilitator shared a synthesized problem statement generated from 17 Task Force member-generated problem statements into one. Task Force members were asked to “test” the voting process.

Oregon has a unique opportunity to reimagine its current homeless services funding system and structure in pursuit of racial equity and justice, but this opportunity for change is complex, and demands a long-term commitment to achieve alignment across philosophical differences and effectuate the transformational change required to reduce racial disparities by people experiencing homelessness.

YES (initial)			NO (or YES, IF...)
• ?	• ?KJ	• ?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>JPT, yes but outline that some solutions can happen now, while others require more time - that though it is hard work, that is not an out from doing the work</i> • <i>Yes if- incorporate where it says “demands a long term commitment to achieve alignment” add “alignment and structural change”; add to “philosophical differences” - “philosophical differences and historical positionality within existing structures” –ME</i> • <i>JJ - Yes, with some concerns.</i> • <i>PH - Yes, but with some reservation.</i> • <i>Yes, with acknowledgement of a general lack of resources currently available to address the homeless system– LAW</i> • <i>Yes, but recognizing there are things we can do now, and others will take more time - and these still need to get done - even if it will take more time. And all will take commitment. The work doesn't stop after addressing just a few things and calling it good. - WC</i> • <i>Yes with concerns AE</i>
• VT	• ?	• ?	
• sjd	• ?	• ?	
• AB	• ?	• ?	
• AN	• ?	• ?	

The Task Force did not reach majority vote on the Problem Statement but was able to offer suggestions for refinement.

Agenda topic: Recommended Approaches from Lessons Learned Nationally |

The Discovery Team presented a set of recommended approaches from lessons learned nationally (listed below):

Goal 1: Decrease Disparity

- **Moving Power.** A [recent national study](#) found that many communities have reached plateaus in reducing racial disparities among people experiencing homelessness. Research attributes this to racial power dynamics, entrenched white dominant culture, general risk aversion, and real-time environmental pressure and the vulnerability required to do the work necessary to move power and change systems. Oregon has the opportunity to learn from these communities and address these power dynamics head-on in its efforts to reduce racial disparities by investing directly in the capacity and positionality of culturally-specific organizations and historically minoritized communities.
- **Supportive Services.** Make ample housing assistance and supportive services available through upon separation from the systems that perpetuate economic instability among people of color, particularly the child welfare and criminal justice systems. Failing to bridge these gaps will result in continued disparate rates of homelessness.
- **State Interagency Council on Homelessness.** Creating an interagency council would give the State of Oregon the opportunity to enact an aligned, statewide strategy to decrease racial disparities among people experiencing homelessness and housing instability. States leverage interagency councils to align investments and strategies, ensure action across agencies, and use their convening power to support providers and administrators in change management. Interagency council charged with:
 - identifying activities eligible for funding (to include non-dominant activities),
 - outcomes and accompanying performance standards that recipients are held to,
 - set-asides and pilots to address systemic and emerging needs,
 - identification of training, education and other capacity needs among younger organizations who serve a specific community

Goal 2: Identify Needs

- **Rethinking Who You Call an Expert.** Lived experience of homelessness and housing instability is the expertise needed to support transformational and systemic change. “For community engagement to matter, one needs to first value the expertise that community members possess via their lived experience. One needs to believe that people are the primary experts in their own lives.” - Anand Dholakia
- Authentic and meaningful engagement of individuals with lived experience/expertise means full inclusion in all decision-making processes related to policy, funding, program design, and implementation. This is a challenging, but critical paradigm shift that could enable the state of Oregon to center the voices of those most impacted to reduce disparities, decrease harm, and yield a better human experience for people experiencing homelessness and housing insecurity.
- **Equity-based Decision-Making.** Implementing [equity-based decision-making](#) across policymaking, business operations, and hiring would allow Oregon to undertake systems improvement efforts based on the direct experience of people experiencing homelessness and the wisdom of historically minoritized communities who know best what is needed and necessary to support their communities.
- **Funding and Advising.** The state could create direct channels of communication for community-based by and for organizations to request funding and support from the state to better understand and address their communities’ needs. It could also create a network of culturally-specific state-level advisors that help collect data about their populations so that underserved communities across the state are better understood and accounted for.

Goal 3: Change Funding Structure

- **Policy priorities must be reflected in levels of funding.** Throughout state and CAA plans, there is an acknowledgement of disparities and disparate impact, but strategies to address those dynamics appear to be largely limited to engagement and information gathering rather than investment in solutions.
- **Direct cash transfers** are a proven effective strategy to supporting young people experiencing homelessness, similar to the successes seen in broader populations when offered universal basic income. Innovative and dignifying funding strategies like these are growing in popularity in cities like Chicago and New York, but haven’t been brought to Oregon. Direct financial support would be the most efficient ways to invest in historically marginalized communities in Oregon, given the gatekeeping and marginalization that continues inside its power structures and funding structures today.
- **Loosen or waive** reporting requirements or **incentivize the use of fiscal agents** and other collaborative partnerships to add administrative capacity while supporting the leadership of historically minoritized communities.
- **Limited but important:** Reformulate allocations using equity-based principles in criteria development without losing statewide distribution coverage. Any kind of process that initiates ongoing changes to an allocation formula would need to control for potential service disruptions from year to year. Consider developing a hybrid model of allocation and competition, akin to the PPRN/ARD hybrid that the CoC Program utilizes.

Goal 4: Modify Contracting

- Contracting should be **performance and equity outcome-based with strong accountability measures**, using a targeted universalism framework for all performance outcomes. Performance metrics rely on federally established metrics, with disaggregated outcomes by target population driving the outcome structure.
- Contracting should **establish additional equity metrics related to governance, representation and process**. For instance, contracts could introduce incentives and/or penalties for areas like Board composition, C-suite composition, etc., focusing on inclusion of minoritized/excluded communities, persons with lived experience of homelessness, persons with lived experience of domestic violence, and other identified populations.

Agenda topic: Task Force Principles, Solutions Framework, & Recommendations |

The Facilitator walked through principles and solutions framework (from Task Force-generated input as synthesized by the Discovery Team) and Task Force-generated recommendations for a vote. Please reference the available PDF slide deck for full record of votes (which are not included in this summary to do the depth and breadth of votes and comments - slides 32-44).

The Facilitator reviewed the final week countdown (see below) and asked Task Force members to vote on an additional meeting on Wednesday, 1/12/22 from 2-3:30pm to review and vote on additional recommendations (passed by majority). It was reaffirmed that Task Force members need to vote during public meetings according to Oregon Public Meetings Law.

	1/10	1/11	1/12	1/13	1/14	1/15	?
	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat	
Task Force	8-10a Final Session w/vote*	Refine recommendations by <u>10a PT</u>	2-3:30p Office Hours *final rec votes	by noon Final Feedback	Submission**	HB2100 TASK FORCE DEADLINE	Optional Reflection Meeting
Outputs	Final Report Version 1	Recommendations for Wed. vote by <u>5p PT</u> Final Report Version 2 (with Exec Summary) <u>By 2p</u>	Final Report Version 3		Final Report		
REFINEMENT + another Vote/Meeting at 2-3:30 pm (name time you can make in that window if not the full)						NO (or yes if)	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> JPT ME WC ?KJ 		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> AB AN - can only join 3-3:30 LAW 		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> KZH ? ? ? 		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> VT sorry my schedule will not allow for an additional meeting.. I would be willing to invite a proxy ? ? 	

Task Force members were provided an opportunity to breakout into groups (while staying in the main virtual room) to talk through unclear recommendations in need of refinement. With limited time left in the meeting, Task Force members were asked to complete post-work to make additional refinements and submit by Tuesday, 1/11/22 by 10am PT so the discovery team could recirculate along with the draft report (version 2) containing the draft executive summary.

Agenda topic: Next Steps & Closing |

Next steps that Task Force members could anticipate included:

- Postwork
- TF members who are available to attend meeting on 1/12/22

The Task Force meeting was concluded at 10:02 a.m.