

HB2100 Task Force on Homelessness and Racial Disparities in Oregon

Interim Report to the Oregon State Legislature

Submitted: September 14 2022

BACKGROUND

Since submitting its report on Findings and Recommendations to the Oregon State Legislature in January 2022, the Task Force on Homelessness and Racial Disparities (hereafter, "Task Force") has held five meetings, including a day-long retreat. Below is an update on progress and activities conducted by the Task Force. The Housing and Community Services Department procured a third-party facilitator to assist the chairperson or cochairs with the facilitation of meetings and the operations of the task force (referred to below as the "Discovery Team").

TIMELINE, NEW CHARGE, AND IDENTIFYING NEXT STEPS

The Task Force reviewed the timeline of the work completed to-date, noted the extension of the Task Force through 2026, and the Discovery Team presented an overview of the Task Force's new charge to identify implementation pathways for previous recommendations regarding:

- changes to the state's funding structure,
- modifications for contracting processes,
- And solutions regarding the eligibility and funding of services.

To carry out its goals in [HB2100](#) and [HB4051](#), the Task Force identified these key next steps:

1. Develop a baseline shared understanding of racial equity;
2. Develop a baseline understanding of the way people experience service provision in Oregon; and
3. Examine existing policies including funder-driven processes and their implications and impact on service provision

ORGANIZATIONAL PROFILES

Task Force members and the Discovery Team shared and collated information about the organizations they represent, in an effort to strengthen relationships across Task Force members and their respective organizations.

RACIAL EQUITY

The Discovery Team provided an in-depth presentation on the foundations of racial equity, focusing on Oregon-specific history. The presentation opened the door for a deep and thoughtful conversation amongst Task Force members about the racist history of the state and the Task Force's opportunity to address historic inequities amongst Oregon's unhoused population.

IMPLEMENTATION PATHWAYS

The Discovery Team shared its recommendations on potential implementation pathways to start the conversation related to the new HB4051 charge and Task Force members offered their initial thoughts. Task Force members were also informed that the September retreat would serve as a meeting to weigh in and do refinement to the proposed implementation pathways.

RETREAT

On September 9, the Task Force held a full-day hybrid retreat; in-person participants met in Salem.



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The following items were discussed and/or voted on during the retreat:

- **Task Force Governance:**The Discovery Team developed draft Operating Bylaws and Procedures, aligned with HB2100, HB4051, Oregon Public Meetings Law, and the work of the Task Force to-date to ensure its smooth continuation through December 31, 2025. This document was later modified and approved by a majority of the Task Force members through a formal vote. The Operating Bylaws and Procedures clarifies the roles and responsibilities of the Chairperson and other Task Force members, quorum and decision-making, participation and absences, and task force vacancies.
- **Overview of Previous Findings and HB 4051:** The Discovery Team provided an overview of its [previous findings](#) which were submitted in the Task Force’s previous report to the state legislature. This included the ecosystem power map and a high-level overview of homeless data by CoC. The Discovery Team provided another overview of HB 4051 and the Task Force responsibilities per this charge.
- **Subcommittees and Assignments:** The Task Force reviewed, voted, and approved a subcommittee and assignment structure to accomplish more work between Task Force meetings. Staff from the Oregon Department of Housing and Community Services will be assigned to subcommittees. Subcommittee assignments for Task Force members will alternate every two months. The subcommittees will meet for the next six months. No voting will take place during subcommittee meetings.
- **Oregon Interagency Council on Homelessness:** The Discovery Team shared an update and led a discussion about the state’s efforts to establish the Oregon Interagency Council on Homelessness. The Governor’s vision for the ICH was significantly shaped by the Task Force’s findings and recommendations.