



# Statewide Homeless Populations Task Force

*Emergency Support Function 6 (ESF 6)*  
*Mass Care Operations Team (MCOT)*

## Agenda

DATE: **Friday, May 1st , 2020**  
TIME: 10:00am to 11:30am  
Zoom URL: <https://zoom.us/j/7217534128>



## Agenda Items and Discussion

**Introductions, Welcome, and Taskforce Updates – 15 min**  
*Zoom Meeting Housekeeping Notes*

Connor McDonnell, Kimber Townsend

**Oregon Housing and Community Services Funding Update – 10 minutes**

Shawnn Hartley

**Regional Updates by Continuum of Care (CoC) Geographic Areas – 30 min**

Local Designated Point-of-Contact

**In Focus: Example Non-Congregate Shelter that received FEMA “pre-approval” – in-depth look at COVID-19 Respite – 30 min**

Annette Evans, CoC lead Washington County

### Adjourn

*Questionnaire to follow*

# Meeting Summary and Notes

## Introductions, Welcome, and Taskforce Updates

This Taskforce exists to provide a statewide platform for strategizing, information sharing, and collaboration, guidance and resource attainment to support local communities in mitigating the impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic on homeless populations. It is comprised of state, local, and federal partners. The State partners include DHS, OHA, OHCS, Oregon Emergency Management and the federal partners include FEMA and the Oregon HUD Field Office. OHCS is strategizing, providing resources, guidance as homeless service providers provide for health, safety, identify resource gaps, support needs. Kimber Townshend is helping with Emergency Management aspects, works at DHS, and will help supplement some of that Ashley Marshall had been leading.

State ECC efforts – looking at gradual demo toward end of month. Officially, close daily functions May 21, looking at task forces, hand back to agencies handling in steady state and won't be doing leadership anymore at ECC. DHS will still liaise, collecting info from counties – continue to help and support with work doing

Bureau of labor and industries – denying someone to stay at hotel motel is not legal. *Press release came out on this and Connor will send.*

## Oregon Housing and Community Services Funding Update

Report out from Shawnn Hartley, OHCS Homeless Services represented on behalf of Housing Stabilization Director Andrea Bell;

- New financial coming through OHCS through state and fed – Emergency Solutions Grant \$6.7 million, not sure when to get funds and a lot of work to get the \$ and get it out the door and CSBG – award. Not sure on how much funds and when. Will provide additional clarity when we can
- State resources – emergency state funds of \$12 million, with 8.5 million for rental assistance payments for income loss due to covid-19. Targeted to 50% or less of medium income. 3.5 mil for safe shelter alternatives for hotel motel for homeless and farmworkers, based on vulnerable pops. Will send \$ to organizations, reference OR legislative web site. Top priority to release funds as quickly as possible. Don't have timeline yet for funds release. It is OHCS top priority.

Questions and correspondence with Taskforce members:

- Will State Safe Shelter funding be retroactive or only accessed once allocated? Willamette: We don't know at this point; we will be analyzing. Feedback is you want this backdated? – yes, we do.
- CARES ACT cheat sheet – some through OHCS or other branches of state or other recipients. *We will send in follow-u email.*
- Rent is due on May 1 – thought money would be coming out. When we receive dollars, we will get \$ out as soon as possible. When we released \$3.3 mill for social distancing resources, including hygiene, sanitation and housing, we were able to get money out in 4 days. We try to get out as quick as possible.

## Regional Updates by Continuum of Care (CoC) Geographic Areas

26 counties – “Balance of State for Continuum of Care – Jessica will give broad overview. Highlights – Ontario – 15 local orgs, weekly calls, tracing and testing and partnering with three hotels, provide case management. Preparing for onslaught of needs and rent and food that is coming. So many counties, just trying to keep everything coordinated.

Question: E-board members thought this rental assistance funding would be out in the field to help pay May rent.

Response: This is our top priority to get this funding out as quickly as possible. We don't have a timeframe but we are moving very quickly on these dollars. We are aware it is May 1<sup>st</sup>, rent is due, and we understand families and individuals will have difficulties making rent this month. We're working to get these dollars out as quickly as possible.

### Geographic Area Updates:

Successes this week, any anticipated challenges.

- Lane: Amanda - No additional positive COVID Cases this week – it's been seven days. Working on demob strategies – not sure what's opening, were lacking resources before and try to get people into housing that may be available. Have a plan for testing in congregate settings and plan will be rolled out next week. Challenges – demobilization strategies and what that will look like. Uncertainties of what is open and when, figuring out the timeline as it unfolds. We're lacking resources before and after. How to connect folks what we do have available as quickly as possible. We are moving forward with testing.
- Multnomah: N/A
- Jackson: Connie Wilkerson – system to provide meals and mental health on greenway and placement in hotel/motels or emergency shelters. As we move away from greenway, we are developing how services will be funded with least trauma. Have discussion group. Everyone will to collaborate – EOC, other emergency response, mental health, street outreach, housing authority state, DV services, substance abuse – ways to transition into a more stable housing. Potentially looking at using FEMA funding in two communities. We developed a system to deliver meals for those sheltering in place – on the Greenway. We placed people in hotels and motels or retain in emergency shelters. We're transitioning away from the Greenway use, we are working to find additional resources to minimize trauma and maximize access to resources. Positive, we have pulled together a discussion group. Everyone is very willing to collaborate. Thanks for presentation last week with Steve.
- Deschutes/Crook/Jefferson: Successes, we have been working with a lot of community partners to get shower trucks out. We have had great partnerships with sheriff's department. Concerns in regards to bigger populations in encampments, there are a lot of folks working with medical providers in coming up with prioritization with that. We're working through the strategy for getting people into housing and NOT getting them cycled back out into being homeless. Working with county commissioners to get working with local hotels. How this looks in a long-term plan.

They are working with partners for getting shower trucks to congregate settings, sheltering in place. Great partners with sheriffs – truck to get water out to people. Working through contracting with local motel for isolation for covid-19 and especially with high-risk how do we prioritize. Testing – concerns as seen in Boston and Houston about asymptomatic people so we know who to place in hotels/motels and folks in encampments. Health providers working on prioritizations. Concern also is how to support them in hotels and how we exit them not back in homelessness. County commissioners looking at order or declaration – is this a challenge? Yes, working with CCs as we work on a contract with hotels – they are meeting to strategize, how this looks for longer-term plan.

- Marion/Polk: Successes – great with collaborating with system of cares and outline, working on a shared database, we are working through the city to ensure we are providing contact and medical access, as well as food distribution systems. Shared database using “Base Cam” to have strategic placements to track regular contact, medical access and highlight food distribution systems. CCO Pacific is helping with medical access pints and testing and Covid-19 assessment and how to contact trace and work on prevention. Developed great partnerships with Pacific Source. We are developing the COVID assessment into our systems – once prevention systems get allocated. Testing continues to be the top of everyone’s list. Shelter capacity is decreasing. . We need to get shelters back up. We are seeing people as symptomatic and not wanting to go into care. We are seeing hotspots in rural areas. Options for sites for medically fragile and how to accommodate to ramp up hotel program for more positive tests. And how to use funds for rental payments once allocated.

We have suspended intakes. Congregation is down in camps. We need testing on site so that we can get our shelter beds back up. In camps themselves, we are seeing symptomatic but are resistant to go get testing. We’re seeing an increase in hotspots of rural areas in the county. We are working on redesigning our continuum of opportunity.

Congregate sits are suspended so people more people are in camps

- OR-505:
- Washington: Annette – homeless manager and CoC lead – help recover and get permanent housing – a few have had success and others are working on plans. Resources from housing – Kaiser 300 funds – age 50 or over, have disabilities to access perm housing, including deposits. Work to Home for those with jobs and Clean and Sober transition. Challenges – map out recovery plan to estimate respite shelter resource and predict need for this sort of option and looking at migrant populations. 49% of positive covid testing is this population.
- Clackamas: N/A
- Douglas: Douglas – Kelly Wessels – same steady course. Re-emergence planning and what we need to do to be more robust in field. Ramping up – concerning going into May for rent. Working with task force. Health care needs for Covid and other health needs – those in treatment, diabetes, other med conditions as well. Ramped up food and hygiene continuously and help with CCos and AAA for older adults and how to do mobile food efficiency. Two new cases from a well-known employer and the other another largest employer in Josephine. High

contact areas...close to an encampment. Donors are helping with supplies. Biggest issues accessing hygiene and cleaning supplies for their outreach workers and those they service.

No motel /hotel partner – no one identified yet through partners, luckily. Lane County no cases? Lake county? Onslaught of phone calls regarding rent, already getting calls for April rent – so fielding those with limited resources.

Meeting adjourned and next Taskforce meeting is on Friday, 5/8 from 10-11:30 am.

Notes