



Statewide Homeless Populations Task Force

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

Agenda

DATE: **Friday, June 5th, 2020**
TIME: 10:00am to 11:30am
Zoom URL: <https://zoom.us/j/7217534128>



Agenda Items and Discussion

Introductions, Welcome, and Taskforce Updates – 10 min

Zoom Meeting Housekeeping Notes

Connor McDonnell

State Agency Updates– 30 min

- **Oregon Housing & Community Services**
- **Oregon Health Authority**
- **Dept. of Human Services**

Sam Kenney, Homeless Services Section

Wes Rivers, Policy Advisory

Matt Rasmussen, Homeless Youth Programs

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

Local Designated Point-of-Contact

Open Discussion: Future Topics, Hygiene and Sanitation

All

Adjourn

Questionnaire to follow

Meeting Summary and Notes

Connor McDonnell – Meeting Facilitator

The Statewide Homeless Population Taskforce website is available [HERE](#)

1. We had our Temporary Camping Solutions Zoom meeting yesterday, June 4th. Here is a [LINK](#) to the recording.
2. In-focus session on "Trauma Informed Care and Management" which be on Thursday, June 11th from 1 – 2:15 pm. The calendar invite has been sent out and we will be recording this session. As well, please feel free to forward the invite to staff, managers, or other organizations in your local area who may be interested.

Upcoming COVID-19 webinars from the Nat'l Alliance to End Homeless & HUD are attached and these includes topics on the theme of Racial and Social Justice and Diversion & Prevention:

- Communities Using Data to Analyze Racial Disparities During the Pandemic- Here's Where You Can Start
- Lifting up the Sky – Addressing the Pandemic & Indigenous Homelessness
- Targeting Homeless Prevention in the Midst of COVID-19
- Effective Diversion: A Key Strategy for Ending Homelessness
- Promising Practices and Resources for Quarantine Hotels

Current OHCS Funding Updates: Sam Kenney

OHCS is working to dispersing COVID-19 relief funds to local partners. \$12 Million dollars have been allocated to OHCS through the State Legislator; \$8.5 Million is towards safe sheltering and rental assistance. \$3.5 Million is dedicated to Agriculture Farmworkers and others experiencing homelessness. These funds have been dispersed using the same Master Grant Agreement to the Community Action Agencies.

\$8.5M in Rent Relief Program will be dispersed to Community Action Agencies, using the existing Master Grant Agreement with a needs-based formula to properly allocate throughout the state. The major difference between these new Rent Relief funds is that there is an addition to include COVID-19 data, and help to target hardest hit communities. The program serves at income levels at 50%AMI. We are working with partners to have a quick turn around on grand agreements but we ask for you reach out if you are having an issues that need addressing.

\$3.5M Safe Sheltering and can be used for farmworkers and other experiencing homelessness. Latino communities have been disproportionately impacted by the COVID-19 pandemic so the intent with these new funds is to mitigate and reserves some of these disturbing trends. OHCS will be working directly with cultural specific organizations, continuum of care offices, and service providers to learn more about the needs' of Oregon's farmworkers and drive the use of these funds. The Governor's office has put together an Agriculture Worker Taskforce to work on the Safe Shelter allocation going to this community. Emergency Solutions Grant (ESG), Emergency Housing Assistance Program, State Homeless Assistance Program, as well as other one-time shelter funding that are all available now because of the current COVID-19 health crisis. There will be a number of follow up webinars to answer questions about how to utilize these funds and to answer any questions you may be having.

The most current information related to the Re-opening can be found here:

<https://govstatus.egov.com/or-covid-19>

Oregon Legislature Emergency Board is convening this afternoon and we are expecting more rental assistance and other resources. More to come.

Programmatic information on the COVID-19 Rent Relief resources are available. The Frequently Asked Questions are [here](#) and the updated State Homeless Funds Program Operations Manual can be found [here](#).

Regional Area Updates: Successes this week, and anticipated challenges.

Deschutes/Crook/Jefferson: , we have taking over operations of our hotel in Bend this week for isolation purposes. We are working on getting high risk folks placed using an adapted coordinated entry system.

Outreach to individuals is continuing providing our Mobile medical van, dental van, shower truck, providing hand washing stations, PPE, food, water etc

We are seeing an increase in individuals experiencing homelessness across the region and are navigating complaints from community members and working with LE agencies not to sweep encampments.

Rental assistance is going out the door, although it has been a struggle with the 50% AMI cap.

- Marion/Polk: Unemployment is current at 13% so they are mobilizing with local partners to make sure these funds are brought out the door. We support the increase of AMI increase from the eBoard to 80% MFI.
 - Question related to local/entitlement CDBG and for clarification, CDBG Entitlements resources go to communities with a population of over 50K or greater. These are listed on the HUD Exchange. This resource is a Block grant and does not dictate what the resource must be used for but has to meet basic objectives. Rental assistance can be made under Public Services but is currently only available for up to 3 months. Again this determination is made at the local level by those entitlement CDBG grantees.
- Washington: Respite shelter have housed 5 and 2 that will be transitioning into permanent housing. Currently expanding this shelter to encompass those that have been in contact with COVID and are unsheltered. CARES Act funds are approved at local county level. Prevention is also being looked at in encampments. Rent Relief efforts still remain a priority of work in this area. Currently working in reopening phase 2.
- Klamath/ Lake: Housing of COVID positive communities members that are not able to isolate are being prioritized Public Health so that staff can then focus on getting the rent relief funds out the door. We have been shifting staff to help with getting these resources to the community. Currently working in reopening phase 2.
- Hood River: thankful for the shared information across the state. Winter warming shelter is being moved, it will not be available for next year.
- Umatilla: Discontinuing hotel/motel funding is out on the 24th. Will be able to assist if there is anyone that does test positive in the future. We echo the AMI lift to 80% from the current 50%.
- Linn/ Benton: Rent Relief is being pushed out, new applicants that have not ever had to request assistance are now navigating the request process. New RV camp site is now available for those in need. Has seen a COVID increase since tourism has

resumed. Hotel/motel vouchers are still being utilized for COVID positive situations. Farms are now developing Safe Shelters for those in need to safe options.

- Lane, Multnomah, Jackson, Yamhill, Clatsop, Columbia, Tillamook, Harney: n/a
- Grant: n/a, Clackamas: n/a
- Coos/Curry: n/a
- Josephine: n/a, Balance of State: n/a

Potential Future Topics for in-focus session:

Hygiene and Sanitation; unsheltered access

Winter Warming Shelters – COVID 19 Environment

Summer Shelter programs

John Elizalde: Taskforce Fighting Poverty; systematic reason for causes and how to best support our local communities to navigate through those barriers, especially during the current health crisis. [Oregon Business Council](#)

Bi-Weekly meetings instead of weekly?

June 12th and then BiWeekly; the next meeting would be June 26th

Other Discussion Topics that came up/Follow Up

- For anyone interested in getting more into the details of CDBG, LOC co-hosts a bi-weekly call with CDBG entitlement communities and partners. we plan to start hosting meetings for non-entitlement CDBG as well, when we have more updates from the state on the plans for those funds. The next meeting is Friday June 12 at 2pm-3:30. email me at anelson@orcities.org for more information.
- Interest in planning for summer (cooling stations, etc.) and for winter warming season
- OHA/DEQ is planning guidance for smoke conditions during wildfire season, wondering if that might be something to discuss related to COVID and housing/shelter needs
- Discussion on having meets Task Force meetings to twice monthly with continued in-focus groups was supported by the group and there will be more to come
- There is an in-focus session on Trauma Informed Care and Management with Brandy Helmsley, Director of Consumer Activities at OHA on Thursday, 6/11 from 1 – 2:15 pm and the calendar invite has been circulated.

Meeting Adjourned