



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

Meeting date | time November 29, 2021 | **4:30-6:00pm** | **Meeting location** Virtual

Facilitator Sophia Tzeng
Note Taker + Timekeeper Mary Frances Kenion

Task Force Members in Attendance: Alan Evans, Sami Jo Difuntorum, Lizzy Atwood Wills, Jennifer Parrish Taylor, Paula Hall, Katrina Holland, Ariel Nelson, Jimmy Jones, Marisa Espinoza, Vanessa Timmons, Gustavo Morales

Additional attendees included members of the public.

AGENDA TOPICS

Agenda topic: Human Centering + Introductions/Icebreaker |

Task Force members kicked off the meeting by sharing their greatest hopes and biggest fears for the work that lies ahead of them followed by introductions and a brief icebreaker activity. All live poll was offered for members of the public to participants but yielded no respondents. The range of responses from Task Force members included:

Human-Centering			
Greatest Hope		Biggest Fear	
Transformative solutions that are long term and not just a bandaid.	Removing barriers that perpetuate houselessness	I fear the conversation will take longer than the prescribed time frame and decisions will not be well thought out.	Nothing changes
Making a big impact on the community.	That the conversation will move towards expanding resources rather than making choices on who should receive the funding.	Political Climate	Philosophical disagreements that don't lead to positive outcomes
Educate others regarding the current system so fully informed decisions can be made.	Ensuring the positive use of resources and housing systems		

Agenda topic: Task Force Goals + Roadmap |

The Facilitator shared the goals (see below) and roadmap for the HB 2100 work, discussing why the Task Force was brought together and what the group will accomplish during the kickoff meeting. Goals included:

- aligning on why we are here, how we will work together, and what we will accomplish by when
- collaboratively sharing knowledge, perspectives, and wisdom to inform discovery process

Desired kickoff meeting outputs included:

- project roadmap draft
- discovery plan draft

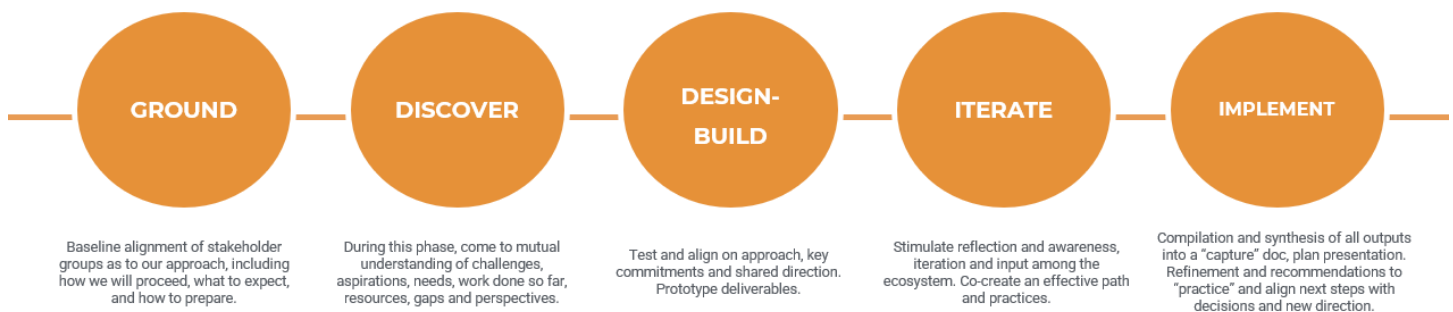
TASK FORCE GOALS	HB 2100 SECTION 7.3. <i>The task force shall:</i>
① Decrease Disparity	Identify and investigate methods by which the state may decrease rates of racial disparity among people experiencing homelessness and receiving services.
② Identify Needs	Consider existing methods and recommend additional methods by which the Housing and Community Services Department and Oregon Housing Stability Council may receive advice and information about needed services for individuals experiencing homelessness and housing insecurity.
③ Change Funding Structure	Identify and investigate potential changes in this state's funding structure to address racial disparities among people experiencing homelessness and housing insecurity, including consideration of how housing transition of services delivery could be implemented to avoid service disruptions among people experiencing homelessness or housing insecurity.
④ Modify Contracting	Identify and investigate methods by which the Housing and Community Services Department and Oregon Housing Stability Council may modify contracting process and eligibility for providers of services for individuals experiencing homelessness and housing insecurity.
⑤ Policy Recommendations	Recommend solutions regarding the funding of services for individuals experiencing homelessness or housing insecurity, including legislation or rulemaking and modifications to: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> (A) The delivery and eligibility requirements for federal and state funds; (B) The receipt and distribution of information about homelessness and homelessness services by the state; and (C) Methods for addressing racial disparities

Agenda topic: Meeting Preferences |

Task Force members were asked to vote on meeting preferences inclusive of preferred day, time of day, and virtual platform. **Monday, early mornings on Zoom prevailed as the more popular option.**

Agenda topic: Approach |

The Facilitator shared the ASCETA approach for convening the meetings: an inclusive, trauma-informed, design-based approach to help people and systems adapt through:



Task Force members were presented with both remote and interpersonal commitments for Task Force collaboration. The Facilitator requested that task members

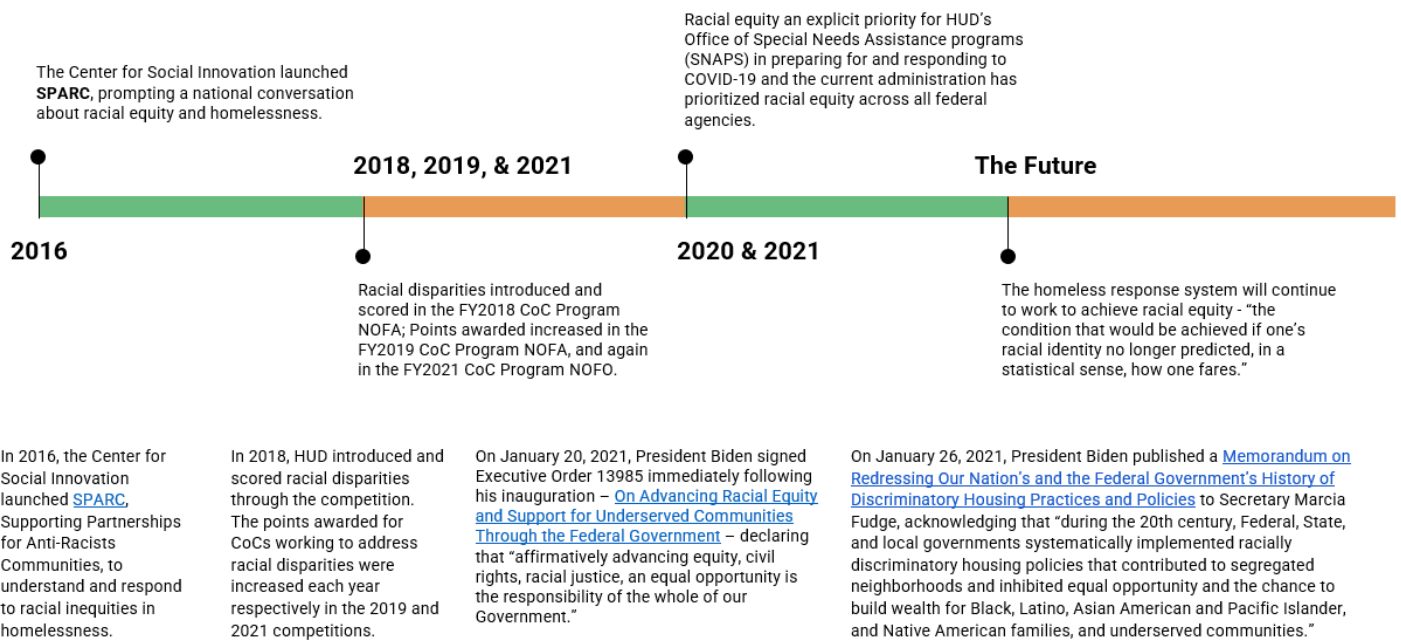
Agenda topic: Collaboration |

The Facilitator asked Task Force members to consider remote and interpersonal commitments for engagement during meetings. Remote commitments included: share your thoughts, mute if not talking, pets welcome, crafting is encouraged, and snacking welcome. Interpersonal commitments included: give

grace and forgiveness, be thoughtful and compassionate, engage in lively conversation even if it feels awkward, take good care – manage your boundaries, take space and make space – openly share and support your colleagues as they openly share experiences, and 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: Federal Funding & Policy Context |

The Facilitator provided background context from the federal funding and policy lens that prompted a national discussion on racial disparities in homelessness.



The Facilitator provided additional framing about leading with racial equity as the starting point as we move towards the goal of achieving access for all historically excluded and minoritized members of the community.

Historically minoritized and excluded: refers to individuals or groups that have historically had less economic, social, and political power or representation based on race, religion, ethnic origin, gender, or disability due to their systematic and intentional exclusion because of social constructs that continue to persist in modern-day society.

Agenda topic: Larger Social/Other Context |

Task Force members were invited to identify key trends/and or conditions that might affect our ability to achieve success in the greater universe/world, country/continent, and state. Task Force members added their thoughts, placing an asterisk (*) next to shared ideas:

Greater universe/world	Country/Continent	State
NOW	NOW	NOW

Greater universe/world	Country/Continent	State
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Climate change, immigrant, and refugee • <i>COVID variants</i> • <i>Housing is conditional</i> • <i>Climate change is devastating our local response systems. Wildfires, ice storms, heat waves</i> • Wage gap between demographics 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Wage disparity • Unwillingness to go to the root of inequity, governments have largely created the structure that allowed inequities to emerge. Little conversation about distributive justice, land reform** • Lack of historical restitution • Housing systems centered in oppression** • How communities are designed versus how they are actually used • Increasing calls to criminalize homelessness • Housing access has always been unequal due to racist roots of housing system • Lack of true community collaboration • More resources are needed to fully address the needs.** • impact of inflation on survivors ability to maintain housing. This is a national concern • Racial justice is more visible/ used as a term but not understood or committed to on a deep level • Long history of social services/ social work perpetuating oppression • Growing BIPOC population deserving more targeted services instead of continually being underserved* 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Rising inequity*** • Funding for under-resourced areas of the state • Lack of coordination between government systems, private/public, and lack of access to those systems for culturally specific orgs, new/emerging community-based orgs • increase of homelessness for trans-survivors of domestic and sexual violence. Specifically black trans women • Systemic racism; BIPOC • History of a *very* closed network of distribution ** • Need to grow our resource base, act in unity and advocacy for each other.* • Legally, the State cannot contract directly with culturally specific agencies for anti-poverty programming - this is equal access issue • The city feeling unsafe for Black people • Lack of political will to fund the values we say are important • Growing BIPOC population deserving more targeted services instead of continually being underserved • Lack of land to develop for affordable housing across the board** • Massive rise of unsheltered homelessness; enormous disabilities, barriers, and hostile local policies* • Inequities exist regardless of where you live. • Ensuring geographic equity.** • System coordination and accountability** • Identifying racial disparities at ALL levels of the system not just service providers.
<p>INTO THE FUTURE</p>		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Race doesn't predict how one fares** • Housing as a human right 		
	<p>INTO THE FUTURE</p>	
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Everyone has a place to call home* • Housing as a human right in the political economy of capitalism* 	

Greater universe/world	Country/Continent	State
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Oregon’s racist past (and some would argue present)* • Outside monied interests • Being a “blue state” many on the left/ liberals/ progressives won’t acknowledge their racial biases or investment in unequal systems • Lack of data in rural communities and disaggregated by race/ethnicity****
		<p>INTO THE FUTURE</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Affordable housing throughout the state with different types. Including SRO’s. • Increase of Resources

Agenda topic: Human Centering |

The discovery team has access to all publicly available resources but would like to tap into the deep lived experience and professional wisdom of the Task Force to help develop and direct Discovery Planning. Task Force members were asked for help in understanding perspectives of those historically marginalized and excluded through human centering. The facilitation team developed a few “key perspectives” categories: BIPOC communities, immigrants and refugees, wildfire impacted, LGBTQIA+, women-identified, people with disabilities, and age-specific.

Task Force members were encouraged to identify additional key perspectives, groups, subgroups, names, organizations, and resources that come to mind. Members of the public were invited to participate in a live poll to share their own ideas. Members of the public identified: Hacienda CDC, Operation Welcome Home, Rep. Julie Fahey, elderly, unsheltered women, Pacific Island community, and homeless women.

Task Force members self-identified across key perspectives and added other key people, resources, and organizations:

Key Perspectives	WHO?
<p>BIPOC Communities</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Black folks • Tribal Nations • Culturally Specific AAPI (underrepresented in data sets) • Community Action Agencies’ Subcontractors and/or those who’ve attempted to contract with them in the past and haven’t been successful • ? 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Sami Jo Difuntorum, Tribal Housing • Alan Evans Helping Hands reentry • Jennifer Parrish Taylor, ULDPDX - Policy Recommendations • Marisa Espinoza- NW Pilot Project (urban social service provider for unstably housed/ houseless older adults) • Jimmy Jones - Housing provider, eviction prevention assistance, shelter provider, outreach services, energy services, farm workers). • Paula Hall - Service Provider and work in tandem with local tribe (CTUIR) • City/county entitlement staff who grant to BIPOC community groups (most recently CARES Act CDBG rent assistance, but other funds as well: https://www.hud.gov/states/oregon/community/cdbg) • Keith Jenkins, SOBLAAC

Key Perspectives

WHO?

Immigrants and Refugees

- Latine rural migrant farmworkers
- Culturally Specific AAPI (underrepresented in data sets)
- African Immigrants
- ?

Wildfire Impacted

- ?
- ?

LGBTQIA+

- Trans youth
- Survivors of Domestic and Sexual Violence
- Black Trans Women
- ?

Women identified (generally)

- Survivors of Domestic and Sexual Violence
- Single Mothers (Female-Headed Households)
- ?
- ?

People with Disabilities

- Mental health consumers
- I/DD
- People engaged with aging services/ in home services in independent housing (IADL/ ADL assistance)

Age-Specific

- Minor Children
- Youth and young adults
- Rural Elderly
- Older adults living on 0-30% AMI

Higher Ed Institutions

- ?
- University/College Students and Staff
- ?

Local Officials/ Elected Officials

- County Commissioners

- Paul Lumley, Native American Youth and Family Center
- Aimee Thompson, Native American Rehabilitation Association (NARA)

- David DiMatteo, Latino Network - Goals 1 + 2
- Paula Hall, CAPECO, Farmworker Housing, Rural migrants
- IRCO
- AYCO
- Africa House

- Jimmy Jones, Wildfire survivors, especially pre-wildfire homeless
- Alan Evans
- Paula Hall; not wildfire survivors but working with families impacted by a federally-designated emergency due to flood in Umatilla County.
- Anne Lewis, Siletz Business Corp, Wildfire Impacted Housing
- ?

- Jimmy Jones (RHY Shelter Provider, heavily serving trans youth)
- Helping Hands- Bybee lakes hope center?

- Paula Hall, Service Provider and local contractor for housing navigations services.
- Helping Hands Reentry
- Jimmy Jones, Unsheltered women, nearly 50% of our homeless population locally, family housing programs, shelter provider, warming network).
- Kim Lane, Siletz DV program admin.

- Marisa Espinoza, nWPP
- Jimmy Jones, homeless project focused on high needs chronically homeless clients; many with physical, mental, or substance related disabilities.
- Paula Hall, currently serve people with disabilities through Area Agency on Aging.
- Community Developmental Disabilities Programs

- Sami Jo Difuntorum, Tribal Elders, 0- 30% AMI
- AARP - recent study on rural elderly and housing cost burden
- Paula Hall, we serve as the Area Agency on Aging (aging-in-place) services in seven counties.
- Marisa Espinoza, NWPP
- Helping Hands reentry - Bybee lakes hope center
- Merkley held a presentation talking about how a fair amount of students and faculty are houseless
- Homeless Research Action Center (Portland State University)

- Local government housing program staff
- Local housing authorities

Key Perspectives

- Mayors/City Councilors

WHO?

- Local/county public health and behavioral health

Religious Organizations

- ?

Behavioral Health

- BH providers
- Peers
- People with lived experience

- Association of Community Mental Health Programs

Agenda topic: *Small Group Discovery Activity* |

Task Force members were randomly assigned to small breakout groups across different domains related to the goals of the Task Force. Task Force members noted the greatest challenges, greatest opportunities and ideas, and provided input on discovery questions.

Group 1: Alan Evans, Ariel Nelson

GOAL 1 Decrease Disparity

Identify and investigate **methods by which the state may decrease rates of racial disparity** among people experiencing homelessness and receiving services.

Greatest challenges to decreasing racial disparity	Greatest opportunities and ideas for reducing racial disparity	Discovery Questions: What do you need to know to make decisions regarding the above?
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Moving from vision to implementation - Colonized thinking* - People have adapted to the current system. Systemic change needs to happen. - Communities are siloed due to current funding structure - Imbalance of resource distribution - Lack of broad understanding and acknowledgement of racial disparities in homelessness, even among service providers - Lack of clarity on what methods are most effective to reduce disparities - Lack of trust on the part of funders that communities of color can devise and implement solutions - or have the ability to scale up 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Aligning funding changes with policy changes - Point-in-time awareness. A lot of things were brought to light. - need to break down silos - Education and sharing best practices between communities on understanding and addressing racial disparities - Access to funding/ability to compete - Increase capacity for communities of color to deliver services and resources and/or provide linkage to these 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - What are the causes of racial disparity? - What problems must we address? - What can the state do/not do? - What are the concerns related to making change to the current system? Would like to better understand - What are alternative models that deliver results (outside of Oregon/ US, etc) -

Group 2: Jennifer Parrish Taylor and Jimmy Jones

GOAL 2
Identify
Needs

Consider existing methods and recommend additional methods by which the Housing and Community Services Department and Oregon Housing Stability Council may **receive advice and information about needed services** for individuals experiencing homelessness and housing insecurity.

Greatest challenges to identifying and sharing needs	Greatest opportunities and ideas for identifying and sharing needs	Discovery Questions: What do you need to know to make decisions regarding the above?
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Time to be intentional and thoughtful - There doesn't exist a mechanism by which consumers can give input or inform on their experience to improve the process - Not doing the way in an intersectional and holistic way - Agency needs more staff capacity to engage with local communities-respond to issues - Agencies do not trust community based organizations, that are often BIPOC lead to do the work - Reporting requirements are the death of fundamental societal changes - Many agency members have not done community based work - Many shelters operate from a consumer based model instead of a holistic one that provides wrap around 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Reconsider who we call "experts" - talk to those most impacted by homelessness and housing insecurity - Greater transparency regarding information and information sharing - Centering those most impacted - stipends/compensation for people experiencing homelessness or with previous experience to engage in state and local processes - Need for usable/accessible data - HMIS needs updating/funding, but also ability to incorporate other systems 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Who is best positioned to know what individuals need? - Who is best positioned to communicate needs to HCSD and OHSC? - What resources are needed at HCSD and OHSC to stay up to date with evolving needs? - How do we do "race-neutral" policies that are targeted to those most impacted? - Has a census been conducted by our houseless neighbors asking them what the barriers to access are?

Group 3: Katrina Holland, Lizzy Atwood Wills

GOAL 3
Change
Funding
Structure

Identify and investigate **potential changes in this state's funding structure** to address racial disparities among people experiencing homelessness and housing insecurity, including consideration of how housing transition of services delivery could be implemented to avoid service disruptions among people experiencing homelessness or housing insecurity.

Greatest challenges to changing the funding structure	Greatest opportunities and ideas for changing the funding structure	Discovery Questions: What do you need to know to make decisions regarding the above? Who and where might we find answers?
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Gaining consensus on approach without causing harm in the process - Funding structure in place for decades- means a big shift - If structure changes, does that mean less resources for more providers? - Competitive RFPs don't have the best reputation for equitable distribution - Political tensions could increase - Limited staffing for contract managers - All of Oregon matters and therefore all of Oregon needs to receive federal and state resources 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Looking at other sectors that intersect homelesses to maximize opportunities - Improved access to funding for community based organizations - Stronger accountability for equitable outcomes for providers - Additional resources for all housing providers - Could increase visibility to the Legislature for the volume of need for housing services, possibly leading to more funding from the state - Improved visibility of programmatic hiccups - Adding providers 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - What is the state's current funding structure? What is working, and can improve? - Let's delineate current funding that is being used for operations and other programming outside of currently housing formerly houseless individuals (aka. If you take the funding away, they become homeless) - What are the concerns related to changing the current system? Would like to better understand - To address existing competition, what are CAAs current procurement processes?

Group 4: Marisa, Sami Jo, Paula

**GOAL 4
Modify
Contracting**

Identify and investigate methods by which the Housing and Community Services Department and Oregon Housing Stability Council may **modify contracting process and eligibility** for providers of services for individuals experiencing homelessness and housing insecurity.

Greatest challenges to modifying contracting and eligibility?	Greatest opportunities and ideas for modifying contracting and eligibility?	Discovery Questions: What do you need to know to make decisions regarding the above? Who and where might we find answers?
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Requires Legislative approval* - Not everyone wants change 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Looking at what other states have done to develop a baseline understanding of possibilities* - Being more thoughtful in the approach. - Bringing on more providers but not by negatively impacting current providers. - Recognizing each area (region) is unique. - Look at competitive models in other sectors (i.e. healthcare/ OHA) and identify what can be replicated 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - What is the state's current process for contracting and eligibility? What is working, and can improve? - Which funds are we discussing. All in? Or specific funding streams?

Agenda topic: Co-Chair Brainstorm |

Task Force members were asked to volunteer and/or nominate individuals to be considered for Chair and Co-Chair of the Task Force as required in HB 2100. There were zero volunteers and four nominations: Ariel Nelson, Jimmy Jones, Jennifer Parrish Taylor, and Katrina Holland. At least three Task Force members really recommend a chair and co-chair that are untied to existing funding both as contractors and/or subcontractors.

Agenda topic: Next Steps & Closing |

Task Force members were asked to share what worked for the meeting (plus) and what didn't work for the meeting (delta).

Plus	Delta
Working groups	Trouble with Teams (encouragement to use Zoom)**
Breakout groups	Inputting comments all at the same time is sometimes confusing
Loved the conversation in my breakout group.	I would have liked to hear what brings folks to the work and what sustains them*
Enlightening	Slide correlation to breakout groups*
Enjoyed the interactive slides and breakout groups	Not sure how many breakout groups there were and if you have capacity,, but might be helpful to have facilitators drop into each room to check and make sure groups are clear on instructions/answer questions

Next steps that Task Force members could anticipate included:

- Schedule interviews with Task Force members
- Schedule future Task Force meetings
- Schedule agenda review meetings with Leads
- Develop discovery plan and roadmap
- Initiate discovery (survey, ecosystem interviews)
- Send out resource information/library (if/as needed)

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