



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

Meeting date | time **November 16, 2022, | 5:00–6:22pm** | Meeting location
Virtual

Facilitators	Mary Frances Kenion	Task Force Members in Attendance: Paula Hall, Rep. Wlinsvay Campos, Jennifer Parrish Taylor, Marisa Espinoza, Katrina Holland, Ariel Nelson, Alan Evans, Gustavo Morales, Jill Smith, Jessica Pratt, Nicole Witham Non-Voting Proxies: Ashley Hamilton (proxy for Jimmy Jones) <i>Additional attendees included members of the public.</i>
Note Taker + Timekeeper	Nitan Shanas	

AGENDA TOPICS

Agenda topic: **Agenda Overview** |

Facilitators shared an overview of the agenda which included:

- Welcome/Roll Call/Acknowledge of Public
 - Member Transitions & Appointment Updates
- Executive Order 22–21
- Subcommittee Support Updates
- Introducing the OHCS Team
- OHCS Funding Process
 - Q&A and Other Perspectives
- Closeout

Agenda topic: **Welcome/Roll Call** |

The meeting was opened with a welcome, formal roll call*.

**All Task Force members and non-voting proxies listed above.*

Agenda topic: **Member Transitions & Appointment Updates** |

The Facilitator announced the departure of Sami Jo Difuntorum, Housing Executive Director for the Confederated Tribes of Siletz Indians and expressed gratitude for her contributions to the Task Force. Additionally, the Facilitator welcomed Maria Vargas from Latino Network whose appointment to the Task Force is pending.

Agenda topic: Executive Order 22-21

The Facilitator shared language from Executive Order 22-21, signed by Governor Brown, that established the Oregon Interagency Council on Homelessness which highlights the recommendation by the Task Force.

Establishing the Oregon Interagency Council on Homelessness

"Whereas, it has been recommended by a state task force that in order to decrease rates of racial disparity among people experiencing homelessness, the state should transform its systems to: (1) share decision-making power with people with lived expertise and experience of homelessness, (2) improve data collection to better understand the scope and impact of homelessness and how it varies by geography, (3) increase access through targeted strategies, and (4) adopt continuous quality improvement processes and an orientation that prioritizes learning, experimentation, and iteration in the development of all statutes and rules; all of which can be pursued through high-level interagency collaboration within the state government."

Agenda topic: Subcommittee Support

The Facilitator reviewed the rotating subcommittee structure:

Rotating Subcommittees

Change State's Funding Structure

- Examine goal 3 recommendations (p. 32-33)
- Identify implementation pathways for each recommendation where relevant

Modify Contracting Process & Eligibility

- Examine goal 4 recommendations (p. 33-34)
- Identify implementation pathways for each recommendation where relevant

Funding of Services "Solutioning"

- Review existing rules and statutes
 - Delivery + eligibility
 - Information receipt + distribution by the state
 - Methods for addressing racial disparities
- Examine recommendations from goals 1-2 (p. 31+32)
- Identify implementation pathways for each recommendation where relevant

Agenda topic: Introducing the OHCS Team

The Facilitator introduced the OHCS Team that will be supporting the Subcommittees. OHCS staff in attendance at the meeting introduced themselves to the Task Force.

Tentative OHCS Support for Subcommittees

Change State's Funding Structure

OHCS Staff Support:

Judy Hui-Pasquini

Modify Contracting Process & Eligibility

OHCS Staff Support:

Lisè Stuart & Joshua Fleming

Funding of Services "Solutioning"

OHCS Staff Support:

Mike Savara & Liz Weber

Notetaking support for each subcommittee will be provided by the facilitation team.

Agenda topic: Overview of OHCS Funding Process

- Legislature allocates current service level funding to OHCS
 - Allocation of state funding to OHCS, allocation of federal funding received by OHCS to administer a combination of state and federal funds (e.g., Housing and Urban Development, Health and Human Services, etc.)
 - CSBG is exclusively administered to Community Action Agencies as a federal requirement
 - How OHCS administers resources across the state is aligned with federal requirements for CSBG funding administration for anti-poverty work
- OHCS utilizes data to create a formula that divides the resources up across 18 Community Action Agencies
- OHCS issues the formulas to Community Action Agencies for the upcoming fiscal year, broken out by program
- Master Grant Agreements (MGAs) are signed, Implementation Reports are approved, and budgets are loaded into financial systems
- OHCS issues the Master Grant Agreement to the 18 Community Action Agencies for their review and signature – the agreements contain multiple grant programs.
- OHCS creates an Implementation Report for each program that Community Action Agencies must complete, including program implementation details and budgets
- Funds are spent down by Community Action Agencies who enter into subrecipient agreements
- OHCS gets a sense of the amount of funding it will receive during the appropriations process.
- The amount of funding allocations to OHCS has increased over the last few years.
- OHCS uses data to create a formula that divides the resources up across the 18 Community Action Agencies (17 are geographic and 1 is population specific for rural migrant farmworkers across the state)
- Every formula is slightly different, but they are generally looking at a variety of data sources including Point-In-Time Count, Census, and other publicly available data sources
- Formulas are issued to Community Action Agencies who get notified what percent of the funding they will receive for each grant type
- Implementation reports help OHCS understand about the funding use in each community.
- It is the responsibility of Community Action Agencies to design their local system based on strategies and needs – OHCS can approve or deny these reports and provide edits/feedback.

- Sample questions include: What are you going to spend the money on? What are your strategies for outreach? What does it look like for you to include other organizations? Who are your subrecipients and partners? What type of culturally-specific/culturally responsive services will you be providing?
- OHCS issues the Master Grant Agreement to Community Action Agencies for their review and signature inclusive of all the terms and conditions that they are required to adhere to, along with different exhibits that include programmatic elements.
- If additional funding is needed (e.g., for an emergency) in the middle of a biennium an amendment is made to the Master Grant Agreement instead of creating a new one.
- After Implementation Reports and Master Grant Agreements are completed, the budgets are loaded into financial systems.

Agenda topic: Q&A and Other Perspectives

The Facilitator opened the meeting for Q&A and the range of perspectives from Task Force members in attendance at subcommittee meetings. Feedback included:

- The current funding structure seems to be leaving out a segment of organizations that are doing critical work but must rely on their relationships with Community Action Agencies to get some form of funding.
- Thinking through a recommendation where some money is set aside, flexible money where organizations that aren't already in the flow of the funding structure have an opportunity to compete or bring forth ideas of how they're solving crises in their community and would have access to level funding, inclusive of capacity building.
- Organizations that serve multiple counties, agencies and communities have no access to funding (e.g., SHAP) and historically when we did, the money never reached the service because it got funneled to admin and data entry.
- There's not competition outside of the Community Action Agencies because of the funding structure...there's great agencies out there providing wonderful services that don't get access to apply.
- Community Action Agencies spend an astronomical amount of money on data...we now spend more than 50% on basically data collection, whether it's the intake worker, the street outreach, the case manager, collecting data versus really helping personalizing case plans and so forth.
- Data is a requirement for any funding you receive from any government entity – as long as we're spending tax dollars, we have these requirements imposed upon us to be able to report on, measure and describe how we're using the funding and hopefully be able to measure our outcomes and look across the system and what's working, what's not, and speak to our legislative body.
- The Facilitator noted that there is some work being done at the state level to improve reporting efficiencies.
- The suggestion for a potential recommendation to set aside funding for innovation, infrastructure, and capacity building for organizations that can do equity work was reaffirmed.
- A suggestion to have an idea board where recommendations are represented in one place would be helpful.
- Data and admin requirements are not going away and becoming more cumbersome, probably especially in the field of homelessness – having some dollars knowing what the requirements are to fund staffing to meet the demand could be a recommendation.

- Data is an asset, shouldn't be characterized as admin, and should be funded separately as a recommendation.
- **Q:** is there an update on the state's data lake that will allow different data sets to be fed into?
A: The data lake is live in 4 of the 8 CoCs in Oregon. Data governance conversations are evolving – Oregon is about a year away from finalizing the data governance piece to be able to use the data lake.
- It's important to have accurate data when you are centering Black and Brown communities to help inform the state how to budget resources accordingly – it's an accountability tool.
- **Q:** At the national level is there a state that's been in the same situation that's figured it out or that we could have come talk to us? **A:** Yes, the state of Virginia went through a transformational process and would likely be willing to come talk to the subcommittees.

Additional dialogue captured via meeting recording.

Agenda topic: Closing

The December Task Force meeting will be cancelled considering ongoing subcommittee meetings and the holiday season.

The Task Force meeting was concluded at 6:22 p.m.