



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

Meeting date | time **May 19, 2022** | **5:00-5:59pm** | Meeting location **Virtual**

Facilitator Mary Frances Kenion

Note Taker + Timekeeper Mary Frances Kenion

Task Force Members in Attendance: Alan Evans, Ariel Nelson, Jessica Pratt, Jennifer Parrish Taylor, Paula Hall, Marisa Espinoza, Nicole Witham, Sen. Kayse Jama,

Additional attendees included members of the public.

AGENDA TOPICS

Agenda topic: **Agenda Overview** |

The Facilitator shared the session agenda which included:

- Welcome/Introductions
- Task Force Members
- Task Force Survey Results
- Timeline
- What's Next

Agenda topic: **Task Force Members** |

Task Force members were provided updates to the current Task Force roster and informed that two prior appointees have been unable to engage and therefore not listed. The Task Force was informed that historically, no more than 14 members have been present at each meeting although there are supposed to be 19 members.

Task Force Members 3

- ▶ Ariel Nelson, League of Oregon Cities
- ▶ *Jessica Pratt, Association of Oregon Counties
- ▶ Jimmy Jones, Mid-Willamette Valley Community Action Agency
- ▶ Paula Hall, Community Action Program of East Central Oregon
- ▶ Jennifer Parrish Taylor, Urban League of Portland
- ▶ Katrina Holland, JOIN
- ▶ Marisa Espinoza, Northwest Pilot Project
- ▶ Vanessa Timmons, Oregon Coalition Against Domestic & Sexual Violence
- ▶ Nicole Witham, Northern Jackson County Community Member
- ▶ Alan Evans, Helping Hands Re-Entry
- ▶ Sami Jo Difuntorum, Siletz Tribal Housing Department
- ▶ *Jill Smith, Oregon Housing & Community Services Department
- ▶ Sen. Kayse Jama
- ▶ Sen. Dick Anderson
- ▶ Rep. Winsvey Campos
- ▶ Rep. Jack Zika
- ▶ Marcus Mundy, Coalition of Communities of Color

*denotes new member

Agenda topic: **Task Force Survey Results** |

The Facilitator provided a high-level summary of Task Force survey results which included:

- 50% response rate from members
- Task Force members were aligned on the desire to have more time, more time together, and more time to make decisions
- Task Force members noted that virtual meetings are okay, but at least one in-person meeting would be nice
- Task Force members had varied communication preferences
- Task Force members desired continued supportive staffing for notetaking, facilitating, meeting materials, and expert input

Agenda topic: *Timeline* |

The Facilitator revisited the timeline of work previously completed by the Task Force, noted the extension of the Task Force through 2026, and identified the new charge of identifying implementation pathways for previous recommendations. Additionally, the Facilitator noted that an interim report to the Legislative Assembly and Oregon Housing Stability Council is due on 9/15/22, followed by final report on 3/31/23.

The Facilitator talked through House Bill 4051 which outlines the new charge in greater detail:

House Bill 4051 6

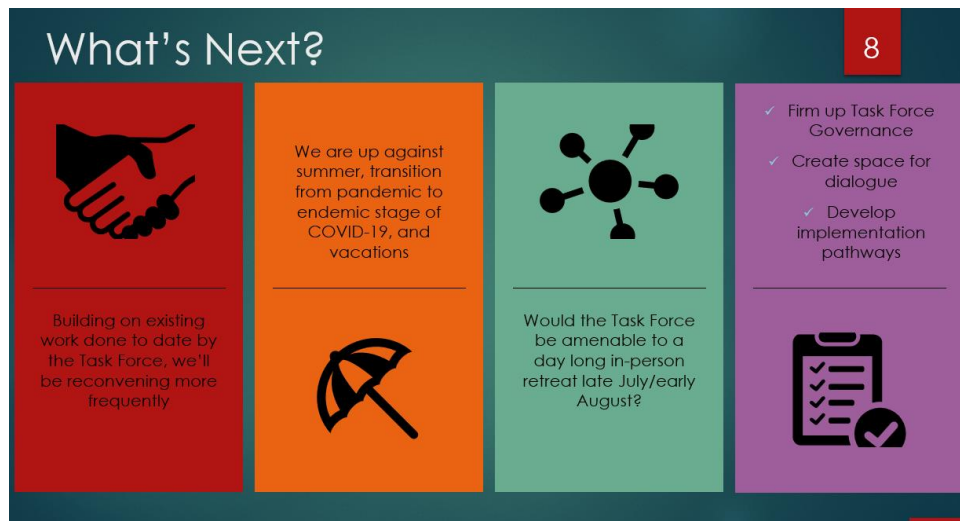
- ▶ Extended the Task Force on Homelessness and Racial Disparities through December 2025
- ▶ Charged the Task Force with "specifically identifying implementation pathways for changes to the state's funding structure, modifications for contracting processes and solutions regarding the eligibility and funding of services under section 7 (3)(b), (d) and (e), chapter 448, Oregon Laws 2021."
- ▶ Expect an interim report by September 15, 2022, and final report by March 31, 2023
- ▶ Create an opportunity for the Task Force to develop and deliver additional reports to the Legislative Assembly or Housing Stability Council

Chapter 448, Oregon Laws 2021 7

- ▶ **Section 7 (3) states the task force shall:**
 - ▶ (b) 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
 - ▶ (d) Identify and investigate methods by which the Housing and Community Services Department and Housing Stability Council may modify contracting process and eligibility for providers of services for individuals experiencing homelessness and housing insecurity
 - ▶ (e) Recommend solutions regarding the funding of services for individuals experiencing homelessness or housing insecurity, including legislation or rulemaking and modifications to:
 - A. The delivery and eligibility requirements for federal and state funds;
 - B. The receipt and distribution of information about homelessness services by the state; and
 - C. Methods for addressing racial disparities

Agenda topic: *What's Next* |

After sharing next steps (highlighted below), the Facilitator opened discussion around next steps for the Task Force.



Task Force members had an open dialogue about next steps which included:

- **Proxies** - The Facilitator noted that Task Force members can send a proxy as summer schedules might be restricted due to work and/or time off
 - Task Force members affirmed the option of being able to have a proxy
- **In-person Retreat** - Several Task Force members suggested that a day long retreat would be nice with advance notice and in September
 - It was noted that Legislative Days in September would not be an optimal time for a retreat
 - A variety of options for locations for a one-day in-person retreat were offered with Task Force members uplifting a central location as an opportunity
- **Regular Meeting Cadence** - Monthly meetings on a Tuesday – Thursday after 5 pm was feasible for most Task Force members present for a regular meeting cadence
- **Outreach to Task Force Members Not Present** - The Facilitator will conduct outreach to Task Force members via e-mail to gain consensus on a standing meeting time moving forward and propose some options for an in-person retreat

Identified needs for next steps included:

- Developing a baseline understanding of racial equity and level setting about what we mean when we talk about equity
- Understanding the way people experience service provision (baseline of where we are with services and how services are received)
- Building space to learn about each other's organizations and agencies with the option for site visits
- Examine existing policies including funder processes that result from such policies such as the application for grants, grants management, prerequisites, etc.
 - There might be things that we can work on to reduce disparities for people experiencing homelessness right now

Task Force questions included [paraphrased]:

- It was noted that HUD requires Continuums of Care to use HMIS and a coordinated entry system with common usage of the VI-SPDAT which is proven to be biased – why should its use continue?

- On some of the things that we've voted on that were pushed forward, did that include an audit of Oregon Housing and Community Services? Has that work started?
 - Mike Savara noted that an audit by the secretary of state's office for the Emergency Rental Assistance Program and just they just completed an audit for COVID Relief Funds.
- To what degree would we be able to say that the report that we produced earlier this year based on the meetings that we did have would give us sufficient information and how do we avoid duplicating efforts and spending more time in analysis mode?

The Task Force meeting was concluded at 5:59 p.m.