



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

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**Meeting date | time August 17, 2022, | 5:03-6:29pm | Meeting location Virtual**

**Facilitator** Mary Frances Kenion  
**Note Taker + Timekeeper** Mary Frances Kenion & Kenisha Bryant

**Task Force Members in Attendance:** Ariel Nelson, Jessica Pratt, Paula Hall, Ashley Hamilton (proxy for Jimmy Jones), Jennifer Parrish Taylor, Marisa Espinoza, Rowan Schwartz (proxy for Vanessa Timmons), Nicole Witham, Rep. Wlinsvey Campos, Rep. Jack Zika, Katrina Holland, Jill Smith

*Additional attendees included members of the public.*

## AGENDA TOPICS

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### Agenda topic: Agenda Overview |

Facilitators shared the agenda overview which included:

- Welcome/Roll Call
- Problem Statement
- HB 4051 Guidance
- HB 2100 Reforms
- Task Force Recommendations
- Task Force Retreat Update

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### Agenda topic: Welcome/Roll Call |

Facilitator opened the meeting with roll call and reviewed the agenda.

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### Agenda topic: Problem Statement |

The Facilitator reviewed the HB 2100 Problem Statement voted for as part of the Report on Findings and Recommendations submitted to the Oregon Legislative Assembly:

*Oregon has a unique and complex opportunity to reimagine its current homeless services funding system and structure in pursuit of racial equity and justice, demanding both immediate action and a long-term commitment to achieve: 1) alignment, 2) structural change across philosophical differences and historical positionality within existing structures, and 3) adequate resources to effectuate the transformational change required to reduce racial disparities by people experiencing homelessness.*

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### Agenda topic: HB 4051 |

The Facilitator revisited HB 4051 and the new charge ahead of the Task Force:

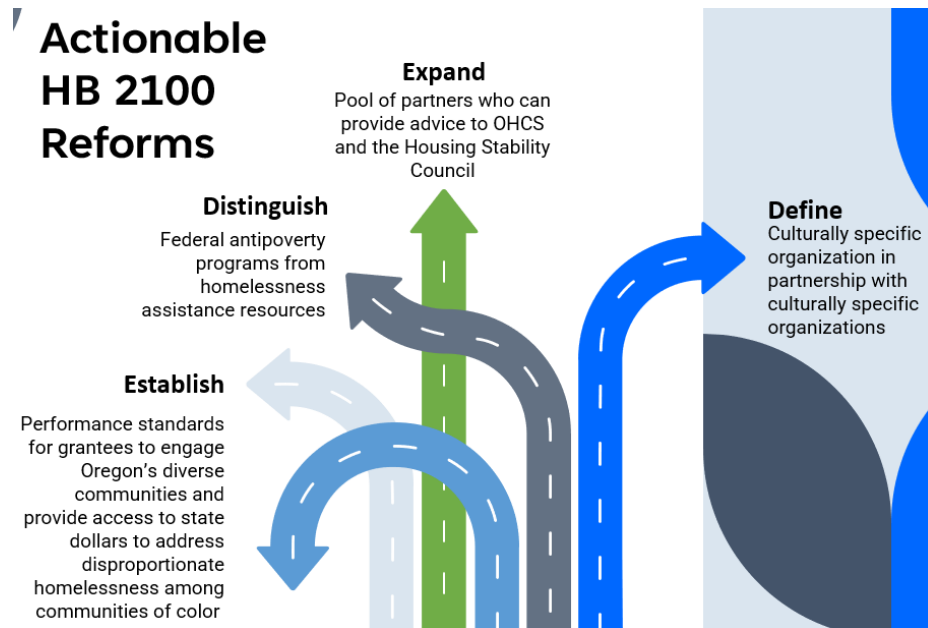
- “Specifically identifying implementation pathways for changes to the state’s funding structure, modifications for contracting processes and solutions regarding the eligibility and funding of services under section 7 (3)(b), (d) and (e), chapter 448, Oregon Laws 2021.”

Key deliverables were noted by the facilitator which include an interim report by September 15, 2022, and final report by March 31, 2023.

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**Agenda topic: HB 2100 Reforms |**

The Facilitator brought into focus components of HB 2100 beyond establishing the Task Force which included several key reforms:



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**Agenda topic: Task Force Recommendations & Potential Implementation Pathways |**

The Facilitator shared Task Force recommendations with *potential implementation pathways to serve as conversation starters* developed by different members of the Discovery Team that have experience with respect to implementing similar recommendations in different communities across the country. It was further noted that Task Force members would have the opportunity to weigh in and do refinement during the September retreat, particularly around changing the state funding structure and modifying contracting processes.

\*Please note that recommendations and corresponding potential implementation pathways are not listed below and are available on the final PDF version of the PowerPoint slide deck (publicly posted) with high-level summary captured underneath each section. The meeting recording is available for full details (also publicly posted).

Prior to diving into the recommendations and potential implementation pathways, a Task Force member expressed concern about lacking participation and broad representation within the Task Force membership. The Facilitator noted that no votes were to be held during the meeting (quorum was established during roll call).

**Goal 1: Decrease Disparate Impact of Homelessness on Communities of Color (slides 9-17)**

Task Force dialogue included, but is not limited to:

- Suggestion to look at state agencies who have an equity lens (e.g., DHS, OHA, OHCS, etc.) to discover criteria and work to align

- Comment on lack of adequate funding in homeless services, specifically for culturally specific organizations – “we need to be adding to the pie, not just looking at how to divide the current pie”
- Comment that some rural counties have pointed out a lack of infrastructure for community organizations that represent people of color with a suggestion to earmark funding to develop that infrastructure and provide technical assistance
- Comment that noted increasing the amount of funding, but also looking at reevaluating the funding structure – “absolutely we need more funding across the board, but we also need to see what’s working, what’s not working”
- Comment that the Task Force represents the opportunity to think outside the box – “how do we holistically fund the need and holistically fund the changing service provider structure...and how do we make sure we’re extending funding opportunities, capacity, infrastructure and not perpetuating the racial barriers that are in the current system”
- Comment that waiting for a metaphorical pie to be grown to make changes
- Comment that OHCS is requesting record setting amounts of funding especially related to homeless services and housing retention
- Suggestion to do an analysis of where culturally specific organizations are and what level of coverage there is, inclusive of those that may fly under the radar
- Comment to expand on culturally specific organization mapping to include informal networks (e.g., mutual aid communities)
- Comment that noted intent of recommendation to establish interagency council was to achieve greater alignment with related funding sources, timelines, and use of comparable equity criteria to make application process more accessible, predictable, and understandable

## Goal 2: Identify Needs (slides 18-23)

Facilitator noted that the structure of goal 2 is structured differently compared to goal 1 – it outlines the recommendations separately, which key action steps follow.

Task Force dialogue included, but is not limited to:

- Comment that suggested involving culturally specific organizations in a measurable way (e.g., helping develop RFPs and reducing additional barriers to applying)
- Comment that all corners of the state be able to provide input to ensure geographic diversity is included
- Comment to note that engaging people with lived experience should involve compensation, but also ensuring participation is easy for them (e.g., going to them for meetings)
- Comment related to engaging people with lived experience to have some kind of mechanism for the work to make an impact on the daily operations and policy decisions of an agency

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## Agenda topic: **Retreat** |

- Friday, September 9<sup>th</sup> from 9:30am – 4:30pm
- League of Oregon Cities (*located in Local Government Center*)
  - 1201 Court Street, NE, Suite 200  
Salem, OR 97301
- Agenda provided no later than two weeks prior to the retreat – please surface any items you would like to be included via email no later than Thursday, August 25<sup>th</sup>
- Hybrid option provided for those unable to attend in person

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**Agenda topic: *Check-out* |**

**The Task Force meeting was concluded at 6:29 p.m.**