Oregon Disaster Housing Task Force Meeting

Meeting Summary – Thursday December 17th at 2:30pm

Opening Remarks

Chair Kim Travis: Kim got the meeting underway at 2:34 p.m. Caleb Yant provided brief opening comments, thanking everyone for all their contributions. He extended a special thank you to HUD. He noted that an assessment for agricultural worker housing in Southern Oregon is about to be underway. He is happy about the important partnerships that are part of that assessment. Kim then went over the agenda.

To Access the Meeting Recording Click HERE

OEM Updates – Stan Thomas and Joseph Murray

Joseph noted that OEM is still working with Douglas and Lane counties in efforts to have them added to the direct housing mission. He talked briefly about long-recovery committees that have been established in most of the eight counties declared for Individual Assistance (IA); these are voluntary organization led efforts.

He provided an update on Individual Assistance, noting that the ARC is utilizing 56 non-congregate shelters (motels/hotels) with 554 rooms that house 1,038 clients; As of COB on Monday – the most recent report available – FEMA has approved approximately \$30.9 million in IHP, comprised of \$24.5 million in Housing Assistance and just over \$6.3 million in Other Needs Assistance (ONA). These numbers are now climbing much more slowly.

In direct housing, FEMA has approved 278 families – a number that changes a bit from day to day – and currently has 20 families licensed-in. Of the 278 approved, 78 people are reporting Access and Functional Needs.

The SBA has approved 493 low interest loans for more than \$53 million. They have another 2000 or so loan applications under review.

The Feeding Task Force has finished its feeding plan to provide culturally appropriate meals for the upcoming holidays. For the MASTT, they have completed hiring for five data specialists. They will also be posting 12 positions to assist with NCS. They will be looking out to the survivor community for a preference for these positions.

• Disaster Housing Recovery Action Plan Framework

Participants were broken into 4 small Group Discussion to review the Disaster Housing Recovery Action Plan Framework and provide initial feedback.

• <u>Disaster Case Management Jeff Gilbert, ODHS</u>

The Task Force received a Shelter brief. Jeff mentioned that Carole Stevenson [also a participant in the meeting] helped write the grant. DCM will use VisionLink software, and will be delivered mostly through existing CBOs and existing community service providers. A family's Disaster Case Manager will become a single POC. FEMA has said that Oregon's DCM application is one of the best they have ever seen. FEMA Region Ten will review, as well as the OMB, and then it will go to Congress because it is over \$1 million. It is hoped that DCM will begin to be implemented by February 1.

<u>FEMA Updates & Programs – Toney Raines, Sarah Mahlik, and Anita "AJ" Jeanette</u>
Sarah spoke first. FEMA has 20 people licensed in at the Southern Oregon RV Park;





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there is space for more. They just finished a lease with Valley of the Rogue RV Park, which will add 39 spaces. Just broke ground on a group site in White City; 23 families will go there. The goal is to have those people licensed in by December 24. They hope to break ground on a group site in Mill City this weekend. Sarah then handed it off to Lark Asbelle. Lark talked about the other Individual Assistance (IA) Programs: Disaster Unemployment Assistance (DUA), which closed on November 27 (154 approved). Benefits end on March 21, 2020. She talked about Disaster Legal Services (DLS), which has served about 50 individuals/families thus far. She noted that one of the pro bono attorneys is working with the MASTT in J Jackson County.

• Updates from Partners Megan gave an update on Project Turnkey, which state funds to purchase motel/hotels for shelter in the short run and transitional and affordable housing in the long run. \$30 million was set aside just for the eight declared Presidential IA counties. They have received at least one application for all of those counties. So far nine projects are moving forward. In some cases, the zoning is problematic. Megan talked about the Advisory Committee that has been formed. The application period closes on January 15. Kim asked how many rooms we're adding thus far? Megan said 253 rooms thus far. Megan would like to have a discussion with Oregon DHS about DCM, but the intent of this project is that it will be a locally run program.

Mike Savara gave a brief update on OHCS's Wildfire Damage Housing Relief Program

Next Steps

• Kim ended the meeting at 4:00 p.m. sharp. She noted the next meeting is scheduled for Jan. 7. She said there will be some follow-up materials from this meeting.

Adjourn

References:

Oregon Disaster Housing Task Force: https://www.oregon.gov/ohcs/get-involved/Pages/oregon-disaster-housing-task-force.aspx

Wildfire Damage Housing Relief: https://www.oregon.gov/ohcs/housing-assistance/Pages/program-wildfire-damage-housing-relief.aspx

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