

# MINUTES

## HUMAN SERVICES COMMISSION

H&HS Charnelton Building, Room #258  
151 W. 7th Avenue, Eugene

October 15, 2018  
12:15 p.m.

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**PRESENT:** Marilee Woodrow *Chair*, Claire Syrett *Vice Chair*, Jay Bozievich, Greg Evans, Pat Farr, Gabrielle Guidero, Shaun Londahl, Members; Erin Fifield City of Springfield Staff, Stephanie Jennings City of Eugene Staff, Steve Manela, Alex Dreher, Lisë Stuart, Danielle Bautista, HSD Staff, Ethan Bottenseck Intern for Commissioner Farr, David Saez (Centro LatinoAmericano), Tom Mulhern (Catholic Community Services), Lise Schellman (Pearl Buck Center), Victoria Smithweiland (Womenspace), and Karen Saxe (NEDCO), Guests.

**ABSENT:** none

### I. CALL TO ORDER

The Chair convened the meeting at 12:15 p.m. Those present introduced themselves. Mr. Farr introduced his new intern, Ethan Bottenseck.

### II. PUBLIC COMMENT

There were no members of the public who wished to speak.

### III. CONSENT AGENDA

- Minutes of September 17, 2018
- Statement of Revenue and Expenditures as of September 30, 2018

*Pat Farr moved to approve the minutes as presented.*

*Gabrielle Guidero provided the second. The motion passed unanimously.*

*Pat Farr moved to accept the Statement of Revenue and Expenditures as of September 30, 2018.*

*Gabrielle Guidero provided the second. The motion passed unanimously.*

### IV. MANAGER'S UPDATES

- Governors Housing Plan
- Low-Income Energy Assistance Program Update
- Housing First Building Update

Mr. Manela distributed the Human Services Division *Budget by Program Area*. He noted a couple of errors in which an expense was recorded but the revenue was posted to an account code not reflected in this report. He said that issue has been corrected in the County system.

Directing attention to page 9 of the meeting packet, Mr. Manela said this was the entire *Housing Policy Agenda* from the Governor's office dated August 30, 2018. The plan entails about \$360 million of state investments with the focuses on 1) Prioritizing Ending Children's Homelessness, 2) House Oregon Veterans, 3) Invest in Permanent Supportive Housing for Chronically Homeless, and 4) Accelerate Growth of Housing Supply. Mr. Manela specifically noted the new proposals for the next biennium. The focus on ending children homelessness is a \$20 million program through a partnership between Oregon Housing and Community Services (OHCS) and the State of Oregon Department of Human Services (DHS). The second part of the plan is housing Oregon's veterans which is supported by the increase of the Document Recording Fee (DRF); 25 percent of the DRF is allocated for veterans housing. The third piece is a proposal for \$20 million to be added to the State budget in lottery backed bonds specifically for Permanent Supportive Housing (PSH). There is also a proposal to add \$160 million to the State budget in bonding for the LIFT program to accelerate the growth of affordable housing.

Members discussed the proposed Governor's budget and increases to housing services.

Mr. Manela noted the full presentation last month on the MLK Housing First project and offered a brief update to members. Homes for Good is Lane County's partner in the Housing First building, and will be applying to the City of Eugene for HOME funds. The fundraising for the capital part of the project is being completed and it is hoped to break ground in June 2019. This will provide an additional 50 units of supportive housing. The Lane County Board set aside \$2 million of one-time money from the County budget for supportive housing. Last week the Request for Applications was released for \$1.5 million.

Mr. Manela added that the low-income energy programs are beginning the fall season.

## **V. TAC SHELTER AND HOUSING SYSTEM ANALYSIS**

### **■ Preliminary Recommendations**

Ms. Dreher related the visit the previous week by the consultants hired by Lane County in collaboration with the City of Eugene. Technical Assistance Collaborative (TAC) provided a presentation of the system map of the local homeless service system and a preliminary recommendation with the final report scheduled for December 2018. She reminded members and guest that the presentation and documents can be viewed online and on MetroTV. The initial summary focuses on single adults as this is the most significant challenge facing Lane County. The final report will address other homeless populations including youth, victims of domestic violence and families. The report emphasizes enacting one or two pieces of the recommendation will not have the effectiveness of a broader approach.

### ***Some of the interesting findings:***

- Lane County has an oversized issue of homelessness compared to our population size, ranking 42<sup>nd</sup> of the 399 Continuum of Care (CoC)'s across the country.
- Lane County has a higher percentage of citizens over 65 years of age, a higher poverty rate, and a lower employment rate and higher percentage of citizens between 18 and 65 who have disabilities than Salem, Portland, Multnomah County or the State of Oregon as whole.
- The affordable housing stock is limited, and the vacancy rate is 2.9 percent.
- The Eugene Mission fills a vital role and is the largest Emergency Shelter in Lane County serving multiple populations. However the Mission is not a low barrier, housing first oriented program and has a sobriety requirement that limits the ability for many unsheltered people to be eligible for overnight admission.

### ***Preliminary Recommendations***

- Expand programs and Increase Utilization: add shelter beds, expand outreach and diversion, add Permanent Supportive Housing & increase existing utilization, expand move-on practices to ensure tenancy supports are available
- Policy changes aligned with best practices and across CoC programs: coordinated entry
- Training to ensure implementation of best practices: Housing First, Rapid Rehousing, tenancy supports

Summarizing the recommendations, Ms. Dreher said that it is important to keep these in the forefront as the budget cycle begins.

Members discussed the utilization rate of the housing programs and how that related to the vacancy rates.

Mr. Manela explained that some of the policies that could be reevaluated would be that Homes for Good preferences. To better support folks successfully finishing a two year program, Homes for Good could prioritize them for the Section 8 vouchers over the current lottery system. Another strategy would be to talk with Neighborhood Economic Development Corporation (NEDCO) about home ownership so people moving out of the support units could look at other options.

Responding to a question from Ms. Guidero if the car and RV camping programs were included in the homeless category, Ms. Dreher said they were not included as HUD's definition of "not meant for human habitation" would apply.

Ms. Stuart said that it would be considered housing if the RV as hooked up to water, electricity and waste systems.

Members who attended the noon presentation were pleased at the scope of information and responses of the councilors and commissioners.

## **VI. FUSE SAMHSA GRANT UPDATE**

- Overview of SAMSHA grant goals

Program Service Coordinator Danielle Bautista referred to page 45 in the meeting packet for the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA) Grant Abstract. Lane County will use the Grants for the Benefit of Homeless Individuals (GBHI) to implement the Bridge to Home (BtH) project. This is a five-year grant of approximately \$400,000 each year and will expand the current Frequent User Systems Engagement (FUSE) outreach services and provide an outreach team to use the FUSE client by name list with the goal to enroll 440 in outreach, connect 250 in behavioral health support services, and house 175 participants over the course of the project. Currently Ms. Bautista is honing in the program design and working with partners such as the PHB Lived Experience Advisory Group for Unhoused Engagement (LEAGUE) workgroup. It is hoped to have the project up and running by January 11, 2019.

Members discussed how the BtH project will integrate with the current programs.

## **VII. HSC FUNDING POLICY**

- Discussion of process for updating funding policies.

Mr. Manela referred members to pages 47 and 48 at the back of the packet for the *Policy Considerations for Executive Planning 2016*. Every two years the HSD reviews some of the funding policies before we issue the Request for Proposal (RFP) for funding. As we complete the Community Needs Assessment (CNA) and begin the Strategic Planning and the next budget year, members will need to go through the policy considerations. He brought attention to the letter from the ShelterCare Board who requested a meeting with Mr. Manela, the County Administrator, and the Health & Human Services Director to discuss the requirements of contracting such as the percentage of funds allowed to spend on administration.

Ms. Fifield recalled a request from Centro LatinoAmericano (CLA) to increase their budget.

After discussion, Mr. Manela said that this would be a good issue to put on the list as the budget could be better clarified. He noted that the Strategic Planning would also include looking at other communities practices. During the contract cycle should more funds or resources become available, the HSD is able to adjust the contracts within 15 percent. Within the context of the annual budget process, members will discuss policy, and think about it in terms of compensation with all of our contracts to make any adjustments equitably.

Responding to a question about the contingency fund, Mr. Manela said that historically has been used more as cash flow; however this could be a good policy discussion as well.

## **VIII. NEXT MEETING**

The next regularly scheduled HSC meeting is Monday, November 19, 2018.

## **IX. ADJOURNMENT**

The meeting adjourned at 1:31 p.m.

*Recorded by Diana Alldredge  
HSD Staff*