

MINUTES

HUMAN SERVICES COMMISSION

Online GoToMeeting

November 16, 2020
12:15 p.m.

PRESENT: Marilee Woodrow *Chair*, Pat Farr, *Vice Chair*, Chris Pryor, Claire Syrett, Gabrielle Guidero, Joe Berney, Members; Brooke Freed and Jason Dedrick City of Eugene Staff; Erin Fifield City of Springfield Staff; Steve Manela, Lyn Oliver, Lisë Stuart, and Stephanie Talbott, Lane County Staff; Chris Pickering, Hope Birrell, Michael Yoshioka, Michelle Hanks, Mike Fleck, Tom Mulhern, Guests.

ABSENT: Shaun Londahl, Member.

I. CALL TO ORDER

Chair Marilee Woodrow convened the meeting at 12:15 p.m.
Those present introduced themselves.

II. PUBLIC COMMENT

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

III. CONSENT AGENDA

- Minutes of October 19, 2020
- Statement of Revenue and Expenditures as of October 2020

*Chris Pryor moved to approve the Consent Agenda.
Joe Berney provided the second. The motion passed.*

IV. MANAGER'S REPORT

- State of Oregon out of the Cold Funding
- Emergency Solutions Grant (ESG) CV Update
- Wildfire and COVID-19 Programming Updates

Mr. Manela noted the Human Services Division (HSD) started the year with a Technical Budget of \$23,839,307. The Supplemental Budget turned in this week is \$41,000,495. All of the additional resources received to date are related to COVID-19. As of Friday, 1,337 households were helped with rental assistance. The eviction moratorium is scheduled to expire at the end of December. The HSD was able to help 1,446 households with the additional CRF energy assistance funds from the State of Oregon. About \$5.2 million out of the \$6 million of COVID funds received have been spent. Currently 157 households- 267 individuals – were placed in hotels related to the wildfires. The State provided the second installment of \$1.3 million for “out of the cold” funds for sheltering people this winter. With the \$224,000 received previously, that’s about \$1.5 million. A total of 66 pallet shelters are being delivered this week to be set up in places like Cottage Grove, Florence, and Veneta and also for sites in the metro area. Regarding the hotel/motel rooms, one of the problems with the most recent property is that they wanted us to lease the entire property which is a total of 59 rooms. The HSD is hiring for additional outreach positions funded by the Workforce grant. We have programmed most of the Emergency Solutions Grant (ESG) funding that comes directly to Lane County, and one of the additional areas is Behavioral Health and Primary Healthcare services to folks who are in encampments, hotels and shelters. There is an additional temporary emergency respite shelter with a partnership with Sheltercare and Carry It Forward, and a partnership with Dusk to Dawn and Willamette Family Treatment Services (WFTS) will provide a Family Nurse Practitioner (FNP) out there as well.

The issue around much of the expansion work this winter is finding the non-profit groups that can hire on additional case management and housing navigation staff. The HSD currently has a human resource issue and are hiring on additional outreach positions paid by a Workforce grant. Lane County Public Health has turned to additional extra help employees for additional capacity.

Mr. Farr related that tenants can lose their housing if they are unaware of their rights.

V. EUGENE & SPRINGFIELD CDBG CV UPDATES

Mr. Manela said the feedback he received from both Eugene and Springfield staff is that they have received additional CDBG allocations, but have not made any determinations of how those are going to be allocated or used yet.

Agreeing, Ms. Fifield said there were multiple rounds of COVID CARES Act funds. Springfield addressed through its process in the spring and early summer with Council to allocate about \$327,000 of the CV-1 funds. This we will receive similar amount, but we are still in the process of working with Lane County to contact out the first round of funds and those haven't gone out yet. Staff and Council will discuss the needs and priorities, which will be followed by a public process.

Jason Dedrick said Eugene is similarly undecided and will bring back the Council discussion points for allocations for that funding.

VI. ON-LINE DATA PRESENTATION

Management Analyst Lisë Stuart displayed her screen of the Homelessness in Lane County report for October. She said this report is "public facing" and encouraged members to use it. Focusing on the utilization of the housing inventory, Ms. Stuart said there are not as many low-barrier beds in the community which is cause for concern. This November the average usage of low-barrier beds was only 71 percent. While there are 266 beds, only 70 percent are being used. This might be related to concerns in the population about using a congregate site during a pandemic. One year ago in November there were 347 beds and they were allowing extra people to sleep in the lobbies on cold nights, so that was over 100 percent utilization.

Ms. Stuart said there was a significant change in Rapid Rehousing utilization. Last year there were 313 individuals enrolled with 98 percent housed. This year there are 211 individuals with vouchers but only 55 percent utilization – so 117 people are in a hoe with a voucher, and 94 people have the voucher but have not found a home yet.

Responding to a question from Mr. Pryor, Ms. Stuart that COVID-19 CDC spacing requirements has reduced the housing inventory significantly especially as it relates to congregate settings.

Mr. Farr noted that the Shelter Stakeholder Committee had a discussion on its agenda regarding the use of shelters and why they are not accessed as much as possible. Focus groups will form and report back to the full Committee in January.

Ms. Stuart remarked on the shelter rules such as you may not stay with your partner, can't bring your dog, children of different ages will be split up in the facility. She suggested LEAGUE might be a good place to get feedback.

Members discussed the report.

Homeless Dashboard:

<https://public.tableau.com/profile/lane.county#!/vizhome/HomelessnessinLaneCountyOregon/IntroductiontoLaneCountysHomelessnessData>

VII. CONTRACTING & RFP UPDATE

Mr. Manela noted that two RFP's were closed last week. A proposed was submitted by Sheltercare for Homeless Rapid Resolution, and a proposal was submitted by Carry It Forward for the Springfield and Rural Outreach RFP.

VII. NEXT MEETING

The next regularly HSC meeting is Monday, December 21. Members available for that date are Chris Pryor, Pat Farr, Claire Syrett, Joe Berney and Gabrielle Guidero.

VIII. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting adjourned at 1:15 p.m.

*Recorded by Diana Alldredge
HSD Staff*