

# MINUTES

## HUMAN SERVICES COMMISSION

Remote/Zoom

Friday, May 5, 2023  
11:00 a.m.

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**PRESENT:** Matt Keating *Chair*, Kori Rodley *Vice Chair*, Heather Buch, Laurie Trieger, Randy Groves, Ryan Moore, and Victoria Doyle, Members; Alex Cuyler, Representative Julie Fahey, Presenters; Erin Fifield, City of Springfield Staff, Peter Chavannes, Amanda Nobel Flannery, City of Eugene Staff; Kachina Inman, Kate Budd, Lyn Oliver, Brianna Rogers, Kirstin London, Kristen Hutchinson, Lou McDonald, Melissa Coloma, and Nancy McReynolds, Lane County Staff.

**ABSENT:** None

### I. CALL TO ORDER

Chair Matt Keating convened the meeting at 11:02 p.m. and welcomed members.

### II. PUBLIC COMMENT

There was no one wishing to give public comment.

### III. CONSENT AGENDA

Minutes of April 24, 2023.

*Kori Rodley moved to approve the Consent agenda.*

*Randy Groves provided the second. The motion passed unanimously.*

### IV. 2024 BUDGET REVIEW AND APPROVAL

Kate summarized that the budget environment was unclear as the legislature was still in session, and there was no clarity around the Oregon Housing and Community Services (OHCS) budget or any additional dollars that might support Community Action and homelessness services in the Human Services Division. There was an overall decrease from the past fiscal year, although it was a much larger budget than pre-pandemic.

Kate displayed the budget documents on the meet screen and reviewed the Memorandum highlights. She related that the Human Services Division FY24 budget decreased 25% from FY23. The large variations in revenues and expenses included the end of one-time State of Oregon homelessness funding, wildfire evacuee support, Community Development Block Grant, and Substance Abuse & Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA) funding to support the Frequent User System Engagement (FUSE) project. Also the Federal Department of Treasury funds for rent assistance will phase out during FY24. Multiple American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) projects passed through the State of Oregon and Lane County, will continue supporting an additional full year of homeless street outreach, emergency shelter, permanent supportive housing, employment and training and non-profit capacity building. The Governor's Emergency Declaration due to Homelessness, which began on January 10, 2023, will be an opportunity for additional revenue in FY24.

The need for all types of housing and supportive services for individuals and households who were unsheltered homeless, as well as those living in motel shelters, alternative shelters and emergency shelters, was at an all-time high based on HMIS data. Additional funding was required to sustain the intensive level of supports needed at permanent supportive housing complexes. Kate noted that non-profit partners, relied upon to provide a large share of housing and human services, were struggling with recruiting and retaining employees making it challenging for HSD to secure and maintain subcontracted services.

Displaying the *Budget FY 2024 – Proposed* on the meeting screen, Kate said it was a reduction of approximately 25 percent from this fiscal year, both with resources as well as the expenditures of the budget itself. There were many uncertainties around the state and local funding support, and this document will be updated when that information was confirmed. The document displayed was the *DRAFT FY24 Contracts Revised 5.2.2023* and was a point-in-time draft of the contracts Lane County provided to local services providers. She added there was still much more understanding needed regarding the funding forecast, in particular the line items with an asterix needed more clarity and the HSD staff worked with the agencies with updates as they became available.

Members discussed the funding contributions and the allocations by service.

Heather declared a Conflict of Interest (COI) due to the fact that there was an allocation of funding in the budget and as she was related to the St. Vincent de Paul Executive Director.

After discussion, Matt summarized that members were not ready to approve the budget at this meeting, but would allow members time to review the documents, ask questions and provide feedback, and to request this be on the agenda for approval at the next HSC meeting.

Kate noted she would be providing this presentation to the Lane County Budget Committee on Monday. However there was time for the HSC to meet before this went to the Board of County Commissioners (BCC) in June.

Members were in agreement that they would meet again before the next BCC meeting to take action on the HSD budget.

Kate displayed a PowerPoint presentation, *FY 23-24 Proposed Total Budget*, which provided a high-level picture. She noted the Change in Revenue by Category indicating the 33 percent decrease from FY23; Resource Changes in the last few years noting the reduction in capital expenditures with FY22 remodels to the Navigation Center, Shankle Brooklyn Street Shelter, and the additional office space for Housing & Community Action; Change in Fund by Expense Category indicating the decrease across-the-board for all pieces with some restricted reserves for the Navigation Center, Veterans Services and for reserve cash flow; Full-Time Equivalents (FTE) with the largest team being the Housing & Community Action; and Future Challenges & Opportunities.

Matt requested the PowerPoint be sent by email. He asked if staff received questions, that the inquiry and answer be shared with the HSC to that all could be made aware of the information.

*The group agreed.*

Kate noted the next steps will be working with the County Administration Fiscal office and the Lane County Budget Committee. County Admin process does offer changes through the supplemental budgets which occur four times a year.

Randy requested in the future some measures of outcome metrics so we know how we are performing and how much progress we are making toward the objective.

Kate said that the HSD made outcomes to-date presentation to the BCC twice yearly and offered to share that presentation with the HSC.

Laurie requested a presentation on foundational programs that over time we have funded and how those have changed, and the gaps in services. She considered this could be a good grounding opportunity and part of our re-set to help us do the work better.

## **V. ALL IN UPDATE**

Kate provided a brief summary of the All In Lane County. She shared the *"All In" Lane County Update* presentation on the meeting screen and offered a quick review of the Governor's Emergency Declaration due to Homelessness issued January 10, 2023, originally focusing on the seven Continuums of Care (CoCs) and seeking to provide additional dollars to those Continuums. The three main statewide outcomes were: 1) to prevent about 9,000 households from becoming homeless, add 600 Low-Barrier shelter beds in emergency areas, and to re-house at least 1,200 unsheltered households in emergency areas; 2) Utilize HMIS to track services, and 3) a clear one-year timeline which ends on January 10, 2024. The HSC was initially told that about \$20 million will be issued to Lane County based on a state formula, the funding could not supplant or supplement existing funding, and it could not be braided. The Multi Agency Coordinating Group (MAC) was specified by the state to include Emergency Management, Continuum of Care (COC), local homeless agencies, shelter development/operators, rapid housing service providers, other non-profits, the CCO's and the public housing authority. The Lane County MAC group structure included the Youth Homelessness Demonstration Program (YHDP) Advisory Committee, lived experience interviews, and Lived Experience Advisory Group for Unhoused Engagement (LEAGUE), the Poverty and Homelessness Board, and three taskgroups focusing on 1) Homelessness Prevention, 2) Emergency shelter, and 3) ReHousing. Kate displayed the All In plan development process and the timeline which included specific action items that Lane County will support with All In funds to achieve the overall outcomes. The State accepted the Plan on March 17, and was the only Plan accepted at that time without changes.

Kate displayed the All In Lane County Plan identifying the amount allocated, the service and the anticipated number to be served:

Amount	Service	To Serve
\$ 2.9 million	Homeless Prevention	741 households
\$ 4.3 million	Emergency Shelter	230 new beds
\$8.8 million	ReHousing	247 households
\$ 2.3 million	Street Outreach	
\$ 76,314	HMIS	

Laurie asked if there was a mechanism to extend the emergency order.

Kate said she would check on this possibility.

Matt asked about the behavioral health Stabilization Center and how it fell into the Plan.

Kate responded that the Stabilization Center was not part of the Plan but will be an enormous support for this work.

Kate reviewed the All In timelines for the programs and systems work. She said the grant agreement was now in place between Lane County and OHCS and Lane County can now draw down funds. Staff was working as quickly as possible while also looking at how to simplify the contracting process for providers. The contracts should be in place and agencies to start programs in June or early July at the latest.

## VII. LEGISLATIVE UPDATES

Oregon Representative Majority Leader Julie Fahey offered a brief summary of her priorities during this legislature session. In late February, the legislature announced a major package of policies and investments to address our housing affordability and homelessness crises ([HB 2001](#)/[HB 5019](#)). The bills will invest approximately \$200 million in affordable housing and other resources to help get people off the streets and on the path out of homelessness, and to address the root causes of homelessness including youth homelessness, eviction prevention and addressing the lack of housing supply. HBs 2001 and 5019 were a top priority for the legislature this session and both passed with bipartisan support. It was an honor to watch Governor Kotek sign both bills on March 29<sup>th</sup>.

- HB 2002 was passed focusing on protecting gender-affirming care as well as reproductive rights.
- HB 2005 passed to help law enforcement and communities keep safe while respecting the rights of firearm owners enacting a three day waiting period for new gun purchasers and establishing a permit system for Measure 114, a voter approved gun-control law on hold due to litigation.
- HB 2395 passed out of the House to help break down barriers to harm reduction tools in response to the opioid and illicit fentanyl crisis. The bill makes lifesaving emergency treatments like naloxone kits more available in public buildings.

Lane County Intergovernmental Relations Manager Alex Cuyler said there were a number of bills he was watching such as SB 1096 – allows certain cities to add affordable housing projects outside their Urban Growth Boundary. It's assigned to the Rules Committee. The County Administrator did meet with the Oregon Health Authority (OHA) Director last week to discuss community services, housing leadership, and the Medicaid waiver. He related the transition to new leadership and the work needed to build alliances.

## VI. REIMAGINING PHB/HSC – CONSULTANT WORK UPDATE

Kachina said that the PHB and HSC chairs are deep into the decision making framework for the potential new HSD committee structure. She will send out the presentation by email and the highlights of the scenarios. She requested HSC members watch for the survey that will be sent out to the HSC and PHB members and to respond. It is anticipated the work will wrap up at the end of June.

## VIII. NEXT MEETING & FUTURE ITEMS

A doodle poll will be sent out for maximum participation at the meeting focusing on the budget. A doodle will also be sent out to find a best time for the regular monthly meeting.

## IX. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting adjourned at 12:36 p.m.

*Recorded by Diana Alldredge  
HSD Staff*