



Poverty and Homelessness Board

Public Forum on Strategic Plan

Thursday, March 17, 2016

12:00 p.m. – 1:30 p.m.

Lane County Youth Services Serbu Campus, Carmichael Conference Room
2727 Martin Luther King Jr. Blvd. Eugene

AGENDA

Time	Topic
11:45 a.m.	Arrival and Lunch
12:00 p.m.	Welcome and Introductions <ul style="list-style-type: none">□ Self-introduce with your name and organizational affiliation
12:05	Follow-Up from Previous Meeting Approve Minutes of February 18, 2016
12:10	Overview of PHB Strategic Plan/ Noreen Dunnells and Pearl Wolfe
12:20	Public Comment/ Pat Walsh Format for Public Comment Individuals who plan to offer comment must sign in with name and contact information prior to beginning of the meeting.
1:00	Board Response
If time allows:	
1:15	<u>Committee Reports</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none">▪ Facilities / Jacob Fox▪ Veterans Committee/ Pat Farr▪ Nominating Committee/ Pearl Wolfe▪ Steering Committee/ Pat Walsh Steering Committee Composition Changes/ Pat Walsh Info/Discussion
1:25	Wrap up Summarize board decisions, assignments, and next steps
1:30	Planning the Agenda for the April 21, 2016 Meeting <ul style="list-style-type: none">▪ ALICE Report/ United Way Staff▪ Other Items??
1:35 p.m.	Adjourn

The Poverty and Homeless Board (PHB) is an action oriented group of elected officials, community stakeholders, and individuals who represent low-income and homeless people's concerns. The purpose of the PHB is to create innovative partnerships and programs that use best practices to reduce poverty and homelessness in Lane County. The PHB will work to generate resources, community and legislative support for housing and services to achieve its goals.



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Poverty & Homelessness Board
Strategic Plan 2016-2021
Public Comment

Announcement for Public Comment
Lane County Poverty and Homelessness Board
Strategic Plan 2016-2021

Meeting Information

date: Thursday, March 17, 2016
time: 12:00 to 1:30 p.m.
place: Lane County Youth Services Serbu Campus,
Carmichael Conference Room
2727 Martin Luther King Jr. Blvd. Eugene



Public Comment

brief overview of Plan: Steve Manela
one hour time period: 12:15 to 1:15 p.m.
time allowed: 3 minutes for each public comment
board response: 1:15 – 1:30 p.m.

***Please forward this flier to others who may be
interested in attending.***



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Lane County Poverty & Homelessness Board

Strategic Plan

2016-2021

Executive Summary

The plight of poverty and homelessness affects the lives of thousands of individuals and families who live in Lane County. The solutions to this growing problem are as myriad as the causes. Government agencies, nonprofit and civic organizations, schools, and churches all contribute resources through a wide variety of programs and assistance.

In an effort to facilitate better-coordinated efforts, the Poverty and Homelessness Board (PHB) was formed in 2014. It is an action-oriented group of elected officials, community stakeholders, and individuals who represent low-income and homeless people's concerns in Lane County.

The PHB serves as the administrative board for the Lane County Community Action Agency and as the oversight board for the Lane County Continuum of Care. It provides advice to the regional Human Services Commission and the Lane County Board of Commissioners with the goal of reducing and preventing poverty and homelessness in Lane County.

PHB's Mission

Create innovative partnerships and programs that use best practices to reduce poverty and homelessness in Lane County. The PHB works to generate community and legislative support and other resources for housing and services to achieve its goals.

The PHB has identified three areas of strategic focus to guide its work to alleviate poverty and homelessness over the next five years:

- 1. Increase availability and access to coordinated, supportive housing, shelter, and services**
- 2. Prevent homelessness and poverty**
- 3. Inform and enhance public awareness and advocacy efforts**

To address these concerns and help define a path of coordinated action various agencies and organizations serving Lane County, the PHB has defined a set of five-year goals and supporting strategies. Together, they will effect a significant improvement in the lives of the most vulnerable, chronically poor, and homeless people in our community.

Increase Availability and Access to Coordinated, Supportive Housing, Shelter, and Services

Over the next five years, the PHB partners will coordinate with other agencies in Lane County to create an additional 600 units of supportive housing for chronically homeless people, including veterans, youth, those who experience mental illness, domestic violence, drug and alcohol abuse, and those exiting the criminal justice, foster care and child welfare systems. This effort will include 200 Housing First units in various configurations and with appropriate support services and 100 units of housing and rental assistance for veterans. In addition, the PHB will create a long-term plan to identify targeted needs and funding sources to develop an additional 300 units of supportive housing.

The temporary emergency housing needs of those who are homeless are ever-present and require different solutions based on unique needs. During the next five years, the PHB will work to create 300 emergency shelter beds for homeless singles, both seasonal and year-around; 30 emergency shelter units designed specifically for homeless families with children; 40 safe parking spaces for homeless people who live in their vehicles; an emergency medical care shelter; and a shelter dedicated to homeless individuals experiencing acute mental illness.

Prevent Homelessness and Poverty

Prevention is at the center of all long-term strategies to eliminate homelessness and poverty. The PHB's goals include increasing the stability of low-income families with children in the seven Lane County neighborhoods with the highest concentration of poverty. Efforts will focus on ensuring those families live in safe, reliable housing and have opportunities for adequate employment income to meet their basic needs. To help prevent new generations from entering a life of poverty and homelessness, particular efforts will be made to reduce first-time homelessness among low-income families with children and school-aged youth by 30 percent by 2021.

Inform and Enhance and Public Awareness and Advocacy Efforts

Most residents of Lane County encounter someone nearly every day who lives in homelessness and poverty. Some aspects of homelessness and poverty are highly visible while others are largely hidden from public view. Because the problems are extremely complex and interconnected, however, it is easy to form misunderstandings and misconceptions. The PHB believes that successful long-term efforts to reduce and eliminate poverty and homelessness in Lane County will require heightened public awareness, a well-informed understanding, and broad community support. The board will focus concentrated efforts to dispel myths and broaden community understanding of the multiple issues related to homelessness and poverty. In addition, the PHB will advocate for changes to state and federal policies and procedures that will remove barriers to service delivery and support more collaborative efforts.

Poverty and Homelessness in Lane County - What are the Facts?

Poverty

On any given day, on any given street in Lane County, on average, one of every five people you meet are living in poverty. Despite the fact that Lane County is home to a major state university and a highly regarded community college, along with several large industrial employers, its poverty rate of 21.5% is still higher than the Oregon statewide average of 16.6%. A Lane County family of three whose income is at or below 100 percent of the federal level lives on an annual income of \$19,790 or less. The high poverty rate coupled with the high cost of rent creates an environment in which it is difficult for thousands of households to maintain stable living situations.

78,203 Lane County residents live on an income below 100% of the federal poverty level.

--2104 U.S. Census data

Insufficient Affordable Housing

The housing market in Lane County is not unlike many other counties across the country. The economic recession of 2007 and the resulting tight mortgage market led to increased demand for rental housing. Demand pushed rental rates higher while the supply of available rental units decreased. While mortgage lending for homebuyers has eased somewhat in recent years, many households with healthy incomes are still choosing to rent rather than buy.

Moreover, in Lane County, the presence of the University of Oregon creates additional demand for rental units by students. The construction of new multi-family rental units in Lane County has been largely concentrated near the university campus, and the rents are relatively high, well above what families with poverty-level incomes can afford.

Who Are the Homeless?

The sub-population of Lane County residents who are in poverty *and* are homeless live on little or no regular income. The life circumstances that led to their homelessness are many and varied, however, mental illness, drug and alcohol abuse, domestic violence, and involvement in criminal activity all play significant roles. In 2014, 11,668 homeless individuals sought social services through the Lane County Human Services Division.

During the 2015 Annual Homeless Point in Time Count, 656 individuals were staying in emergency shelters; 101 were living in "transitional housing;" and 716 men, women, and children were living *without* shelter. The count included 210 homeless veterans; 100 of them were living unsheltered. Nearly 400 of the homeless were identified as suffering from mental illness; 206 were believed to have chronic alcohol or substance abuse issues. Finally, 23 homeless youth under age 18, unaccompanied by an adult.

Of the 1,473 homeless people counted in Lane County on January 25, 2015, 697 were chronically homeless.

- Lane County Annual Homeless Point 2015 in Time Count.

2,154 homeless students attended public schools in Lane County during the 2013-14 school year (including doubled-up or homeless).

--Oregon Department of Education

The Cost of Homelessness

The problems associated with homelessness are expensive for the community. People without shelter often require medical care that is frequently accessed in hospital emergency departments, one of the most expensive points of medical care at an average of \$200 to \$1,800 per visit. Emergency mental health care is even more expensive. A day of in-patient mental health care at Sacred Heart Medical Center's Johnson Unit costs between \$2,500 and \$2,900. Unfortunately, people living without shelter and who may be experiencing drug or substance abuse problems or mental illness frequently run afoul of the law and end up incarcerated and involved in the criminal justice system. Both bring additional expenses to the community that could have been averted through better access to housing and supportive services.

What is Being Done?

Government agencies, nonprofit organizations and the faith community together provide a variety of housing programs aimed at assisting those in poverty and homelessness in Lane County. Emergency shelters, transitional housing, permanent supportive housing, rapid-rehousing and extreme weather shelter are all part of the mix. Each is different and uniquely designed to accommodate a different segment of the population depending on its particular needs.

During the winter of 2014-15, 948 individuals slept in our Extreme Weather Shelter Program, Egan Warming Center, on sub-freezing nights.

- **Emergency Shelter** is short-term, generally up to 60 days, and might include large communal settings or a single unit for a family without stable housing. Seasonal emergency shelters provide protection from the elements when temperatures drop below 30 degrees during winter months.
- **Transitional Housing** provides rent assistance and supportive services for up to 24 months and facilitates the movement of homeless households to permanent housing.
- **Permanent Supportive Housing** provides long-term, community-based housing and support to homeless households that include individuals with disabilities.
- **Rapid Re-Housing** provides homeless households with rent assistance and supportive services for up to 24 months with the goal of moving into permanent housing and long-term stability.
- **Safe Havens** are supportive housing units that serve those who are often referred to as "hard-to-reach" homeless persons with severe mental illness and other debilitating behavioral conditions.

Solutions

The current inventory of housing for homeless individuals in Lane County includes 870 units of Rapid Re-Housing, transitional, and permanent housing, and 481 year round emergency shelter beds. With all types combined, only about 10% are designed to accommodate households with children. Based on the 2015 Point in Time Count, a minimum of at least 600 additional housing units would have to be added to house all of the homeless individuals in the county. Experience has proven that emergency shelters alone are not the optimal solution for helping people escape homelessness.

At the same time, however, shelter capacity needs to be expanded if the supply of available private market and affordable housing, coupled with supportive services, is insufficient to meet demand. For some people, access to permanent housing is all they need to escape homelessness. Others, need supportive services to be successful in gaining permanent housing.

Housing First

Housing First is an approach to quickly and successfully connect individuals and families experiencing homelessness to permanent housing without preconditions and barriers to entry, such as sobriety, treatment or service participation requirements. *Housing First* offers people immediate access to permanent housing along with services appropriate to their needs. According to the National Alliance to End Homelessness, this model yields higher success in treatment outcomes, higher housing retention rates, lower returns to homelessness, and significant reductions in the use of crisis services, hospitals, and jails.



Strategic Plan

Poverty & Homelessness Board, February 2016

STRATEGIC GOALS

1. Strategic Focus: Availability and Access to Coordinated Supportive Housing, Shelter, and Services

GOAL 1.1: Create 600 additional housing opportunities throughout Lane County by 2021 for chronically homeless individuals and people with particular needs, including: veterans, youth, domestic violence survivors, those with mental illness, drug and alcohol abuse problems, and those exiting criminal justice, foster care and child welfare systems.

Strategy	Potential Partners	PHB Committee
a. Develop 100 Housing First units, including a 50-unit apartment building with on-site behavioral health services, and 50 micro-apartment housing units with mobile support services by 2019.	Lane County/ HACSA/ Non-Profits	Facilities
b. Dedicate 100 units of Housing First, including 50 scattered site HUD housing vouchers and HACSA units, and 50 units integrated into low-income housing developments for special populations by 2019.	HACSA/ Non-Profits	Facilities
c. Develop assertive engagement “wrap around” services and supports for 150 scattered site and integrated Housing First units by 2019. Promote successful housing outcomes and move more individuals to independent living.	Lane County & Trillium Behavioral Health	Services
d. Develop and dedicate an additional 100 units and rental assistance for Veterans to meet the goal of ending veteran homelessness.	HACSA/St. Vincent DePaul/VA	Facilities
e. Create a long-term, supportive housing production and operations plan for 300 units for individuals and family households.	HACSA/ Eugene/ Springfield/ Non-Profits	Facilities
f. Develop tactics to help reduce risk to private landlords and help incentivize them to rent to people with special needs.	Rental Owners Assoc.	Services

GOAL 1.2: Create additional emergency shelter and respite care for homeless individuals, youth and families with children awaiting housing by 2021.

Strategy	Potential Partners	PHB Committee
a. Create 300 beds of emergency shelter for homeless singles including 150 year-around beds and 150 beds of winter season shelter.	Lane County/ HACSA	Facilities
b. Create 30 units of year-around emergency shelter for homeless families with children, including domestic violence survivors with children.	Lane County/ HACSA	Facilities
c. Create 40 Safe Parking spaces for homeless persons who live in their vehicles.	Lane County	Facilities
d. Create 16 infirmery beds of emergency shelter to provide immediate medical triage, assessment, and care.	Trillium, local hospitals	Facilities
e. Create 20 beds of crisis respite for persons experiencing acute mental illness.	Lane County	Facilities
f. Develop ACT Team and multidisciplinary services for shelter and supportive housing.	White Bird/CHC	Services
g. Expand Rapid Re-housing funding and services to more quickly move people into housing.	State of Oregon/ HUD	Services

GOAL 1.3: Increase opportunities to enhance services for frequent users through service integration and coordination, and the development of new partnerships.

Strategy	Potential Partners	PHB Committee
Create a Frequent Users Systems Engagement (FUSE) Workgroup as part of an initiative to break the cycle of incarceration and homelessness among individuals with complex behavioral health challenges who are the highest users of jails, hospitals, emergency medical, homeless shelters and encampments, and other crisis service systems.	Inter-governmental	Services/ Ad Hoc Work Group

2. Strategic Focus: Prevent Homelessness and Poverty

GOAL 2.1: Increase the stability of low-income households in Lane County. Ensure they are stably housed and have adequate employment income and/or benefits to meet their basic needs.

Note: A draft action plan for goals 2.1-3 should be developed by the PHB Services Committee and submitted to the PHB by October 1, 2016.

Strategy	Potential Partners	PHB Committee
a. Develop affordable childcare, nutrition, and employment services for residents at affordable and supportive housing programs.	Non-Profits	Services
b. Develop transportation options for program participants.	LTD	Services
c. Expand rental assistance programs.	HACSA DHS	Services
d. Support the preservation of existing affordable housing.		

GOAL 2.2: Reduce homelessness among low-income families with children and school age youth, as measured by the Oregon Department of Education, by 30 percent by 2021.

Strategy	Potential Partners	PHB Committee
a. Develop a homeless diversion program in conjunction with the school districts. Identify flexible funding to address critical barriers to stabilization.	McKinney Vento Schools	Services

GOAL 2.3: Increase employment opportunities, education, and employment and training activities for participants who are in poverty, and/or homeless with special needs.

Strategy	Potential Partners	PHB Committee
a. Support collaboration among job partners to develop employment and training programs for individuals who are homeless or in supportive housing with significant barriers to employment.	Lane Workforce Partnership LCC DHS Goodwill St. Vincent Voc Rehab	Services/ Ad-Hoc Work Group

3. Strategic Focus: Inform and Enhance Public Awareness and Advocacy Efforts

GOAL 3.1: Increase public understanding of poverty and homelessness issues and how they're being addressed.

Note: A workgroup of the PHB will be formed by June 1, 2016 to address Goal 3.1

Strategy	Potential Partners	PHB Committee
a. Develop a brand and communication plan for PHB.	PR firm	Ad-Hoc Work Group
b. Promote the capabilities of the Coordinated Entry System, in conjunction with HMIS, to identify the characteristics or trends of individuals in the homeless system.	Non-profits	HMIS

GOAL 3.2: Advocate for support to reduce poverty and homelessness.

Strategy	Potential Partners	PHB Committee
a. Align and coordinate legislative agendas (early) with other groups that are working on similar efforts or have common interests. Develop a one-page "leave behind" sheet with key talking points. Coordinate with federal and state agencies. b. Align and coordinate policy agendas among cities in Lane County and the county government. c. Participate and collaborate with public, private, and community organizations to advocate for support.	Housing Alliance Assn. of Counties League of Oregon Cities Oregon On	Legislative

Poverty and Homelessness Board 2016-2021 Strategic Goals

Strategic Planning Process

The PHB Strategic Planning Committee was formed in early 2015 and consisted of the following individuals:

Committee Members:

- Noreen Dunnells, United Way of Lane County, Committee Chair
- Pat Farr, Lane County Board of Commissioners
- Kitty Piercy, Mayor, City of Eugene
- Sean Van Gordon, Springfield City Council
- Jacob Fox, Lane Housing and Community Services Agency
- Kristina Payne, Lane Workforce Partnership
- John Radich, Lane County Department of Human Services

Staff:

- Erin Fifield, City of Springfield
- Stephanie Jennings, City of Eugene
- Steve Manela, Lane County Human Services
- Pearl Wolfe, Lane County Human Services

The planning committee and several subgroups met multiple times during 2015 and early 2016 to identify three to five year goals and supporting strategies that would be effective in addressing poverty and homelessness in Lane County. In addition, a series of focus groups were conducted with assistance from the Corporation of Supportive Housing.

The Strategic Planning Committee recognizes that the Board's ability to implement these goals and their supporting strategies depends heavily on: 1) the specific nature of each goal and strategy; 2) which member(s) of the PHB are already engaged in them or are best positioned to do so; and 3) how the board can most effectively apply its collective influence and resources to implement them.

Depending on the situation, the PHB may:

- *Participate* directly as an organization to implement a strategy;
- *Promote* a strategy by recommending implementation by one or more organizations (within or outside the Board);
- Serve as a *catalyst* to spark new and innovative action by organizations with the necessary resources, experience and expertise;
- *Advocate* and speak with a collective voice of support for a strategy; or
- *Network* and create new partnerships as the best way to achieve success.

Time and the experience of working together on our common goals will show which paths work best and in which situations.

This plan was submitted to the PHB with the recommendation that specific board committees to assemble work groups from a variety of agencies and organizations in Lane County. They would develop action plans to implement the PHB strategies and goals.

Total Households Receiving SNAP in Lane County December 2015

This information was requested at a previous Poverty and Homeless Meeting.

The following table shows the total households receiving SNAP in Lane County and the households who have "0" income in the month of December 2015. It does not distinguish between long term "0" income or if it is just for a month due to a change in circumstances. It is also broken down by branch offices for Self Sufficiency and Senior and Disabled Services.

Total Households Receiving SNAP in Lane County December 2015		
Document Source: DHS District Manager John Radich		
Branch	Households	0 income HH
Springfield	8,654	3,806
Eugene	10,051	3,781
West Eugene	10,031	4,561
Cottage Grove	2,653	1,113
S&DS Eug	12,019	357
S&DS CG	1,375	35
Florence	1,924	882
S&DS Flor	1,066	19
Total	47,773	14,554