



Poverty and Homelessness Board

Thursday, November 19, 2015

12:00 p.m. – 1:30 p.m.

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

A G E N D A

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	Public Comment <p>Individuals who plan to offer comment must sign in with name and contact information prior to beginning of the meeting.</p>
12:15	Follow-Up from Previous Meeting <p>Approve Minutes of October 15, 2015</p>
12:20	<u>Committee Reports</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none">■ <i>Steering Committee/ Pat Walsh</i>■ <i>Legislative/ Steve Manela</i>■ <i>Facilities / Jacob Fox</i>■ <i>Veterans Committee/ Pat Farr</i>■ <i>HMIS/ Lisë Stuart</i>■ <i>Strategic Planning/ Noreen Dunnells: Next steps action plan</i>
12:40	Focus Topic 1: “Approaches to Homelessness and Mental Health”/ Susan Ban, Executive Director and Craig Norton, Director of Programs, ShelterCare Information/ Discussion
1:05	Focus Topic 2: Winter Strategies/ Dan Bryant
1:25	Wrap up <p>Summarize board decisions, assignments, and next steps</p>
1:30	Planning the December 17 Agenda <p>What new business should the PHB consider at its December meeting?</p> <p><u>Suggestions:</u></p>
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.



COUNCIL RESOLUTION NO. 5142

**A RESOLUTION DECLARING THE URGENCY OF THE
HOUSING AND HOMELESSNESS CRISIS AND THE NEED
FOR STATE ASSISTANCE TO ADDRESS IT.**

PASSED: 7:0

REJECTED:

OPPOSED:

ABSENT: Poling

CONSIDERED: October 28, 2015



RESOLUTION NO. 5142

A RESOLUTION DECLARING THE URGENCY OF THE HOUSING AND HOMELESSNESS CRISIS AND THE NEED FOR STATE ASSISTANCE TO ADDRESS IT.

The City Council of the City of Eugene finds that:

A. The nation generally, and the City of Eugene and surrounding metro area specifically, are facing a housing crisis. According to a recent one night homeless census, Lane County's homeless population exceeds 1,450 people on any given night.

B. When people are homeless it causes breakdowns in family support and has profound impacts on our public health, public safety and public education systems.

C. Homelessness is a complicated and ongoing concern and the City of Eugene places a great deal of importance on the issue. The City has taken a number of steps to address the issues related to homelessness, including:

- Investing more than \$4.4 million in human services, including the Human Service Commission, over the last four years.
- Expanding the car camping program to over 35 sites and adding Conestoga Huts to the program.
- Providing a site for Opportunity Village, a transitional micro-housing facility for 30-40 homeless individuals and couples.
- Funding emergency winter strategies with \$225,000 of one-time funding to bolster existing services for people who are homeless, or in jeopardy of becoming homeless, including the Egan Warming Shelters, Looking Glass and St. Vincent DePaul.
- Supporting the expansion of the St. Vincent DePaul Service Station to provide for more day-time space for the homeless and improved facilities for feeding people, providing phones, washing machines and showers, and storage lockers.
- Approving the rest stop pilot program and designation of three sites on City-owned property, one on Lane County owned property, and one on private non-profit property.
- Supporting the development of 226 units of affordable rental housing in five new construction projects and one acquisition/rehabilitation project over the past five years. These units are all targeted to very low-income persons earning 50% of Area Median income and below. Many of these

units target special needs populations including veterans, persons with mental and physical disabilities, ex-offenders, children, and seniors.

- Partnering with other government agencies and non-profit organizations to address the complex issues related to homelessness. Some of these agencies include:
 - City of Springfield
 - Catholic Community Services of Lane County
 - Food for Lane County
 - Lane County
 - Looking Glass
 - Sheltercare
 - St. Vincent DePaul
 - United Way of Lane County
 - White Bird Clinic

D. The City currently is working on or partnering with other agencies and entities on a number of additional efforts to augment the existing services for homeless individuals. Some of the efforts include Operation 365 (seeking to create permanent housing for 365 homeless veterans), 15th Night (an effort to ensure that youth do not spend more than 14 nights on the street before permanent housing options are found), the Poverty and Homelessness Board's work, and exploration with Lane County and others about implementation of a Housing First model.

E. In addition, earlier this year, the City Council adopted the Eugene-Springfield Consolidated Plan guiding the use of federal CDBG and HOME funds for the next five years. That Plan anticipates that Eugene will:

- Create 500 permanent affordable housing units (125 units are under development)
- Rehabilitate 350 units of affordable housing units (174 units rehabs underway)
- Provide emergency home repairs to 150 homes occupied by seniors, persons with disabilities, and other low-income persons to prevent homelessness (30 units underway)
- Invest in 15 facilities that provide services, emergency housing, or transitional housing (2 projects underway)

F. Despite all of these significant efforts to find housing for homeless individuals, the number of homeless individuals appears to be growing rather than shrinking. This problem cannot be solved by local government alone. It will take the combined efforts and resources of the State of Oregon, the federal government, non-profit and religious organizations, and business and individuals willing to contribute time, resources and funds.

NOW, THEREFORE,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF EUGENE, a Municipal Corporation of the State of Oregon, as follows:

Section 1. The City of Eugene is committed to exploring options for the creation of suitable short-term shelter spaces for the homeless, in addition to the creation of permanent housing options for the homeless. Addressing this issue is urgent in order to aid those in need of shelter.

Section 2. The City Council of the City of Eugene joins other governments in acknowledging the crisis that exists with homelessness and housing and requests that the State treat homelessness as a crisis by (a) convening a work group composed of state agencies, local governments and non-profit service providers to address this issue; and (b) appropriating additional funding for the homelessness and housing crisis.

Section 3. The City Manager is directed to forward a copy of this Resolution to Governor Brown, the President of the Oregon Senate, the Speaker of the Oregon House, and our local state delegation, together with a request that the State take the actions requested above.

The foregoing Resolution adopted the 28 day of October, 2015.

Beth Forrest
City Recorder

Who will end poverty, homelessness if not us?

On Oct. 28, the Eugene City Council approved a resolution proposed by Mayor Kitty Piercy declaring a housing crisis and calling upon Gov. Kate Brown and the Legislature to provide assistance to cities such as Eugene in dealing with the challenge of homelessness.

Though the recession is over, more than 20 percent of our neighbors still are living in poverty. Nearly 12,000 men, women and children in Lane County, and more than 2,000 students in our schools, are without a home at some point during the year.

The Poverty and Homelessness Board of Lane County has been at work for just more than a year to reduce homelessness and to lift our neighbors out of poverty. Our 17 members come from all walks of life, including members with backgrounds in business, religion, education, mental health, charity, employment and training, veterans, housing and human services, along with elected officials.

Poverty and homelessness are challenging and complex issues that affect all aspects of community life. The causes of homelessness and poverty vary greatly. For many it is simply a growing economy that has left them behind; for others it may be a physical condition, a mental illness or domestic violence. Too many in our midst are one family emergency or health care crisis away from a period of instability.

We have to ask ourselves: If not us, who will work to stem this rising tide?

The Poverty and Homelessness Board and its partners are working to coordinate and maximize resources, build supportive housing, increase efforts to prevent homelessness and provide services to build stable lives. We have convened efforts to end veterans' homelessness, create housing first for chronically homeless people struggling with mental illness and/or substance abuse, and we have worked on legislation to expand affordable housing, rental assistance and emergency housing services.

There is much we know about this crisis and possible solutions. We know that many of the chronically homeless with mental illness and addictions go through a cycle of arrests, court filings, jail time, emergency medical transport and emergency room use, all of which are costly and do little to solve the problem.

We know that stable housing can break this cycle and even cost less to provide. We know that children with stable housing do better in school and are better able to live successful, fulfilling lives. We know that intervening early in the lives of homeless youth prevents them from becoming chronically homeless as adults. We know that health improves with permanent affordable housing. We know that employee performance is better when someone is stably housed.

Putting this knowledge into action is the challenge before us.

Among our tasks this year was to complete a five-year strategic plan to identify clear and proven strategies to reduce homelessness, stabilize lives and lift people out of poverty. This plan is essential to the millions of dollars we seek in funding for programs financed by the federal government to build affordable housing and reduce poverty.



From private citizens to elected officials to workers in the fields of housing and human services, people are joining the effort to build stable lives and decrease homelessness. We join the mayor in calling upon the governor and the Legislature to help us in this struggle. This is not simply an effort to help a few people in dire need, it is an effort to improve our entire community's well-being.

You can help us change thousands of people's lives and make Lane County a healthier place for everyone by contacting our governor and our legislators to let them know you support the mayor's plea. You can support any one of the many nonprofit groups in our communities that work directly with the homeless and assist those who live in poverty. You can treat each person without the benefit of shelter with respect and compassion. You can encourage all of our civic leaders to work for meaningful solutions that will not further stigmatize and criminalize those who have no place to sleep, store their belongings and take care of their health.

We can and must do more to put an end to this crisis. Again we ask, if not us — all of us, from the governor on down to the person on the street — who will make it happen? The time to act is now.

Pat Walsh, chief executive officer of Vox, a Eugene public relations and public affairs firm, is chairman of the Poverty and Homelessness Board of Lane County. Dan Bryant, pastor of the First Christian Church in Eugene, is the vice chairman of the board.