



Douglas County Local Public Safety Coordinating Council (LPSCC)
Housing Subcommittee meeting minutes

Noon, Wednesday, Feb. 21, 2018

Third-floor conference room, Roseburg City Hall

PRESENT: Lance Colley, *City of Roseburg*; Marie Dixon, *NAMI*; Mike Fieldman, *UCAN*; Aric Fromdahl, *Juvenile Justice*; Allen Hobson, *City of Winston*; Janeal Kohler, *Douglas County Housing Authority*; William Marshall, *Judge*; Melissa McRobbie-Toll, *LPSCC Coordinator*; Justin Mathison, *Cow Creek Tribe*; Karan Reed, *Neighborworks Umpqua*; Robert Wilson, *Treatment Court Coordinator*

UPDATES

After introductions, the LPSCC coordinator reviewed the January meeting minutes and provided the following updates:

- **SAMHSA grant** - Due to the short application time frame, Adapt and Corrections did not apply for the SAMHSA grant for re-entry treatment programs and housing.
- **Jail inmates' housing needs** - Melissa reached out to the jail and confirmed that jail staff do not track inmates' housing status other than collecting an address at booking. The Release Assistance Officer pointed out in an email that the address does not necessarily reflect where an inmate lives. Mike Fieldman said UCAN is in the end stages of getting two case managers approved to go into the jail to talk to inmates about housing.
- **Re-entry resource flyer/frequent users** – The LPSCC Behavioral Health Subcommittee is working on creating a resource card that could be given to inmates upon their release from jail. The Subcommittee is also looking into how to identify frequent users of the criminal justice system and steer them into services.
- **Homeless count** – Wayne Ellsworth will provide the group with an update on the Point-in-Time Homeless Count at the next meeting. The results are still being tallied.

TRANSITIONAL HOUSING LIST

The group reviewed a preliminary list of transitional housing prepared by the LPSCC coordinator. The discussion about the list included the following points:

- Additions should include UCAN housing, Orchard Knolls and Safe Haven
- List will be divided into “emergency shelter” and “transitional housing” categories
- Updated list will include additional details such as rent amounts
- Mike Fieldman said there is a gap in services because there is a dearth of “low-barrier shelters” that have few requirements for people to be able to live there. Lance Colley noted that there can be political complications with providing low-barrier housing.
- Janeal Kohler said she can send the LPSCC coordinator a housing list that was given to the Subcommittee in a prior year.

ACTION: LPSCC coordinator will update the list and bring it back for the March meeting.

PROPOSED RENTAL ASSISTANCE FUND

At the Feb. 6 LPSCC meeting, the Council voted to allocate \$24,000 in leftover Justice Reinvestment funding to transitional housing, with details still to be worked out. LPSCC tasked the Housing Subcommittee with developing a proposal by Judge William Marshall to create a re-entry rental assistance fund. Judge Marshall described the proposed program to the Subcommittee:

Eligible participants would be graduates of the in-jail drug treatment program RSAT (Residential Substance Abuse Treatment) who are enrolled in Drug Court as after-care. The Drug Court team would determine who is eligible for the program. Participants could decide where they want to live, and UCAN would hold the \$24,000 and disburse it to landlords as needed.

Community Corrections provides funding for offenders' first month in re-entry, so this program would cover months 2-4. Participants would receive \$200 in Month 2, \$150 in Month 3, and \$100 in Month 4, for a total of \$450 in rental assistance per participant.

Discussion points on the proposal included the following:

- Judge Marshall floated the idea of making the payments a percentage of participants' rent rather than a flat rate. Aric Fromdahl recommended keeping the flat-rate approach for simplicity.
- Robert Wilson said three months is a good amount of time for participants to receive the assistance; by the end of that time, they will be at a later stage of Drug Court and will have fewer time commitments, enabling them to get jobs.
- Robert Wilson said about 1-2 inmates graduate from RSAT each month. With 15 months left in the biennium by the time the program gets off the ground, at a rate of 2 participants a month receiving \$450 each, projected program expenditures would be around \$13,500. That would be well within the \$24,000 budget. Subcommittee members agreed it would be prudent to have a cost buffer in case there are more participants than anticipated. Any unused funding could likely be rolled over to the next biennium.
- Mike Fieldman recommended having some work done with prospective participants to determine what kind of housing they need so that UCAN can be informed of those needs when disbursing funding. Robert said that about 30 days before offenders are released from RSAT, the parole/probation department begins doing transition planning with them. Sometimes representatives of Oxford House and TrueNorth Star Ministries also work with releasing RSAT inmates.

ACTION: Judge Marshall and Robert Wilson will fine-tune the proposal based on the group's input and bring it back to the Subcommittee in March. It will then go before the full LPSCC in April.

MEMBERSHIP & MISSION/VISION STATEMENTS

- **Chair role** – Aric Fromdahl has historically acted as Housing Subcommittee chair but feels it is time for someone else to take the reins. Nominations will be accepted at the next Subcommittee meeting, and there will be a vote at that meeting to select a new chair.

- **Membership** – Lance Colley said it is important to continue to reach out to non-members to invite them to meetings and further increase the level of expertise in the room. **ACTION:** *LPSCC coordinator will reach out to Roseburg Rescue Mission and Kevin Thomas at Self Sufficiency.*
- **Mission/Vision statements** – The group revised the draft mission and vision statements. **ACTION:** *LPSCC coordinator will send out the revisions to members, and the mission/vision statements will be approved at the next meeting.*

MEMBER UPDATES

Lance Colley, City of Roseburg – The City is preparing to release an RFP for a survey to determine the community’s housing needs, taking into account the specific needs of veterans, families and others. The survey will help identify existing gaps.

Aric Fromdahl, Juvenile Justice – The Board of Commissioners has just authorized a budget adjustment to Juvenile Justice to add the state grant money of \$1 million for the Pitchford Youth Campus project. He offered to take Subcommittee members on a site tour sometime in the future.

Mike Fieldman, UCAN – The Sobering Center idea is alive, but a location is needed. There is startup funding to open the Center, and some operating funding has been identified. Aric Fromdahl said he may be able to help identify a site.

Allen Hobson, City of Winston – The City Council is looking at zoning changes that would address a gap in multi-family housing. Winston has limited land availability.

Justin Mathison, Cow Creek Band of Umpqua Tribe of Indians – One house has just been completed, and two more will be done by the end of the month. The Cow Creek Tribe is about to host fellow tribes from Northern California and Southern Oregon for federal funding negotiations. The Tribe has been made aware of various tribal grant opportunities, and he will also keep an eye out for funding opportunities relevant to the Subcommittee.

Karan Reed, NeighborWorks Umpqua – NeighborWorks is applying for Low-Income Housing Tax Credit funding from the state for a project on Northeast Douglas Avenue to provide 68 units of housing for veterans and non-veterans. Some of the units will be designated for homeless and those with severe mental illness and/or substance use disorders. NeighborWorks also has approval to move forward with the purchase of the Rose Apartments, a complex with 40 units of senior/disabled housing.

Marie Dixon, NAMI – NAMI is continually working to influence the Legislature in Salem, including on the issue of civil commitment. It is currently very difficult to have a severely mentally ill person committed, resulting in families that are constantly in crisis.

Janeal Kohler, Douglas County Housing Authority – The Housing Authority is finishing up development of an administrative building that will resolve accessibility and capacity issues. A small project is in the pipeline that would add 4 to 5 units. Preliminary planning is underway on a 60-unit complex on existing Housing Authority land.

MISCELLANEOUS

- Connor McDonnell of Oregon Housing and Community Services is set to attend a Housing Subcommittee meeting in April. The group postponed the discussion on preparing for his visit until the Subcommittee's March meeting.

NEXT MEETING: Noon, Wednesday, March 14, third-floor conference room, Roseburg City Hall