



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

Noon, Wednesday, March 14, 2018

Third-floor conference room, Roseburg City Hall

PRESENT: Lynn Antis, *Roseburg Rescue Mission*; Lance Colley, *City of Roseburg*; Wayne Ellsworth, *Adapt*; 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*; Sean Negherbon, Arielle Reid, *Neighborworks Umpqua*; *City of Winston*; Sarah Thompson, *Cow Creek Tribe*;

ON THE PHONE: Marie Dixon, *NAMI*

TRANSITIONAL HOUSING FUND PROPOSAL

Background: At its February meeting, the full Local Public Safety Coordinating Council (LPSCC) voted to earmark \$24,000 in leftover Justice Reinvestment (JRI) grant funds for transitional housing, and tasked the LPSCC Housing Subcommittee with reviewing and fine-tuning Judge Marshall's proposal to create a transitional housing fund to provide rental assistance to those in re-entry. The Subcommittee discussed the details of the proposal at its Feb. 21 meeting, and today Judge Marshall presented a final proposal that incorporated the Subcommittee's feedback. Here are some key details:

- **Scope** - The fund would pay for 3 months of rental assistance for individuals transitioning back into the community after graduating from the Residential Substance Abuse Treatment (RSAT). Community Corrections covers the first month of re-entry housing, so this funding would pay for months 2-4.
- **Eligibility** – Participants must have graduated from RSAT and be enrolled in Drug Court, the RSAT after-care program. The Drug Court team would decide who is eligible.
- **Assistance amounts** - The amounts would taper down each month, with payments of \$200 the second month; \$150 the third month; and \$100 the fourth month.
- **Administration** - Individuals could choose where they want to live, and the fund would be administered through UCAN, which would pay landlords directly.
- **Estimated cost** – Robert Wilson has said 1-2 people graduate from RSAT each month. With about 15 months left in the biennium by the time the program gets started, and at a rate of 2 new participants per month receiving \$450 each, projected program expenditures would be around \$13,500. That would be well within the \$24,000 budget and would provide a buffer to prevent cost overruns.
- **Continuation** – As the end of the biennium nears and JRI discussions begin, the program's effectiveness would be evaluated and there would be a determination on whether to continue it.

The group discussed the updated proposal, and Mike Fieldman had questions regarding who will be doing case management to help the program participants find appropriate housing. **ACTION:** *The LPSCC Coordinator will look into that question.*

VOTE: Lance Colley made a motion that the Subcommittee forward a recommendation to the full LPSCC to approve the program. Allen Hobson seconded. Mike Fieldman and Arielle Reid abstained. **Motion passed.**

TRANSITIONAL HOUSING LIST

The group reviewed a list and spreadsheet of Douglas County transitional housing prepared by the LPSCC coordinator. The list/spreadsheet included provider names, number of men's/women's beds, and rent amounts, among other details. The ensuing discussion included the following points:

- Sarah Thompson suggested adding contact information for each provider.
- Mike Fieldman would like to know how long people typically stay at each location. He also suggested adding to the list a transitional housing site in Winston that is run by Adapt. Mike is also interested in information on a housing complex off of Lookingglass Road that used to be run by Options for Southern Oregon.
- Lance Colley said data on occupancy rates could help define the size of the transitional housing gap. It was noted that UCAN and the Rescue Mission currently have wait lists for their transitional housing. Meanwhile, there is plenty of room at the Mission men's shelter and at the women's Samaritan Inn shelter.
- Janeal Kohler wondered if the list would be tailored to users of the housing. The LPSCC coordinator suggested creating a second list (or resource sheet) that could be handed to those seeking transitional housing by social service providers and other agencies.
- Lynn Antis noted that Community Corrections is requiring some men and women to live at the Mission as a condition of probation. He said at least 30 percent of those staying at the Mission are taking psychotropic medications for mental illness.
- It would be helpful for the group to have information on available housing for those with serious mental illness.

ACTION: *LPSCC coordinator will add contact information to the list and seek out data on occupancy rates and length of stay. She will also create a second list/resource sheet that is tailored to those seeking transitional housing. Additionally, she will research mental health housing availability in the county.*

UPCOMING VISIT BY OHCS

Connor McDonnell of Oregon Housing and Community Services will be sitting in on the next Housing Subcommittee meeting in April. Subcommittee members discussed what they would like to get out of the visit. Areas of interest include the following:

- What state resources are available on an ongoing basis, and what new resources exist that we might not be aware of?

- What are the latest state efforts in terms of predevelopment resources?
- What transitional housing data is available locally and statewide?
- Latest developments with Opportunity Zone designation efforts?
- What are the latest efforts of Oregon Housing and Community Services' Housing Working Group?

Arielle Reid pointed out that the governor's office is accepting public comments on the selection of new federal "Opportunity Zones," low-income communities that will be granted a new federal tax incentive to encourage long-term investments. More information on the program can be found at <http://www.oregon4biz.com/Opportunity-Zones/>. **ACTION:** Arielle Reid will send out more information on this program to the LPSCC coordinator to disseminate to the group.

POINT-IN-TIME HOMELESS COUNT

Wayne Ellsworth updated the group on the "Point In Time" homelessness count that was conducted on Jan. 31. There was extensive collaboration for this year's count, which included outreach to homeless encampments and geographical areas that hadn't been counted in past years. Participants included UCAN, Adapt, the VA and Americorps volunteers. The results are still being tallied, and Wayne will update the group once he has the numbers. Lance Colley is interested in whether the data might be helpful to the City of Roseburg as it prepares to launch its housing needs analysis. He also voiced interest in data showing whether Douglas County's homeless residents are from here. Lynn Antis said the vast majority of those coming into the Mission are local.

MISSION/VISION STATEMENTS

The group revised the Mission and Vision statements to the following:

Mission statement: "The LPSCC Housing Subcommittee's mission is to increase the availability and affordability of re-entry housing in Douglas County."

Vision statement: "A safe and healthy community where those in re-entry from incarceration have a place to live and there is sufficient affordable housing, including for veterans, those with mental illness, people in recovery and others."

VOTE: Mike Fieldman made a motion to adopt the mission and vision statements. Allen Hobson seconded. Arielle Reid abstained. **Motion passed.**

MEMBER UPDATES

Mike Fieldman, UCAN – A location is still being sought for the Sobering Center, and UCAN is in dialogue with Aric Fromdahl regarding a possible site. He will keep the Subcommittee updated on this process.

Aric Fromdahl, Juvenile Department – Juvenile is making progress on a project to reopen the Pitchford Boys Ranch to shelter up to 25 children ages 6 through 12. The project, which was recently covered by the News-Review, was jump-started by \$1 million in state grant money.

Lance Colley, City of Roseburg – Roseburg was recently awarded a \$400,000 low-income housing grant in a joint effort with NeighborWorks Umpqua and the cities of Winston and Myrtle Creek. The money will help bring existing affordable housing up to code so people can continue to live in it.

Lynn Antis – There is a wait list for the Mission's transitional housing, but there continue to be numerous empty beds at the Mission's shelters. Sometimes residents of the Mission shelter have longer stays because they can't find permanent housing.

Arielle Reid – She recently became the new director of policy and advocacy for NeighborWorks Umpqua, and will be reaching out to some Subcommittee members individually to connect.

NEXT MEETING: Noon, Wednesday, April 11, third-floor conference room, Roseburg City Hall