



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

Noon, Wednesday, April 11, 2018

Third-floor conference room, Roseburg City Hall

PRESENT: Lance Colley, *City of Roseburg*; Marie Dixon, *NAMI*; Wayne Ellsworth, *Adapt*; Mike Fieldman, *UCAN*; Aric Fromdahl, *Juvenile Justice*; Allen Hobson, *City of Winston*; Janeal Kohler, *Douglas County Housing Authority*; Melissa McRobbie-Toll, *LPSCC Coordinator*; Karan Reed, *NeighborWorks Umpqua*;

ABSENT: Lynn Antis, *Roseburg Rescue Mission*; Justin Mathison, *Cow Creek Tribe*; Sean Negherbon, *City of Myrtle Creek*; Arielle Reid, *Neighborworks Umpqua*;

ON THE PHONE: Sarah Thompson, *Cow Creek Tribe*

Housing Subcommittee Chair Allen Hobson opened the meeting at 12:01 p.m.

MINUTES APPROVAL: *Janeal Kohler moved to approve the draft minutes from the March 14 meeting. Marie seconded. Motion passed.*

TRANSITIONAL HOUSING FUND PROPOSAL

LPSCC Coordinator Melissa McRobbie-Toll updated the group that the full LPSCC approved Judge Marshall's updated Transitional Housing Fund proposal at its meeting on April 3. **Background:** LPSCC voted in February 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 fund will pay for 3 months of rental assistance for RSAT graduates transitioning back into the community. The Drug Court team will help vet the participants, and UCAN will administer the fund and pay landlords directly. Participants can choose where they want to live. The rental assistance amounts will taper down each month, with payments of \$200 the second month; \$150 the third month; and \$100 the fourth month. As the end of the biennium nears and JRI discussions begin, the program's effectiveness will be evaluated and there will be a determination on whether to continue it.

The discussion about the program included the following points:

- **Learning curve** - Mike Fieldman said UCAN will be noting lessons learned as it gets the program off the ground.
- **RSAT & after care** – Lance Colley said it makes sense to funnel resources to populations like RSAT graduates because they have a strong after-care program in Drug Court that provides structure and stability. Helping this group with housing costs is a good investment that could help reduce recidivism rates.

- **Case management** - Janeal Kohler asked about case management. LPSCC coordinator said RSAT graduates receive jail in-reach to help them get connected to services. They are also enrolled in Drug Court as the RSAT after-care component, and the individual circumstances of each defendant's situation are reviewed regularly by the Drug Court team, which involves attorneys, parole/probation, treatment providers, the Drug Court judge and others.
- **Data** - Allen Hobson said it is important to track data for this new program. If we can show it's helping people and reducing recidivism, it will aid us in seeking funding to continue it.
- **Mental Health Court clients** - Marie Dixon suggested that if the pilot program goes well, it could potentially be expanded to include Mental Health Court participants being released from jail. Janeal Kohler said there is at least **\$6,000 in funding available for Mental Health Court participants** from a fund that was created through a partnership of the Douglas County Housing Authority and the former Community Health Alliance when Judge Garrison was starting Mental Health Court. The fund's purpose is similar to that of the new RSAT Transitional Housing Fund.
- **First week** - Mike Fieldman noted the importance of individuals in re-entry obtaining housing immediately after their release, when they are most vulnerable.
- **Jail in-reach** – Wayne Ellsworth said there is a group of about 5 people who are interested in doing jail in-reach to help inmates reactivate their OHP prior to release. Mike Fieldman said UCAN also has staff interested in in-reach to connect releasing inmates to housing.
- **Gap in services** – Lance Colley pointed out that there appears to be a gap in services at the time of jail release: inmates are being released without being connected to resources. The LPSCC Behavioral Health Subcommittee is aware of this gap and is working to address it. Mike Fieldman said a goal should be to reach out to everyone coming out of jail.

ACTIONS: LPSCC Coordinator will reach out to the jail for ideas on how to best allow service providers access to releasing inmates. She will also put it on the Behavioral Health Subcommittee agenda to discuss the jail-release gap in services.

TRANSITIONAL HOUSING LIST FOR CLIENTS

LPSCC Coordinator Melissa McRobbie-Toll shared a transitional housing list she created at the request of the Subcommittee that is targeted toward individuals seeking transitional housing. The list is color-coded and includes simple info such as whom each provider serves; monthly rent amounts; details about the housing; and more. The discussion about the list included the following points:

- **Revisions** - Edits will include the following: The list should include emergency shelter locations in addition to the transitional housing (the Mission, Samaritan Inn, Casa de Belen); and the term 'transitional housing' will be briefly explained at the top of the sheet.
- **Dissemination** - The list will be disseminated to service providers, and those service providers can hand it out to clients and help walk them through it to make sure they understand what transitional housing is and how to access it. Entities receiving the list should include UCAN, the Drug Court team, Adapt/Compass, 211 and Community Corrections.
- **Shelter info** - Those coming out of jail should be given information on emergency shelters (this info will be included on the resource card)
- **Tribe** - Lance Colley asked if the Tribe had any transitional housing that should be included on the list. Sarah Thompson said there are some transitional housing units in Canyonville for tribal members but the Tribe does not wish to have those units listed.

VOTE: Allen Hobson made a motion to adopt the transitional housing list as a guide for clients and have the LPSCC Coordinator disseminate it to providers once the requested edits are made. Karan Reed seconded. **Motion passed.**

ACTION: LPSCC Coordinator will edit the list, email it to the Subcommittee for review, then begin disseminating it to service providers.

OPPORTUNITY ZONES

Karan Reed told the group there is no new information about which communities in Oregon may be chosen as “Opportunity Zones,” a new federal designation that creates tax incentives for investment in low-income communities. Gov. Kate Brown is nominating up to 86 communities in Oregon to receive the designation. That process is pending. The deadline for public input has passed. Here is a Medford Mail-Tribune article about the new Opportunity Zone designation:

<http://www.mailtribune.com/news/20180227/governor-eyes-oregon-opportunity-zones>

POINT-IN-TIME HOMELESS COUNT

Mike Fieldman said 573 people were counted in this year’s homelessness count, compared to 464 last year. He said that number could go up once the “doubled up” folks are included in the tally. Points in the discussion on the homeless count included:

- **Numbers’ meaning?** - Allen Hobson wondered if the higher number this year means that the local homeless population has grown, or rather indicates that this year’s count was more thorough than last year’s. Mike Fieldman said that’s still unclear.
- **City efforts** - Lance Colley said the City of Roseburg is preparing to do a buildable-lands inventory and a housing needs analysis. The city has received funding from the Ford Family Foundation to drill down into existing homelessness data and examine housing needs. A starting point will likely be data from the Point-in-Time count.
- **Definition of homelessness** - There was discussion about the definition of homelessness, and whether those who are “doubled up” and living with others out of necessity qualify as homeless. HUD defines a “chronically homeless” person as someone who has been without housing for longer than 12 months. Wayne Ellsworth noted that during the recent homelessness count, those surveyed were asked how many times they had been homeless in the past 12 months.

SUBCOMMITTEE GOALS

The Subcommittee began a conversation about creating goals and defining priorities. Conversation points included the following:

- Lance Colley said it makes sense to wait until after Connor McDonnell’s visit to set goals and priorities for the group. Connor was supposed to attend the April meeting but had a conflict. Lance said housing overall is a City of Roseburg priority, and that the Partnership for Economic Development has a subcommittee working on broad housing issues. He recommended that the LPSCC Housing Subcommittee focus more narrowly, on transitional housing and emergency shelter.

- Mike Fieldman agreed that should be the focus because most people UCAN and public safety partners work with need transitional housing or shelter.
- Marie Dixon also agreed. She said that once the Subcommittee distributes the transitional housing list to service providers, we should track how the list is being used, who is using it and what effect it's having.
- Mike Fieldman said UCAN and others are looking into the possibility of so-called "tiny homes." A "tiny home" group will be meeting sometime in the next couple of months.
- Karan Reed wondered if shelter beds that are currently going unused could be converted to transitional housing.

MEMBER UPDATES

Aric Fromdahl, Juvenile Justice – Juvenile is gearing up to break ground on the Pitchford Boys Ranch project.

Wayne Ellsworth, Adapt – The Homeless Actions Transitions Group (HTAG) will be meeting on April 25 at Greater Douglas United Way. There will be an 11:30 a.m. leadership roundtable, followed by a regular meeting from 1 to 2 p.m. There is also a free event called "Pain Matters" happening at the community center in Winston on May 22. There will be a presentation on long-term pain management, and a representative from the HIV alliance will discuss storage, disposal, use and misuse of prescription drugs. There will also be a naloxone training.

Marie Dixon, NAMI – The local NAMI chapter plans to participate virtually in an upcoming annual NAMI walk in Portland. The public can donate online to support the team. The aim is for the proceeds to support the opening of a drop-in center for those with mental illness. An issue that comes up frequently for people with severe mental illness (who often cannot work) is that they don't have enough to do, and don't have places to go.

Karan Reed, NeighborWorks Umpqua – NeighborWorks is finalizing its grant application for its Deer Creek project, a 68-unit development that will serve primarily veterans but also others. NeighborWorks hopes to have the project include 10 units for people with mental illness.

Mike Fieldman, UCAN – A location is still being sought for the Sobering Center.

Meeting adjourned at 1:14 p.m.

NEXT MEETING: Noon, Wednesday, May 9, third-floor conference room, Roseburg City Hall