



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

Noon, Wednesday, Sept. 12, 2018

Third-floor conference room, Roseburg City Hall

MEMBERS PRESENT: Cheryl Carson, *DHS*; Larry Clark, *UCAN*; Lance Colley, *City of Roseburg*; Marie Dixon, *NAMI*; Mike Fieldman, *UCAN*; Aric Fromdahl, *Juvenile Department*; Allen Hobson, *City of Winston; Housing Authority*; Janeal Kohler, *Douglas County Housing Authority*; Justin Mathison, *Cow Creek Tribe*; Melissa McRobbie-Toll, *LPSCC Coordinator*;

MEMBERS ABSENT: Paul Coffelt, *DHS*; Wayne Ellsworth, *Adapt*; Karan Reed, *NeighborWorks Umpqua*; Arielle Reid, *Neighborworks Umpqua*;

OTHERS PRESENT: Ashley Hicks, *Roseburg City Council*

Housing Subcommittee Chair Allen Hobson opened the meeting at noon.

MINUTES APPROVAL: *Marie Dixon moved to approve the draft minutes from the Aug. 8 meeting. Lance Colley seconded. Motion passed.*

UPDATES

- **Second Chance Tour** - The Second Chance Tour will make a stop in Roseburg next week. The statewide tour, organized by Dave's Killer Bread and the Governor's Re-Entry Council, is aimed at getting more employers to hire individuals in re-entry who have criminal backgrounds. The free Roseburg event will be held at the **Douglas County Fairgrounds from 9 a.m. to noon on Wednesday, Sept. 19**. There will be a breakfast buffet at 8:30 a.m. The Tour is mainly geared toward employers, but Housing Subcommittee members are encouraged to attend. Registration is required. Registration link: <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/oregon-second-chance-tour-roseburg-workshop-tickets-47278426045>
- **Transitional Housing fund** – Mike Fieldman gave a brief update on the JRI-funded transitional housing assistance fund for releasing RSAT graduates. The program is up and running but so far only one person has been referred to UCAN, the administering agency. LPSCC Coordinator will look into why this is. **UPDATE:** After the meeting, Coordinator spoke with Treatment Court Coordinator Robert Wilson and learned that only one person has been eligible so far due to the program's recent launch date. More referrals are expected soon.
- **Tiny homes** – Mike Fieldman said there is a possibility that a TV program called "Tiny House Nation" could film an episode in Roseburg. If so, the show would provide the funding to build one or two tiny homes.

- **Sobering Center** – Mike Fieldman said there have been several meetings over the past couple of months, including one last Friday. The effort is now focused on securing operating funding before moving forward with other aspects. The goal is a 24/7 Sobering Center.
- **LPSCC Behavioral Health Subcommittee** – The BH Subcommittee is looking into the possibility of setting up a “resource room” near the jail once a week where releasing inmates could go to be connected to services. Ashley Hicks noted that people getting out of jail are often looking for a place to charge their phones.

TRANSITIONAL HOUSING LISTS & DISTRIBUTION

The group reviewed copies of two Douglas County transitional housing lists created for the Subcommittee by LPSCC Coordinator. One is for internal use by service providers, and the other is tailored to individuals seeking housing. The group recommended minor revisions. **ACTION:** *LPSCC Coordinator will revise the lists and distribute them to local service providers. At the next meeting, she will update the group on distribution efforts.*

IDENTIFY NEXT GROUP PROJECT

The Subcommittee reviewed its Mission Statement and discussed where to focus its efforts in the coming weeks and months. LPSCC Coordinator shared that she had reviewed the Subcommittee minutes to date and noticed two themes in the group’s discussions: Creating more transitional housing, and removing service barriers.

Creating more housing - Lance Colley said it would be most appropriate for the group to focus on identifying specific post-incarceration housing needs and seeking ways to expand available transitional housing and shelter to meet those needs. Recommendations for policy-level changes should come from the full LPSCC. Mike Fieldman said Douglas County needs more low-barrier shelter options that have fewer requirements for clients wishing to stay there.

Janeal Kohler said she would like more information about the housing needs of people coming out of prison or jail – do they need SRO/family units/other? **ACTION:** *LPSCC Coordinator will connect with Janeal to develop a brief questionnaire to gather information on re-entry housing needs. The questionnaire could potentially be administered during jail in-reach and at other times.*

Barrier removal/strengthening service connections – The group discussion touched on various barriers individuals in re-entry face that impact their housing situation. Discussion points included:

- **Landlord education** – The group discussed increasing landlord-education opportunities to remove barriers for would-be renters with criminal records. Subcommittee has also discussed increasing awareness about UCAN’s Second Chance Renters Program. Janeal Kohler said landlord education could be done through the Rental Owners Association of Douglas County (ROADC).
- **JRI-funded transitional housing assistance** – Group wants to look into why there have been few referrals to the program.
- **Transitions from shelter to permanent housing** - Some people coming out of shelter situations (including women at the Samaritan Inn), find it overwhelming to suddenly be in permanent housing without the supports available at the shelter. This sudden drop-off in supportive

services can lead to failure and a return to the shelter. It was noted that some women do continue receiving supportive services through DHS, Mental Health Court or other entities but that stronger communication between agencies/shelters and warm handoffs would be beneficial.

- **Jail in-reach** – UCAN currently does jail in-reach to connect releasing RSAT participants to housing, and Adapt staff mention housing resources during their jail in-reach on Fridays to reactivate releasing inmates' OHP. Cheryl Carson suggested doing earlier and more extensive jail in-reach. LPSCC Coordinator said any additional in-reach would have to be coordinated with the jail as there are logistical considerations.
- **Other barriers** – Obtaining a driver's license, passing a credit check, more. **ACTION:** LPSCC Coordinator will create a list of barriers mentioned by the group over time for discussion at the October meeting.

MISCELLANEOUS

- **Parole/Probation** – It was noted that it would be beneficial to have Community Corrections represented at Subcommittee meetings during conversations about service connections. **ACTION:** LPSCC Coordinator will reach out to Community Corrections.
- **Homeless Outreach Coordinator** – Larry Clark is UCAN's new homeless outreach coordinator.
- **Statewide housing document** - The Governor recently released a statewide housing policy agenda. LPSCC Coordinator will obtain that document and distribute it to the group.
- **Samaritan Inn playground** – The Samaritan Inn is in need of a covered playground area.

ADJOURNMENT: Meeting adjourned at 1:08 p.m.

NEXT MEETING: Noon, Wednesday, Oct. 10

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.”*