



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

**Noon, Wednesday, Jan. 23, 2019**  
*Room 310, Douglas County Courthouse*

**PRESENT:** Karen Berkey, *Citizen*; Cheryl Carson, *DHS*; Larry Clark, *UCAN*; Pat Chaney, *Legal Aid Services of Oregon (LASO)*; Lance Colley, *City of Roseburg*; Stuart Cowie, *City of Roseburg*; Tim Edmondson, *Roseburg Dream Center*; Wayne Ellsworth, *Adapt*; Mike Fieldman, *UCAN*; Dave Grammon, *TrueNorth Star Ministries*; Allen Hobson, *City of Winston*; Mia Huntley, *Umpqua Valley Disabilities Network*; Christopher Hutton, *Roseburg Dream Center*; Alana Lenihan, *Common Ground Coalition*; Janeal Kohler, *Douglas County Housing Authority*; Justin Mathison, *Cow Creek Tribe*; Melissa McRobbie-Toll, *LPSCC Coordinator*; Karan Reed, *NeighborWorks Umpqua*; Arielle Reid, *Neighborworks Umpqua*; Brian Shelton-Kelley, *NeighborWorks Umpqua*; Sarah Thompson, *Cow Creek Tribe*;

**ON THE PHONE:** Marie Dixon, *NAMI*;

**ABSENT:** Aric Fromdahl, *Juvenile Department*; Shelly Hendrickson, *Battered Persons' Advocacy*;

**GUEST PRESENTERS:** Paul Solomon, *Executive Director, Sponsors Inc.*; Nick Crapser, *Deputy Director, Sponsors Inc.*

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Housing Subcommittee Chair Allen Hobson opened the meeting at 12:05 p.m.

**MINUTES APPROVAL:** *Mike Fieldman moved to approve the draft minutes from the Dec. 12 meeting. Karan Reed seconded. Motion passed.*

This is the first joint meeting of the LPSCC Housing Subcommittee and the Homeless Transitions Action Group (HTAG).

**SPONSORS PRESENTATION**

Paul Solomon and Nick Crapser gave an overview of the Sponsors program in Eugene, a nonprofit that provides transitional housing, mentorship, re-entry assistance and other services to justice-involved men and women in Lane County. The program began with 5 units of housing in 1988 and has expanded to over 200 units at various sites. A core belief driving the program is that people can and do change, and intervention at the right time can serve as a catalyst for change.

- **Populations served** – Sponsors serves moderate- to high-risk male and female offenders, most of whom are coming out of prison or jail (jail releases account for about 25 percent of program participants). Priority is given to sex offenders, seniors, veterans, women with children and people with disabilities/mental illness. Many participants have substance abuse and/or mental health needs.

- **Risk assessments** – Sponsors follows the risk-need-responsivity model, and risk assessments help guide case plans by highlighting participants' specific needs (such as education/employment, family/marital, drug/alcohol, etc.). The Level of Service/Case Management Inventory (LS/CMI) is part of risk assessment, and participants are given a basic mental health screen (the PHQ-9).
- **On-site services** – On-site services include treatment groups and mental health counseling; a re-entry resource center; a mentoring program; an education program; cognitive behavioral therapy (CBT) groups; parenting classes; legal assistance; and more. Sponsors also provides CBT groups in the Jail.
- **Men's transitional housing** – The 45-unit men's transitional housing was built in 2010 in partnership with the Housing Authority. The units are mostly double-occupancy for a total of 85 beds. Aesthetics were emphasized to provide a contrast to the bleak surroundings residents had encountered in prison/jail. Residents mostly stay for 60-90 days. There is a wait list to enter this housing. By the time they leave, the goal is for residents to have a job and be able to self-finance their move to permanent housing. A lack of available permanent housing has presented a challenge. Funded with Low-Income Housing Tax Credits, federal stimulus funds, VA and private foundation grants.
- **Women's transitional housing** – There are 28 transitional beds, and women generally stay for 90 to 120 days. Sponsors recognizes that women sometimes have a harder time finding full-time jobs than men. Homes for Good (Housing Authority) financed a low-interest loan to establish this housing in 1991. There are also 5 units that can house up to 5 women and 10 children; this was funded with city HOME dollars.
- **The Oaks at 14<sup>th</sup> Street** – A 54-unit apartment complex completed in 2017 that provides permanent affordable housing to people with criminal backgrounds. Units are up to 610 square feet and rent for \$475 to \$575 monthly. Project cost \$9.2 million, and was enabled by tax credits, SDC waivers, funding from Lane County and foundation grants.
- **Neighbor concerns** - Neighborhood meetings were held to address neighbors' concerns about the Oaks at 14<sup>th</sup> Street project. Commissioners, the Sheriff's Office, Police, Parole/Probation and others participated. Wood from oak trees that were felled for the project was used to make park benches that were donated to a nearby park and neighborhood association. An appeal of Sponsors' building permit was ultimately resolved in Sponsors' favor.
- **Tiny homes** – In the Spring, Sponsors will break ground on 10 tiny homes. Homes are duplexes, allowing for efficiencies with shared walls and plumbing. The cost per home is currently \$100,000 but the aim is to bring that cost down to \$60,000. Project funded by a capital campaign that garnered foundation funding and contributions from individual donors.
- **Completion/recidivism rates** – Sponsors serves 400 to 500 people annually in its transitional and long-term housing programs. In the 20 years, 65 to 75 percent of participants successfully complete programming. The 3-year recidivism rate is 33 percent, and the Sponsors treatment group recidivism rate is 13 percent.
- **Operating funds** – Sponsors has about 20 contracts, mostly through Lane County but also OYA, federal parole/probation, Drug Court, the VA and other entities. Funding includes Grant-In-Aid and Justice Reinvestment funds that go through Lane County's Public Safety Coordinating Council.
- **Miscellaneous** – About 60 percent of Sponsors staff have been in the criminal justice system.

A group discussion followed the presentation. Discussion touched on the following points:

- Sponsors was founded in 1973 by community activists and Catholic nuns. It does not have a religious affiliation but receives strong support from the faith community.
- A little less than half of Sponsors' total funding comes from the county and city (mostly county, which receives state funding through parole/probation). Grants make up 10 to 20 percent, donations are an estimated 3-4 percent and the rest comes from rental income and various contracts. No city/county general funds are used.
- Fiscal and moral arguments were made in the push for county funding; those coming out of prison/jail are at high risk of ending up homeless and reoffending, which is costly.
- It was noted that in underfunded/overcrowded jails like Douglas County's, diverting some people from jail doesn't necessarily translate to cost savings.
- Annual gala raised \$150,000 last year. Such events help build a base of support and community connections
- Releasing jail and prison inmates have different needs; those coming out of prison are generally more stable than those coming out of jail
- Treatment groups are contracted
- There is 24/7 staffing in transitional housing
- Economy has improved; even sex offenders are often finding employment within a week
- Those working for Sponsors need to have completed supervision
- Sponsors has some ownership in all of its properties except for one, which has reduced its overhead considerably.
- Sponsors does property management and maintenance at most but not all of its sites
- Douglas County faces a severe shortage of permanent affordable housing.
- Sponsors' partnership with local Housing Authority was essential for its growth/success

**NEXT MEETING:** Noon, Tuesday, Feb. 19, 2019

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***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."