



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

Noon, Tuesday, Feb. 19, 2019
Room 310, Douglas County Courthouse

PRESENT: Cheryl Carson, *DHS*; Larry Clark, *UCAN*; Lance Colley, *City of Roseburg*; Betsy Cunningham, *Citizen*; Marie Dixon, *NAMI*; Mike Fieldman, *UCAN*; Aric Fromdahl, *Juvenile Department*; Kathryn Garland, *DHS*; Janeal Kohler, *Douglas County Housing Authority*; Amber MacPherson, *Umpqua Health Alliance*; Melissa McRobbie-Toll, *LPSCC Coordinator*; Catherine Paul, *Citizen*; Lt. Mike Root, *Douglas County Jail*

ABSENT: Wayne Ellsworth, *Adapt*; Shelly Hendrickson, *Battered Persons' Advocacy*; Allen Hobson, *City of Winston*; Karan Reed, *NeighborWorks Umpqua*; Brian Shelton-Kelley, *NeighborWorks Umpqua*; Sarah Thompson, *Cow Creek Tribe*;

LPSCC Coordinator opened the meeting at 12:04 p.m.

MINUTES APPROVAL: Marie Dixon moved to approve the draft minutes from the Jan. 23 meeting. Lance Colley seconded. **Motion passed.**

UPDATES

- **Transitional Housing Fund** – LPSCC had approved allocating \$24,000 in state Justice Reinvestment grant funds to transitional housing for RSAT graduates to help them cover rent for their first three months in the community. Less than \$2,000 of the \$24,000 has been spent so far, and the Housing Subcommittee has been tasked with examining the program and developing recommendations to LPSCC for how to alter/improve it. This will be the primary topic on the agenda at the next Subcommittee meeting in March. The Transitional Housing Fund will also be discussed by the temporary LPSCC JRI Subcommittee.
- **The Connecting Point** – The Connecting Point resource room, an initiative of the LPSCC Behavioral Health Subcommittee, launched in December and operates between 7:30 and 1130 a.m. on Mondays. The idea is to connect individuals releasing from jail to resources to help them break the cycle of criminality. Turnout has been light, and the sessions so far have mostly wrapped up by 9:30 a.m. The location seems to be a barrier, and the group is seeking an alternative location. Awareness is growing – LPSCC Coordinator presented about the Connecting Point at a Parole/Probation staff meeting earlier today. Behavioral Health Subcommittee will discuss how to track program's impact at next week's meeting.
- **Vouchers/Rental Assistance** – LPSCC Coordinator has begun compiling a list of vouchers/rental assistance programs as requested by Subcommittee. She will send a working draft to Subcommittee members for feedback and will update the list to include information on who qualifies for each type of assistance.

Conversation points included the following:

- **Frequent ED users** - Amber MacPherson, Case Management Coordinator with Umpqua Health Alliance, shared that her position involves connecting frequent users of the Emergency Department to emergency shelter and housing. She often puts them up in the Baymont hotel for lack of a better option. She then follows up with them and helps connect them to foster homes and other housing.
- **Domestic violence victims** - Cheryl Carson, Community Partnership Coordinator with DHS, said she sometimes sees domestic-violence victims who have been subject to financial abuse fall through the cracks because on paper they make too much to qualify for assistance. She has not been able to identify one-time funding to help those victims.

SPONSORS PROGRAM

LPSCC Coordinator gave a brief recap of last month's Sponsors presentation by Paul Solomon and Nick Crapser. Sponsors, located in Eugene, provides transitional housing, re-entry assistance and other rehabilitative services to individuals coming out of prisons and jails. Discussion points included:

- **Start small/work with Sponsors** - Lance Colley said one possibility is for entities in Douglas County to contract with Sponsors for some of the services it provides rather than starting from scratch. Starting small makes sense; Sponsors started with 5 units in 1988 and now includes over 200 units. He said it could be appropriate for LPSCC to allocate Justice Reinvestment grant funding to such a program in Douglas County.
- **Qualified staff** - Catherine Paul was impressed with Sponsors' approach of bringing on high-level, well-educated providers and administrators who envisioned their clients succeeding.
- **Supportive housing funding** - Melissa McRobbie-Toll said state-level funding may become available for local supportive housing, depending on the Legislature's actions this session.
- **SROs** - Lance Colley shared that the Roseburg City Council held a first reading on an ordinance to create a new type of housing called single-room occupancy (SRO) housing. The housing would consist of small, individual units with a bathroom for every 2-3 units and a shared kitchen facility. The units, which would rent for \$400 to \$500 a month, would be in the central business district. This would be general housing, not targeted at justice-involved individuals.
- **Open house** - Lance also shared that there would be an open house on the city's housing needs analysis at 7 p.m. that evening (Feb. 19) at the Roseburg Public Safety Center. Roseburg collaborated with UCAN on this year's Point in Time Homeless Count as part of the analysis.

NEXT MEETING: Noon, Wednesday, March 27, 2019

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."*