



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

Noon, Wednesday, May 8, 2019
Room 310, Douglas County Courthouse

PRESENT: Stuart Cowie, *Roseburg Community Development Director*; Marie Dixon, *NAMI*; Wayne Ellsworth, *Adapt*; Mike Fieldman, *UCAN*; Aric Fromdahl, *Juvenile Department*; Allen Hobson, *City of Winston*; Janeal Kohler, *Douglas County Housing Authority*; Melissa McRobbie-Toll, *LPSCC Coordinator*; Sarah Thompson, *Cow Creek Tribe*;

ABSENT: Jerry O'Sullivan, *Adapt*; Cheryl Carson, *DHS*; Larry Clark, *UCAN*; Karan Reed, *NeighborWorks Umpqua*;

Chair Hobson opened the meeting at 12:04 p.m.

MINUTES APPROVAL: *Marie Dixon moved to approve the draft minutes from the April 10 meeting. Sarah Thompson seconded. Motion passed.*

UPDATES

- **Sobering Center:** A second stakeholder meeting was held April 29 that featured former Grants Pass Police Chief Bill Landis, who was instrumental in opening the Grants Pass Sobering Center. There is \$250,000 in state grant funding that has been obtained to help cover startup costs, and the primary barrier remains identifying operating funding. It appears there is broad support for a Sobering Center in Roseburg, and various entities have stated their willingness to participate in funding operations including the cities of Roseburg and Myrtle Creek, the County, UCAN and other partners. A letter of commitment is in the process of being drafted and will be sent to stakeholders. Adapt has made an offer on a former recycling facility that could potentially house both a Sobering Center and a crisis resolution center for those experiencing a mental health crisis. HB 2339, a bill sponsored by Rep. Duane Stark and co-sponsored by Rep. Gary Leif, would create a matching fund for sobering center operations statewide.
- **The Connecting Point:** The Connecting Point currently operates out of the Dream Center on Monday mornings. It is a cooperative effort by multiple service providers to connect individuals getting out of jail and others to services and treatment. In light of a citizen complaint about the Center not being ADA-accessible, the Connecting Point is moving to

the Dream Center's parking lot. Mike Fieldman suggested an alternative location could be the Presbyterian church next door.

TRANSITIONAL HOUSING FUND

The LPSCC Housing Subcommittee has been tasked with making recommendations to the full LPSCC on how to adjust the Transitional Housing Fund program to maximize its effectiveness. The program was allocated \$24,000 in state Justice Reinvestment grant funding for the current biennium, and only \$1,800 has been spent. Subcommittee reviewed draft recommendations and made edits as a group. The finalized recommendations that will be forwarded to LPSCC included the following points:

- Increase rental-assistance amounts to a maximum of \$1,500 per individual
- Increase assistance duration to up to 6 months
- Assistance details within those parameters will be at the discretion of program administrators including UCAN and the Court
- For the current biennium, expand eligibility to all Drug Court and Mental Health Court participants in order to increase expenditures while broadening program impacts

ACTION: *Sarah Thompson moved to approve the amended draft recommendations to LPSCC. Janeal Kohler seconded. Motion passed.*

MISCELLANEOUS

- **Membership:** Membership and participation has fluctuated over time, and the Subcommittee roster needs updating. **ACTION:** *LPSCC Coordinator will reach out to agencies to confirm who from each organization is designated as a Subcommittee member and will then create a roster to be sent to the group.*
- **Fair-market rent rates** – Janeal Kohler shared that the Housing Authority challenged the published fair-market rent rates from 2018 and was successful, which will bring in significant additional revenue for the county for housing-assistance payments. She will forward more information to LPSCC Coordinator to share with the group.
- **Sanitation issues** – Mike Fieldman shared that a group has been meeting about sanitation issues and is trying to generate financial support to add portable toilets, trash cans and sharps containers in 11 areas where people who are homeless are living outside.
- **Oxford House vacancies** – Wayne Ellsworth shared that Oxford House vacancies are posted on the site www.oxfordvacancies.com

Meeting adjourned at 1:10 p.m.

NEXT MEETING: Noon, Wednesday, June 12

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.”*