



## Douglas County Local Public Safety Coordinating Council (LPSCC) Housing Subcommittee Meeting Minutes

**Noon, Wednesday, Feb. 19, 2020**  
*Room 310, Douglas County Courthouse*

**MEMBERS PRESENT:** Wayne Ellsworth, *S. River Community Health Center*; Aric Fromdahl, *Juvenile Department*; Allen Hobson, *City of Winston*; Janeal Kohler, *Housing Authority*; Patty Steep, *Oxford House*;

**OTHERS PRESENT:** Betsy Cunningham, *Housing First Umpqua*; Mike Fieldman, *Office of Rep. Leif*; Dave Grammon, *TrueNorth Star Ministries*; Rikki Kilcy, *Oxford House*; Melissa McRobbie-Toll, *LPSCC Coordinator*; Catherine Paul, *Citizen*; Paul Robertson, *Adapt*; Libby Sparks, *Adapt*; Robert Wilson, *Treatment Court Coordinator*

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### **MINUTES APPROVAL**

**ACTION:** Wayne Ellsworth moved to approve the minutes from the LPSCC Housing Subcommittee's joint meeting with HTAG on Jan. 8. Aric Fromdahl seconded. ***Motion passed.***

### **UPDATES**

- **Supportive housing team (Janeal Kohler)** – A Douglas County team that includes the Housing Authority, NeighborWorks Umpqua, UCAN and Adapt continues to participate in a technical-assistance training that will open the door for them to apply for state grant funding for local permanent supportive housing projects. The Notice of Funding Availability (NOFA) is expected to be released any day.
- **Sobering Center (LPSCC Coordinator)** – Adapt is continuing to move forward with the Sobering Center project. Various entities have pledged funding for the first year of operations. Financial partners have formed a steering committee and a work group to fine-tune details of the facility. New grant funding is available through OHA for sobering centers, and Adapt has submitted an application for that funding.
- **Mobile Crisis (LPSCC Coordinator)** – The Mobile Crisis program continues to operate but one of the two counselors has shifted to another position within Compass. Compass is recruiting a replacement. In the meantime, Compass' regular crisis team is working to fill the gap.
- **Mobile shower/laundry facility (Wayne Ellsworth)** – An application was submitted to Umpqua Health Alliance seeking funding for a mobile shower and laundry facility. The application was denied with a recommendation that organizers seek planning funding from the Ford Family Foundation to further develop their proposal. The group is exploring other options.
- **Point-in-Time Count (Wayne Ellsworth)** – The Point-in-Time homelessness count took place on Jan. 29. The count tallied approximately 560 homeless – about the same number as the last count. There was good communication between the teams and the count continues to improve.

- **Winston needle disposal box (Allen Hobson)** – A needle drop box has been installed at a park in Winston, and about 1,000 to 1,500 needles per month have been collected from it in recent months. There has been a corresponding reduction in the number of needles found on the ground.

### **LPSCC HOUSING SUBCOMMITTEE / HTAG JOINT MEETING RECAP**

LPSCC Coordinator reviewed some key points from the Jan. 8 joint meeting between the Subcommittee and HTAG, including:

- **Shelter funding** – Connor McDonnell of OHCS shared that the Legislature allocated \$5 million for emergency shelter. OHCS already distributed \$1.7 million of that funding for winter warming shelter resources. Some of that funding was funneled toward the Roseburg Dream Center via UCAN. Another \$3.5 million in shelter funding will become available this spring.
- **IMPACTS program** – Bridget Budbill of the Criminal Justice Commission gave an overview of the IMPACTS grant program, which targets individuals with mental illness who cycle through the Jail, ED and State Hospital. The 19-member grant review committee includes three members from Douglas County. Most CJC grants have restrictions on housing expenditures; however, the IMPACTS program allows the funds to be used for things like permanent supportive housing, emergency shelter or crisis centers. The grant solicitation is expected to be released sometime in the spring or summer.

Wayne Ellsworth asked the group whether it is valuable to bring in speakers like Connor McDonnell. The group responded that it is valuable because it plants the seeds for future action/collaboration and builds local knowledge. Also, Mr. McDonnell’s visit helped remove a barrier that had prevented the Dream Center from receiving funding that had been allocated to the Center. Janeal Kohler said she receives many state-level updates and will share some with the group via the LPSCC Coordinator.

### **TRANSITIONAL HOUSING**

LPSCC Coordinator and Robert Wilson shared that the Justice Reinvestment (JRI)-funded Transitional Housing Program is now operating smoothly. There is no longer a third-party administrator. Instead, applicants have their landlord fill out a one-page form, which acts as a voucher. The form is forwarded to the LPSCC Coordinator, who inputs an invoice so the County can cut a check to landlords.

The program parameters continue to be those approved by LPSCC through the Housing Subcommittee’s recommendations last year: Rental assistance amounts are set at up to \$1,500 per person over a maximum six-month period. Individuals choose where they would like to live; many live in an Oxford House or TrueNorth housing. To date this year, \$3,575 has been spent so far in JRI rental assistance. LPSCC has allocated \$24,000 to the program for the 2019/21 biennium.

Patty Steep of Oxford House and Dave Grammon of TrueNorth Star Ministries shared details about their respective housing, including:

- **Oxford** - Opened two new women’s houses in recent months. One can house 13 women and the other can house 12. There was also an existing women’s house that can hold 9+ women and several children. Oxford also has 39 transitional beds for men at five different locations. Vacancies are listed at [www.oxfordvacancies.com](http://www.oxfordvacancies.com). Efforts are made to assist individuals needing

housing, even when the houses are full. There is no limit to how long someone can stay at an Oxford House as long as they are attempting to make progress in their lives, find a job, etc. Monthly rent amounts range from \$375 to \$450. Residents receive assistance with job-seeking and other challenges.

- **TrueNorth** – Currently has 12 beds for men at two transitional homes. Those beds are full, and there is a wait list for those coming out of the RSAT program. The average stay in TrueNorth housing is about two years. Peer mentorship is part of the program. TrueNorth now also has two 3-bedroom permanent units and one 2-bedroom permanent unit as part of a triplex it owns. TrueNorth will be hosting a Community Reinvestment Summit at the Fairgrounds in April. TrueNorth is also working with WorkSource on a “second chance” licensing program to get people their driver’s licenses.

Other group discussion points included:

- **Rental assistance** – Transitional-housing rental assistance is available through the JRI Transitional Housing Program, the state grants for Drug Court and Mental Health Court, Parole/Probation and Umpqua Health Alliance (UHA). Robert Wilson is central to the JRI and Specialty Court grant rental-assistance funds and communicates with Parole/Probation but is not yet in contact with UHA. Coordinator will make that connection.
- **RSAT awareness** – RSAT fliers are still being included in Jail mail and the RSAT informational video is being shown on the VisVox screens to increase awareness about the program.
- **Data** – There is interest in developing data on housing’s impact on recidivism and recovery.
- **Frequent Jail users** – Multiple people said they perceive a reduction in recidivism due to more resources/collaboration among re-entry housing and service providers in recent years. LPSCC Coordinator will request data from the Jail to examine this issue. Wayne Ellsworth will bring data from his jail in-reach to the next meeting.

### **HB 4001**

Mike Fieldman, who now works for Rep. Gary Leif, alerted the group about HB 4001, legislation that would authorize at least \$40 million in funding for emergency shelter construction and staffing, shower/laundry facilities, rental-assistance programs and other programs that aim to transition people out of homelessness and into housing. LPSCC Coordinator will send the text of HB 4001 to the group along with the minutes. Rep. Leif is looking for ideas for legislation to sponsor that represents the needs of Douglas County. Interested parties should reach out to Mike Fieldman.

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***NEXT MEETING: Noon, Wednesday, March 18***

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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.”