

Homelessness Solutions Task Force (HOST)  
General Meeting  
Tuesday, February 20, 2018, 2:00 pm  
Community Room, Patriot Hall, Clatsop Community College

#### MINUTES

Attendance list at end of notes

2:03 p.m. - Call to order and asked guests and members to sign roster

1. Mayor's Welcome.

2. Introductions.

New member: Kathleen Sullivan, Clatsop County Commissioner

3. Recap by Chief Spalding.

Chief Spalding gave a recap of previous meeting and mentioned there has been a lot of discussion about the work of the Homelessness Solutions Task Force (HOST). Discussion at Council Goal Setting meeting and at City Council meeting where Council affirmed their support of HOST and provided additional direction to support the work of HOST to enforce laws as appropriate.

Chief Spalding reviewed the HOST website and shared login permissions and content being saved for the benefit of the group.

Approval of minutes – Alan Evans made the motion and Sean Fitzpatrick seconded. Unanimous approval.

Chief Spalding said he has added a section on the agenda to ensure guests will have an opportunity to comment after the member roundtable.

4. Uniontown Project Update

Alan Evans and Raven Brown gave an update on the Uniontown project in Astoria.

- Hopeful to move into new building by July.
- Program will serve entire county and review of how demographics are collected.
- Serve 973 in Clatsop County versus other counties "needy county."
- Must have referral from other agencies
- Program asks about 50 questions upon admission to program to provide strong and detailed statistics.
- Examples include – Age, race, addictions, children, health care, chronic homelessness, etc., corrections status.
- Questions also attribute to what type of services and programs clients will be provided with and directed to.
- Alan said Helping Hands does not serve sex offenders

- Raven assted that everyone’s situation is different, program is successful because it adopts to them (re-entry program).
- Program identifies highest risk behavior or challenges to start addressing them with resources and coaching.
- General discussion about what services Helping Hands provide, who they partner with and their operating standards, etc.
- Detox is the largest issue they are struggling with. This issue is affecting Helping Hands, CMH & CBH.
- General questions related to employment after assistance.
- Discussion about overall challenges with those who are not chronically homeless (items being childcare, student loans, and healthcare).
- Discussion about direct funding challenges.

Discussion about County housing needs assessment.

The group requested to have County Manager Cameron Moore attend the next meeting to provide a housing study update.

Annie Martin provided some stats for the Warming Center so far this year – Open 57 nights, served 127 individuals, 90 disabled, 14 Vets

Discussion about “Dump Housing” options for everyone even if they are not ready for a program like Helping Hands.

Discussion of where folks are coming from. Most people are showing up here for work.

Discussion about goals and mission

Discussion about disagreement over what’s needed.

Discussion about how people are getting here. Possibility of a group in Portland providing tickets.

Chief Spalding advised the police department is coding calls to provide data about challenges.

Elaine Bruce provided Resource Directory.

Astoria Public Works collected 7500 pounds of trash from homeless camp near Grand Ave.

Chief Spalding spoke about the possibility of a community survey. There was a good discussion on the best way to move forward with a possible survey. If a survey takes place, the group felt it should:

- Focus on education,
- Focus on community issues,
- Ask the right questions.

Discussion on forming smaller breakout groups due to current size of committee. Suggestions for breakout groups include:

- Survey development committee
- Identifying scope of the problem
- Mission statement

- Potential solutions.

Mayor asked that breakout options be sent out to the group.

Chief Spalding asked if anyone had suggestions for a research assistant for our group.

**Roundtable:**

David Reid – Educate businesses on informing new hires of housing challenges.

Elaine – County project

Kate – Happy to learn and engage

Sarah Lu – Update on Merwin building and possible future housing

Amy – appreciates the group is willing to consider multi-faceted solutions.

Bryan – Groups thirst for knowledge

Mary – Appreciates open dialog

Tom – Start with low hanging fruit

Jarod – Flow charts and processes will help to ensure right resources are contacted.

Sean – Reiterates need for employers to inform and set expectations

**Community Comments:**

Get schools and educators at the table.

Get better housing

Warming Center closes March 15th – 25 more people will need housing

City needs to provide location for homeless to stay.

Get National Guard to donate tents. City needs to provide a place now.

Doodle poll reminder – Please complete ASAP once you receive the email.

3:57 p.m. – Meeting ended