

Homeless Solutions Task Force
Columbia Hall, Clatsop Comm College
June 18, 2018, 10am-Noon
Minutes of the Meeting

1. Chief Spalding opened the meeting.
2. Mayor Lamear welcomed attendees and said she was heartened by the subcommittee solutions from the previous meeting.
3. Testimonial from Jose Ken, from Kentucky, homeless in Astoria for about two years after a living situation didn't work out. The Rescue Mission was a no-go. Could have been hired by the cannery but then you stink and there's no place to shower. He was advised to bury his clothes in the woods to keep them safe. Slept under the sidewalk near Bach 'n Rock because free lunch available in the park next door. Received help from Corri Buck, Vern Hall, street people, food bank, Clatsop Community Action for personal care items. Astoria needs a place for people to go after being released from jail, when they want to continue to be clean and sober. APD has always been nice.
Comments: Canneries might provide facilities for after-shift showers.
4. Minutes of May 23rd meeting. David Reid moved, Sarah Lu Heath seconded. Unanimous.
5. Recap (Chief Spalding). This is the sixth HOST meeting. We're making progress. Chief will continue as long as we're making some impact.
6. Subgroup recaps.
 - a. HEALTH. CMH looking for another project. Possibilities: (1) Health van for schools. Anyone on the free or reduced lunch program eligible for services. (2) Use of medications -- ie, providing suboxone. (3) Open CMH Pavilion on Sundays as a drop-in clinic for homeless.
Need a drop-in service like Homeless Connect. Possible sites: Youth Authority in Warrenton, should the jail bond fail; Care Center on 16th (which could also provide 60-70 units of workforce housing).
Needle exchange program reported 8500 exchanges in one week, meaning 75,000 annually. Public Health stopped 14 drug overdoses by using medications.
Helping Hands will have four non-medical drug beds in Uniontown. Public health nurse will do the detox. Clients will only be accepted if they're in a detox program.
Astoria Pointe is going out of business. A big facility not penciling out financially. Almost impossible to get a bed for a local. Relapsers stayed in Astoria, straining limited resources.
Helping Hands now owns the Uniontown Building and repairs are proceeding. Expect to open doors in September. Tillamook facility is weeks ahead. Alcohol and benzos present a dangerous detox. Coming out of detox is when a user is at greatest risk for OD. After care will be available at Uniontown.
 - b. EMPLOYMENT. Corrie Buck stepped down from Filling Empty Bellies, now run by Erin Hosfeth and Vern Hall. They are partnering with the TEAM employment agency, which will

hire people experiencing homeless. They're looking for a daytime drop-in center. FEB will never turn a hungry person away. They want to invest in people who want to get it together.

c. HOUSING. Target: \$500-\$700/month. Employers could help. Suggest: Small home village, homeowner matching incentives, day space, multiservice center, zero interest revolving loan fund. Barriers: credit and background checks, first and last rent. Resources: squareonevillages.org; communitysupportedshelters.org.

BizDev Committee of Downtown Association surveyed second-floor housing possibilities. Practical challenges include the need for a separate door and egress separate from commercial space. Could ground floor storefronts be used as housing?

d. CONNECTIVITY. Learn about available resources and how to access them. Cross-refer clients to help build connections between the homeless and local resources. Continue to hold HOST-like meetings for idea sharing. Potential for being able to hold confidential "operations meetings" to get multiple agencies' input on targeted issues, to help with problem-solving and developing coordinated approaches. Collaboration reduces duplication of services and increases success in funding opportunities.

Transportation: Challenging with rural area to connect the vulnerable with resources. Scheduling difficulties with jobs and accessing services. Local programs available: RideCare (OHP for medical transport), Providence Community Connections for medical and non-medical for those who can't otherwise get transportation (requires 7 days' notice).

e. SCOPE OF PROBLEM. Raven Brown distributed a one-pager with particulars under 12 separate problem areas, all inter-related: lack of basic life skills; transportation; employment; housing, lack of official docs; financial instability; dependents; corrections status; mental health and addictions; physical health; education; other risk factors.

Amy Baker noted the erosion of the social fabric. Very little day care. Seniors can be socially isolated. How do we promote community so that people are supporting each other?

David Reid noted regulatory issues designed to help consumers inhibit some services, eg, daycare. Perhaps could advocate for exemptions under certain circumstances.

f. HOUSING. Training for managing renters. With inclusionary zoning, is the city required to pay the difference? Are there bank requirements?

7. APD response (Chief Spalding). APD is interested in solutions but some individuals are not willing to be part of any program. APD hears about some pretty scary things. APD enforces all the laws equally and doesn't treat homelessness any differently. APD is often addressing the symptoms of homelessness. How should they respond? This will be the subject of a future meeting.

Kathleen Sullivan noted APD's response to "Helmet" John's situation was very good.

Angela Cosby said there's definitely be an upswing in finding needles and human poop. Maintenance crews are regularly picking them up, downtown, on the Riverwalk, in the 13th Street Alley, in the sidewalk planters.

###END

Respectfully submitted,
Cindy Price