

**STATE OF OREGON  
ENDING HOMELESSNESS ADVISORY COUNCIL**

**MINUTES OF MEETING**

**December 1, 2006**

**12:00 p.m. – 2:00 p.m.**

**Department of Transportation**

**1905 Lana Avenue NE, Salem, OR 97314**

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*D R A F T*

**MEMBERS PRESENT**

**Vicki Skryha**, Housing and Homeless Services DHS, Addictions and Mental Health Division

**Dona Bolt**, OR Dept of Ed/Homeless Ed Program

**Rachel Bristol**, Oregon Food Bank

**Edward Angeletti**, ACCESS

**Janet Byrd**, Neighborhood Partnership Fund.

**Lorna Youngs**, Oregon Department of Transportation

**Phil Lemman**, Oregon Youth Authority

**MEMBERS PRESENT**

**Steve Rudman**, Portland Housing Authority

**Tom Olsen**, OR Employment Dept

**Susan Ban**, Lane County Shelter Care

**Jodie Jones**, OHCS

**Val Conley**, Veteran's Services Division

**Mitch Morrow**, OR Dept of Corrections

**Bill Hall**, Lincoln County Commissioner

**Ron Soto**, Oregon Commission for Children & Families

**Jean Lasater**, Oregon Homeless and Runaway Youth Coalition

**Heather Lyons**, City of Portland, Bureau of Housing & Community Development

**OHCS STAFF PRESENT**

**Rick Crager**, Deputy Director, OHCS

**Roberto Franco**, Housing Services Representative, OHCS

**GUESTS**

**Susan Wilson**, Washington County Department of Housing Services

**Tom Cusack**, Dept of Housing and Urban Development

- I. CALL TO ORDER: Chair Rick Crager** calls the December 1, 2006 meeting to order.
- II. SPECIAL NOTICES/ANNOUNCEMENTS:** Rick explained to the Council that the Governor's Recommended Budget was released today. The Governor will make his announcement regarding the budget on Monday, December 4, 2006. OHCS is unable to make any official statements regarding their proposed budget until after the Governor's announcement.
- III. APPROVAL OF November 3, 2006 MINUTES**  
Discussion: Phil Lemman noted that he was not present at the November 3, 2006 meeting as suggested in the minutes. Susan Wilson also noted that Annette Evans was not present.

**MOTION** from Bill Hall to approve the minutes with the changes in attendance as described above. **SECOND** from Val Conley. **MINUTES APPROVED by a ROLL CALL VOTE.** (Attached)

**IV. SPECIAL PRESENTATIONS AND REPORTS:** Last month there was a conference held in Washington, D.C., by the Corporation for Supportive Housing (CSH). Due to unforeseen circumstances, Rick was unable to attend. Vicki Skryha went to the conference and shared two documents reporting homelessness statistics from the state of Michigan, including the “Baseline Data Report, the State of Michigan’s Homeless.” The group commented about how nicely put together and complete in information the documents were. There was agreement around the table that those were examples of documents they would like to be able to produce for Oregon.

Steve Rudman commented that he was impressed with the systems alignment by CHS. Rick would like to see if it is possible to contact CSH and invite them to the next meeting to gain insight as to how to start the process of systems alignment at this level.

**ACTION ITEM:** Heather Lyons will provide Rick and Roberto Franco with the contact information for representatives of CSH to get the conversations started.

**V. STAFF/COMMITTEE REPORTS:** Heather Lyons announced that Project Homeless Connect is offering a free screening of “The Pursuit of Happiness,” a Columbia Pictures film starring Will Smith. A donation of \$10 is requested but not required. Donations raised will support the Portland Homeless Connect project. The screening occurs Wednesday, December 6, 2006 at 7:30 PM. Heather passed around a flyer containing the contact information. **(EXHIBIT #1 – Project Homeless Connect)**

**VI. OLD BUSINESS: None**

**VII. NEW BUSINESS:**

*Task #1: As a council, adopt a definition of Homelessness.*

Based on last month’s discussions, Roberto found example definitions of Homelessness from various funding agencies and programs.

**(EXHIBIT #2 – Homelessness Definitions)**

Lorna Youngs commented that it seemed as though the agreed upon definition of homelessness should guide the scope of this Council’s plan. She asked if other states had adopted definitions of homelessness.

Roberto responded that most states focus on one area of homelessness, or an inclusive definition. Since the goal of adopting a definition is to determine the scope of the Council, we need to decide if we want to be all-inclusive or broad.

The group started by examining Washington’s definition of homelessness:  
*To be without a permanent place to live that is fit for human habitation.*

Rick reiterated that because homelessness data comes from so many sources, it is necessary to have a specific definition for homelessness. That way, when all the data is given to data analysts to synthesize, the desired result will be acquired.

Jodie Jones suggested that the definition that is presented to the public could be brief, but have a deeper part of the definition that explains everything that is included.

Susan Ban suggested adding to Washington's definition, "To be without a *decent, safe, stable*, permanent place to live..."

Rick asked how the definition would be used in conjunction with the existing data on homelessness to come to one total number of homeless in Oregon.

Vicki commented that it would be difficult to report figures using this definition when they have been collecting the data in a more narrow fashion. Rick responded that they would be telling the data analysts how they want the data to be broken out. Vicki pointed out that the challenge will be putting the data together from all the sources and avoiding duplication.

Dona Bolt asked why there needed to be one total number for homeless in Oregon?

Rick suggested taking the information currently available and giving it to the people who can analyze it, to get to an idea of what the total problem is. From the State standpoint, it is imperative to have that total number in order to prove results. The initial figure is the starting point and then a plan of action with associated costs can be developed.

Bill added that even with the capabilities of the HMIS system in Michigan, they outlined the gaps of their total figure. However, that number gives the Legislature, news groups, or other interested parties a grasp on the story. Changes have to be proven to the decision makers in order for funding to continue.

There was agreement that it was acceptable to start with the data that is currently available, give that information to the data analysts, and allow them to make a determination as to what can be said at this point.

**TASK #1 SUMMARY:** There is an abundance of data currently available. The people with that data are to speak with their analysts about what county-based level data can be produced. These members include:

Vicki Skryha - DHS Office of Mental Health & Addiction Services

Dona Bolt - Department of Education

Val Conley - Department of Veteran's Affairs

Jodie Jones - Oregon Housing and Community Services

Jean Lasater - Oregon Homeless & Runaway Youth Coalition

Phil Lemman - Oregon Youth Authority

Mitch Morrow - Department of Corrections

Rachel Bristol - Oregon Food Bank

Jodie Jones, Heather Lyons, Ed Angeletti – Continuum of Care data

Analysts should be asked:

1. To help EHAC formulate an estimated number of homeless persons in Oregon through a statistical analysis of current data and reports;
2. For recommendations on how we can improve data collection; and
3. How to get to an unduplicated estimate.

**MOTION** from Vicki Skryha to accept the following as a soft definition of homelessness for EHAC:

**To be without a decent, safe, stable, permanent place to live that is fit for human habitation.**

This includes people who:

- Are sharing the housing of other persons due to loss of housing, economic hardship, personal safety or a similar reason;
- Are living in motels, hotels, trailer parks, or camping grounds due to the lack of alternative adequate accommodations;
- Are living in emergency or transitional shelters;
- Are abandoned in hospitals; or
- Are awaiting foster care placement;
- Have a primary nighttime residence that is a public or private place not designed for or ordinarily used as a regular sleeping accommodation for human beings;
- Are living in cars, parks, public spaces, abandoned buildings, substandard housing, bus or train stations, or similar settings;
- Migrant children and youth (as defined under NCLB Title IC – Migrant Education) who qualify as homeless for the purposes of this subtitle because the children are living in circumstances described above;
- Will experience eviction within a week from a private dwelling unit and no subsequent residence has been identified and the person lacks the resources and support networks needed to obtain housing; and/or
- Will experience discharge within a week from an institution in which the person has been a resident for 30 or more consecutive days and no subsequent residence has been identified and he/she lacks the resources and support networks needed to obtain housing.

**SECOND** from Ed Angeletti. **MOTION APPROVED by a ROLL CALL VOTE.** (Attached)

*Task #2: Understand Oregon's services for homeless persons, including barriers and costs.*

Rick expressed that in order to collect as much information as possible, the first step is to identify all of the programs at the state level.

**(EXHIBIT #3 – Oregon Homeless Service Matrix)**

Heather suggested looking at all of the Continuum of Care's (CoC) Exhibit 1 submissions, as Federal, State and local information is compiled for the grant application already.

**ACTION ITEMS:** OHCS will start with CoC data and bring what is compiled to the next meeting. Tom Olsen will find out if the Employment Department has any programs that target homelessness.

**VIII. SUMMARY OF ACTION ITEMS:**

1. Heather Lyons will provide Rick and Roberto Franco with the contact information for representatives of CSH to get the conversations started.
2. OHCS will start with CoC data and bring what is compiled to the next meeting.
3. Tom Olsen will find out if the Employment Department has any programs that target homelessness.

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**Rick Crager, Chair                      DATE**  
**Oregon Housing & Community Services**