

MULTNOMAH COUNTY OREGON

June 2nd – June 4th, 2015



FY 2016 Budget Worksession – County Human Services

Issues/Discussions/Findings

Housing and Homelessness Briefing

Commissioner Shiprack – Define the category of laborers on the Housing Affordability Chart (Slide 5).

RESPONSE: The source for this slide is the *US Department of Labor State Occupational and Wage Estimates*. The full title of the “Laborer” category (shortened for the slide) is “Hand Laborers and Freight, Stock and Material Movers”. The Bureau of Labor Statistics’ Occupational Outlook Handbook notes that, “Hand laborers and material movers transport objects without using machines. Some workers move freight, stock, or other materials around in storage facilities; others clean vehicles; some pick up unwanted household goods; and still others pack materials for moving.”

Commissioner Shiprack – Please provide copies/links to housing studies including those that have cost avoidance analysis.

RESPONSE: Here are links to some cost avoidance studies, including a link to the Bud Clark Commons study on medical utilization rates.

Los Angeles Cost Analysis: <http://economicrt.org/publication/where-we-sleep/>

Santa Clara Study: <http://www.businessinsider.com/santa-clara-homelessness-study-2015-5>

Bud Clark Commons Study: <http://www.portlandoregon.gov/phb/article/498356>

Seattle Program for "Chronic Inebriates" Cost Savings Study:
<http://jama.jamanetwork.com/article.aspx?articleid=183666>

General list of data sources: http://usich.gov/issue/economic_value_of_ending_homelessness

Reduced use of mental health and prison:
http://usich.gov/usich_resources/research/supportive_housing_means_less_time_in_mental_health_nursing_homes_prisons/

Commissioner Smith – Provide the detail/break out by service of the \$2,000,000 in program 25133D A Home for Everyone – Placement and Retention. Identify which funding supports placement and which funding supports retention.

RESPONSE: DCHS is aligning the investments made in PO 25133D with the policy direction set forth by A Home for Everyone board.

\$370,000 in Crisis Services – Year Round Warming Center and Coordinated access

\$970,000 in Placement Services – Flexible housing resources and mobile housing staff in the community

\$660,000 in Retention – Homeless benefits recovery and housing flex funds

The goal of this program is to address the unmet housing need among people experiencing homelessness in Multnomah County.

Commissioner Smith – Provide the funding amount budgeted by our partners for A Home for Everyone in FY 2016.

RESPONSE: City of Portland's Proposed Investments Beyond Current Service Levels:

\$500,000 in flexible housing placement and retention support for Veterans

\$905,000 in flexible housing placement and support services for unsheltered disabled adults

\$750,000 in emergency shelter and housing placement support for single women

\$300,000 for landlord recruitment and retention program

Home Forward has prioritized existing resources in support of AHFE's goals:

50 portable Section 8 vouchers for homeless veterans

50 preferences into vacancies in its housing portfolio for homeless veterans

200 portable Section 8 vouchers for homeless families

City of Gresham has not proposed additional investments beyond current service levels specifically tied to AHFE's goals.

Department of County Human Services

Commissioner Shiprack – Provide the current Public Guardian caseload.

RESPONSE: Public Guardian caseloads are beginning to move over 40 protected individuals per Deputy. These caseloads are approximately twice the nationally recommended standard. (the nationally recommended standard is 20) At the current level the program is at risk for not meeting its fiduciary obligation and severely limits the capacity to take on new individuals who are suffering abuse, neglect and financial exploitation. Only the most extreme abuse cases are being considered for intake at the present time.

The proposed Deputy position would immediately reduce caseloads to just under 35 cases for experienced staff, allowing the new Deputy to manage a much smaller caseload while being trained and certified, and participating in outreach efforts to under-served communities. This would also allow for an increased intake rate that is one and a half times the previous rate. Continued caseload balancing would occur over time as the new Deputy gains experience and eventually assumes a full caseload, including new intakes.

In a 2013 report submitted to the Legislature, the Task Force on Public Guardianship and Conservatorship estimated that between 1,500-3,000 Oregon adults with diminished decision making capacity are at risk of abuse, neglects and need but lack guardianship or conservatorship services. Recommended caseloads would be in the mid to high 30s and with similar rates of attrition, the program could continue serving the most high risk individuals in need of protection for the next several years.

Chair Kafoury – Provide individual briefings to the Board on the SUN school system changes.

RESPONSE: DCHS will schedule individual meetings with the Board.

Commissioner Smith – Provide a list of all the positions moving to the Health Department due to the Mental Health reorganization. Identify if the position is filled or vacant.

RESPONSE: Based on the Health Department a total of 224 positions are moving to the Health Department with 48 currently vacant.

Commissioner Shiprack – Provide the outcome data related to Promise Neighborhoods program in FY 2015.

RESPONSE: In FY 2015, the County contracted for culturally specific services and supports to be delivered to a minimum of 1000 children of color and their families. These services were provided by eight agencies.

Based upon contractor report, approximately 1270 children of color and their families are estimated to be served in FY 2015.

Approximately 80% of those served are expected to increase their school attendance. Final outcomes will be determined after the end of the fiscal year.