

BEFORE THE BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS
FOR MULTNOMAH COUNTY, OREGON

RESOLUTION NO. 02-070

Adopting Policy Direction to Charge the Housing and Community Development Commission
Special Needs Housing Committee

The Multnomah County Board of Commissioners Finds:

- a) Multnomah County, by Ordinance 719, and the City of Portland, and the City of Gresham have each designated the Housing and Community Development Commission to serve as the primary public forum for policy development, resource coordination, and civic leadership to address the County's affordable housing problems;
- b) The Portland Development Commission plays an important role in financing and developing housing for persons with special needs;
- c) The Housing Authority of Portland plays a critical role in providing housing for persons with special needs through its public housing and Section 8 programs;
- d) The mission of HCDC is to increase the effectiveness of the housing delivery system by providing coordination among diverse public agencies which implement housing programs and by serving as a centralized liaison between those agencies and the governing bodies of the jurisdictions on issues regarding housing policies, goals, programs, and related allocation of public funds;
- e) The jurisdictions named in paragraph 1 above provided in the Consolidated Plan 2000-2005 that their first priority was to provide affordable rental housing to, among others, low- income persons with special needs;
- f) The Consolidated Plan 2000-2005 Needs Assessment and further studies undertaken by the jurisdictions document that there is a shortage of affordable housing with links to needed services for persons with special needs;
- g) There are numerous barriers to the development of additional affordable housing with links to services for people with special needs, including financial, regulatory, and historical barriers;
- h) Some persons with special needs who have affordable housing face barriers to success at maintaining in the housing;
- i) For lack of suitable housing and services, people with special needs become inpatients at hospitals, are incarcerated, or occupy shelter space;
- j) An adequate supply of special needs housing would ease the pressure on the mental health system, the corrections system, and the homeless system while focusing our resources in a more compassionate and economically efficient way;

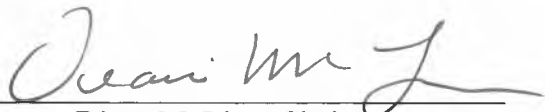
The Multnomah County Board of Commissioners Resolves:

1. The Housing and Community Development Commission, by and through its Special Needs Committee, shall undertake to do the following:
 - assess the need for special needs housing County wide, including the specific housing needs of individual special needs populations;
 - make policy recommendations to advance the development of special needs housing and to improve the success of housing outcomes for persons with special needs;
 - coordinate local, regional, state, and federal housing and service resources to stimulate the development of special needs housing;
 - develop hard, realistic, and measurable targets for additional housing for persons with special needs;
 - leverage new resource streams for special needs housing development and operation;
 - create models for special needs housing development and operation; and
 - evaluate success of special needs housing development and operation; and
 - periodically assess the need for additional committee work, with the first assessment not later than June 2003
2. The Multnomah County Board of Commissioners will, with the advice of the Housing and Community Development Commission, annually review the progress that has been made toward the goal of providing each person with special needs with affordable housing linked to appropriate services.
3. That all Departments are directed to provide information requested by HCDC concerning resources, policies, and practices affecting the development and operation of special needs housing.

ADOPTED this 16th day of May 2002.



BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS
FOR MULTNOMAH COUNTY, OREGON


Diane M. Linn, Chair

REVIEWED:

THOMAS SPONSLER, COUNTY ATTORNEY
FOR MULTNOMAH COUNTY, OREGON

By 
John S. Thomas, Assistant County Attorney