



MULTNOMAH COUNTY AGENDA PLACEMENT REQUEST

(Revised March 2016)

Board Clerk Use Only

Meeting Date: 10/19/17
Agenda Item #: R.1
Est. Start Time: 9:40 am
Date Submitted: 10/11/17

Agenda Title: Resolution Adopting a Goal of Creating 2,000 Additional Supporting Housing Units by 2028

Note: Title should not be more than 2 lines but sufficient to describe the action requested. Title on APR must match title on Ordinance, Resolution, Order or Proclamation.

Requested

Meeting Date: October 19, 2017 **Time Needed:** 60 minutes

Department: Non-Departmental **Division:** Chair's Office

Contact(s): Marc Jolin; Christian Gaston (88428); Adam Renon (87348)

Phone: _____ **Ext.** _____ **I/O Address:** _____

Presenter Name(s) & Title(s): Marc Jolin, Director (Joint Office of Homeless Services); Nick Fish, Portland City Commissioner; Michael Buonocore, Director (Home Forward); invited guests

General Information

1. What action are you requesting from the Board?

Approval of resolution on supportive housing.

2. Please provide sufficient background information for the Board and the public to understand this issue. Please note which Program Offer this action affects and how it impacts the results.

Multnomah County, the City of Portland, and Home Forward share a long history of partnership in the fight against homelessness. In 2014 the County, City and Home Forward joined forces to develop "A Home For Everyone: A United Community Plan to End Homelessness for Portland/Multnomah County"; launched the City/County Joint Office of Homeless Services in 2016; and dedicated historic resources to homeless services in their FY 2017-18 budgets.

Such multi-jurisdiction, coordinated efforts have a proven track record. For example, "Operation 305", successfully housed 305 homeless veterans, and the County and City collaborated with local hospital systems to open the Unity Psychiatric Hospital.

The A Home For Everyone Community Plan emphasizes the need for both emergency shelter and long-term solutions to homelessness, including permanent housing and robust prevention services. Supportive housing marries affordable housing with support services, and is often the only effective tool to help the most vulnerable and most visible people experiencing homelessness in our community.

The need for more supportive housing is demonstrated in the most recent Point in Time Count. Every two years Multnomah County and the City of Portland partner on the count, deploying volunteers and outreach workers to determine our greatest unmet needs and how to prioritize our resources.

Unlike other major West Coast cities, Portland's 2017 count showed a decline in the number of people sleeping outside, and for the first time since 2005 counted more people in emergency shelter than living outdoors. This reduction is attributable in significant part to large new investments, both ongoing and limited-term, in emergency shelter over the last several years.

The count also revealed chronic homelessness as one of the fastest-growing categories of homelessness locally, up 24% over two years. 72% of people sleeping outside reported a mental illness, chronic physical condition, and/or substance use disorder, and for those people traditional affordable housing is often not enough and emergency shelter is at best a short-term solution. For an extremely vulnerable population particularly at risk in severe weather and other emergencies, supportive housing is a proven, cost-effective solution. The Corporation for Supportive Housing (CSH) is a national leader in the field of affordable housing and homelessness, and has projected a need for 2,800 new supportive housing units in Multnomah County.

This Resolution, in concert with an ordinance adopted by the City of Portland, marks a commitment on the part of both governments to develop a plan to create 2,000 units of supportive housing over a ten-year period. Multnomah County, through the Multnomah County Health Department; the City of Portland, through the Portland Housing Bureau; Home Forward; and the Joint Office of Homeless Services ("Conveners") will develop a plan that (1) aligns with the State of Oregon's work through the Oregon Health Authority and Oregon Housing and Community services to create 2,000 supportive housing placements and (2) can be scaled to further expand supportive housing to meet the total unmet need.

The Conveners will determine how to align local efforts with regional effort proposed to be funded by Metro that will bring together health care providers, and Multnomah, Clackamas, and Washington Counties to develop a strategy to meet the regional supportive housing need. They will ensure the plan aligns with the principles, including a commitment to racial justice, set out in the A Home for Everyone framework plan, and the AHFE strategies for addressing chronic homelessness.

The participation and input from community and business partners are vital to this effort. The planning process will require the Conveners to engage and seek resource alignment opportunities with all potential funders and service provision sources, including, e.g., the federal government, the state government, the criminal justice system, the public mental health system, hospitals, Coordinated Care Organizations, the non-profit and for-profit housing development industries, non-profit service providers, philanthropy, and the business community.

The plan is intended to contain a clear demonstration of the level of need for supportive housing, how it can be targeted to the appropriate population, the projected costs of meeting the 2,000-unit target; how much of the target can be achieved through alignment of existing resources, including the strategies to achieve that alignment; and how much new resource will be needed to achieve the unit goal, on what timeline, and from what potential sources.

The plan will also contain specific recommendations for ongoing tracking and evaluation, and to ensure that units are prioritized to those homeless households with disabilities and those who would otherwise continue to be frequent utilizers of public safety, health, and human services resources.

Finally, the Conveners will present the plan to the Executive Committee of A Home For Everyone, the Multnomah County Commission, the Portland City Council, and the Board of Home Forward within nine (9) months of the adoption of this Resolution; and that the Conveners shall annually report to those bodies their progress toward the goal.

3. Explain the fiscal impact (current year and ongoing).

Approval of this resolution will not result in any fiscal impact. Current staff with the Joint Office and Health Department will staff this effort.

4. Explain any legal and/or policy issues involved.

Homelessness is a humanitarian crisis that threatens the dignity and safety of very vulnerable people in our community. Every person's challenges and needs are unique and therefore we provide a 'continuum' of services including emergency shelter, transitional housing, supportive services, rent assistance, affordable rental housing, and supportive housing.

The Center on Budget and Policy Priorities has confirmed that "A broad body of research shows that supportive housing effectively helps people with disabilities maintain stable housing. People in supportive housing use costly systems like emergency health services less frequently and are less likely to be incarcerated. Supportive housing also can aid people with disabilities in getting better health care and help seniors trying to stay in the community as they age and families trying to keep their children out of foster care".

The United States Interagency Council on Homelessness reports that "study after study has shown that supportive housing not only resolves homelessness and increases housing stability, but also improves health and lowers public costs by reducing the use of publicly-funded crisis services".

Current crisis services take a number of forms, including costly interventions such as the Oregon State Hospital or Multnomah County Jail. In 2014 a Multnomah County jail bed reportedly cost \$200 per night, in 2013 an inpatient stay in a state hospital was reportedly over \$2,700 per night, and an average emergency room visit cost \$2,000; studies place the average per-night cost of a supportive housing unit at between \$24 and \$54.

Other efforts to address chronic homelessness are already underway. The State of Oregon, through Oregon Housing and Community Services and the Oregon Health Authority, has recognized the statewide need for supportive housing and has committed to 2,000 supportive housing placements by 2019. Multnomah County, Clackamas County, and Washington County have joined with regional health care systems and non-profit partners

to propose to Metro a process to identify and address the regional need for supportive housing.

National best practices, our own history, and the 2017 Point in Time count show us the urgency of re-focusing our efforts on supportive housings.

5. Explain any citizen and/or other government participation that has or will take place.

This is a joint effort between Multnomah County, the City of Portland, and Home Forward. Initial outreach has taken place with advocacy groups in the public safety, mental health, and addiction fields. Moving forward will require a more comprehensive outreach strategy, and the Conveners will work with a diverse set of stakeholders to ensure any plan acknowledges the need for supportive housing that is client centered and culturally responsive.

Required Signature

**Elected
Official or
Department
Director:**

Nancy Bennett

Date:

10/11/17