



Minutes – Draft

Coordinated Houseless Response Office (CHRO) – Board of Directors

Thursday, January 27, 2023

Deschutes Services Building, Barnes and Sawyer Rooms, 1300 NW Wall Street, Bend

I. Introductions of Board of Directors and Staff

This meeting was called to order. Board members present: Patti Adair, Deschutes County Commissioner; Megan Perkins, Bend City Councilor; Dan Richer, La Pine Mayor; Andrea Blum, Sisters City Councilor; and Cat Zwicker, Redmond City Councilor.

Others present: Colleen Thomas, Erik Kropp, Cheyenne Purrington, Emily Horton, Janice Garceau, Jenny Lingard, Lindsey Stailing, Kerry Prosser, Linda Cline, Linda Murrer, Eliza Wilson, Kathy Skidmore, Eric King, Mickie Derting, Deb Cook, and Kristie Bollinger.

II. Role of the Board of Directors

Erik Kropp discussed the document titled “Proposed Framework for County & City or Cities Collaborative Houselessness Office” (attached). Mr. Kropp highlighted that the document lists the authority and duties of the Board of Directors: policy direction; input and direction, approval and commitment, and political leadership in implementing the strategic plan; and serve as a liaison to their governing body.

III. Updates from the Coordinated Houseless Response Office Director

Cheyenne Purrington provided an overview of the Point in Time Count. The Board discussed challenges and gaps in the current system: large numbers of people who are unsheltered, lack of sufficient respite care beds, lack of necessary beds for youths, and lack of mental health beds.

Mayor Richer said that these strategies focus on people who want housing, but asked about people that do not want to be housed. Ms. Purrington stated that everyone deserves housing, but explained that some people have been disengaged from services and it may take years for them to be ready for housing.

Commissioner Adair suggested that the Office create a newsletter to update the community on efforts and also encouraged using performance indicators. Councilor Zwicker commented on the importance of rapid referral to prevent people from becoming homeless and noted that NeighborImpact is out of rapid rehousing funds.

Ms. Purrington discussed the need to surge resources for several years. Councilor Perkins asked what type of resources are needed for the surge. Ms. Purrington identified flex funding, policy changes, and street outreach.

Commissioner Adair asked about people camping on ODOT property, including the ODOT property adjacent to the Revere Avenue on-ramp to Highway 97. Ms. Purrington noted that closing camps results in people moving to other locations and the issue persisting. She said that we need to be able to tell people where they can go.

Board members discussed the need to affordable and workforce housing. Councilor Blum noted that a non-profit organization is developing 40-unts of affordable housing in the City of Sisters.

Ms. Purrington said that she would be working on an office administrative plan that will outline how the office will operate. She also discussed the Emergency Homeless Task Force Strategic Plan and how this work can feed into the upcoming regional planning effort led by Central Oregon Intergovernmental Council (COIC).

Ms. Purrington noted the need to create an Advisory Council and asked members of the Board to send her possible members from their community who could serve on the Advisory Council.

IV. Coordinated Houseless Response Office Communication and Availability to Board of Directors

Ms. Purrington offered to meet with each Board member to learn about specific needs in their community.

V. Board of Directors Meetings

Board members discussed scheduling the Board to meet monthly, as opposed to quarterly.

VI. Agenda Topics for Next Meeting

Board members suggested topics for the next Board meeting: office budget, developing a web-site, and creation of an Advisory Council.

VII. Public Comment

Jenny Lingard said that she encourages the use of data, but commented that NeighborImpact is not sharing data. Ms. Purrington offered that NeighborImpact could be invited in to present to the Board.

Lindsey Stailing from the Homeless Leadership Coalition (HLC) spoke about the importance of aligning the work of the CHRO with the work of HLC.

Minutes respectfully submitted by:

Erik Kropp, Deputy County Administrator