



MINUTES
KEIZER CITY COUNCIL WORK SESSION
Monday, October 29, 2018
Keizer Civic Center, Council Chambers
Keizer, Oregon

CALL TO ORDER Mayor Clark called the meeting to order at 6:00 pm. Roll was called as follows:

Present:

Cathy Clark, Mayor
Marlene Parsons, Councilor
Kim Freeman, Councilor
Laura Reid, Councilor
Bruce Anderson, Councilor
Roland Herrera, Councilor

Absent:

Amy Ryan, Councilor

Staff Present:

Chris Eppley, City Manager
Shannon Johnson, City Attorney
Debbie Lockhart, Deputy City Recorder

DISCUSSION –
Mid-Willamette
Valley
Homelessness
Update

Mayor Clark provided background about the Mid-Willamette Valley Homelessness Initiative Task Force and the Strategic Plan. She explained that Ali Treichel was hired to oversee the implementation of the plan and that this meeting was being held so that everyone could gain an understanding of the work being done and where the funding is going.

Ali Treichel, Program Coordinator, explained that Marion and Polk Counties and Keizer, Salem, Monmouth and Independence fund her position; representatives from each entity sit on her steering committee and guide the work that her position is charged with doing. She explained that the position exists to serve the local governments and is responsible for researching and gathering information and sharing it with the steering committee.

The Year One Work Plan is broken up into various projects and focuses on helping local governments address homelessness.

- Inventory Map of various services and resources available to local communities, including housing, criminal justice, education, health, family & children services and support services. It is not meant to be a resource guide but is meant to better define what the local services landscape looks like and to identify the gaps and inefficiencies within the service continuum. *Complete*
- Identify Public Funding Streams: Identify where public funding is going to address homelessness and stabilize at-risk residents. Both of these projects will serve as a tool for local governments to better inform decision making and long term planning. *Complete*

- Engage in ongoing partnership, planning and negotiation with the Rural Oregon Continuum of Care and conduct a cost benefit analysis of inclusion within the continuum to help determine if it would be beneficial to form a smaller independent entity. *Complete*
- Research, identify and evaluate effective means to address panhandling through study of what other committees have done. Programs include alternative ways of giving, public education campaigns in an effort to divert money to social services, and day-work programs for panhandlers.
- Implementation of financial literacy objectives within the Mid-Willamette Homeless Initiative Strategic Plan; connecting resources, finding partnership opportunities and connecting organizations. Many providers have financial literacy built into their programs but she is looking into strategies that would help provide these educational tools for renters so they could budget appropriately in an effort to protect against non-payment or eviction. A workshop series has been scheduled to do this.
- Create a toolkit to quickly and easily connect property managers and landlords who would like to participate in these types of events making it as easy as possible to connect people to services that are already in the community.
- Facilitate the Challenge which is an effort that is focused on runaway and homeless youth.
- Identify a matrix to place on the Regional Strategic Plan to identify measurable outcomes and benchmarks.

Discussion then followed regarding addiction services, behavioral/mental health services and coordinating with 501c3 organizations so that services do not overlap and resources are not wasted.

Tricia Ratliff, Program Director for Home Youth and Resource Center (HY&RC), explained that she works with youth 11-18 years old – the minor homeless population, and that there is a drop-in center in downtown Salem. This fall Marion-Polk County's only homeless shelter for minor youth will open. The shelter will provide housing for 10 youth, 24/7 and include drug/alcohol/mental health treatment onsite as well as several rooms for dealing with various issues that are frequently part of the homelessness scenario. She explained that HY&RC advocates for needs of this population and distributed and explained a handout showing 2017 figures on homeless youth. She added that the number of runaways and homeless students is growing every year and provided information about the '100 Day Challenge' wherein national partners issued a challenge to end youth homelessness for 100 days. A team of experienced teams from various venues worked together to pool resources and the impact was significant. Thirty individual youths were assessed to get a snapshot of what they are facing, a list of 230 individual youth was compiled and now

they are working on how to address their needs and bring in the appropriate agencies together and work to address the most vulnerable until all 230 are off the list. 93 youth were placed in safe and stable homes by rethinking what is done and how it can be done together. Public outreach events were held with outreach teams going out every day and share information.

She explained that an important document is the service map that the National Framework Continuum of Services from Preventive to Aftercare recommended to end youth homelessness in any community. She and Ali inserted local services in that service map to determine where there is overlap and gap and determine how or if to adjust services.

Discussion then took place regarding the Youth Action Board.

Jimmy Jones, Executive Director of Mid-Willamette Valley Community Action Agency, explained that his initial task was to design a system to provide baseline information on the quantity of homeless and barriers common to that population for Marion and Polk Counties to make sure available resources are being utilized effectively and to coordinate partners to work together toward the same goal. He provided details on tools used to accumulate data such as the Point in Time (PIT) Count which is inaccurate and the Vulnerability Index Service Prioritization Decision Assistance Tool which is a valuable tool.

He explained that over the past two years his agency has counted and assessed for vulnerability more than 5,200 unique individuals in Marion and Polk County. This has given the agency much needed valid and accurate data on the homeless population and has revealed that there is a crisis of unprecedented proportions when it comes to the homeless population. He explained that 37% of the homeless in Marion and Polk County have chronic physical, mental health and substance abuse problems which makes it nearly impossible for them to rehouse on their own. The median income of these households is about \$8,800; half have no income; 33% are on parole or probation, 37% are convicted felons, 72% are victims of domestic violence and 1/3 of those are fleeing from their last relationship. Landlords do not want to rent to these.

The Vulnerability Assessment Tool is being used to assess 250 of those highest needs individuals and around 90 of them have been housed. He added however, that at times there are very few services such as bathrooms, food, and supplies available to the homeless population and even with increased budgets his organization is only able to help one out of 12 or 13 people who come in for assistance.

Mr. Jones explained the Frequent Users of Service Engagements tool which is used to track how often homeless people use services such as the emergency room, hospitals, and emergency services. Data gleaned through that tool has shown that the highest needs homeless individuals go to an emergency room 25-35 times a year. Using a conservative

estimate of that cost of \$2,000 per incident, this is a \$50,000 annual cost to the community. For \$17,500 per year they can be housed with utility costs and case management for wraparound services included.

In closing Mr. Jones stated that homelessness cannot be remedied simply by providing housing; something has to be done to prevent it or to slow it down such as vocational rehab programs, connections to work sources, and public health programs.

Discussion then took place regarding factors causing the growth in homelessness such as the drug epidemic, the destruction of the social fabric in the community, the lack of healthy family networks, economic forces, the disabled and elderly, the deinstitutionalization of mental health facilities. Also discussed was tiny houses, housing stock in the area, Law Enforcement Assisted Diversion (LEADS), outreach, the trespass letter of consent, and resources.

Finally Mr. Jones voiced the hope that private developers would build units dedicated to the homeless population, Tricia Ratliff urged everyone to remember the youth and Ali Treichel urged leaders to continue to support her position and consider the role of elected officials and local governments.

ADJOURNMENT Meeting adjourned at 7:45 p.m.

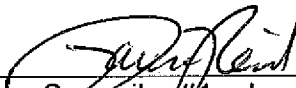
MAYOR:


Cathy Clark

APPROVED:


Debbie Lockhart, Deputy City Recorder

COUNCIL MEMBERS


Councilor #1 – Laura Reid

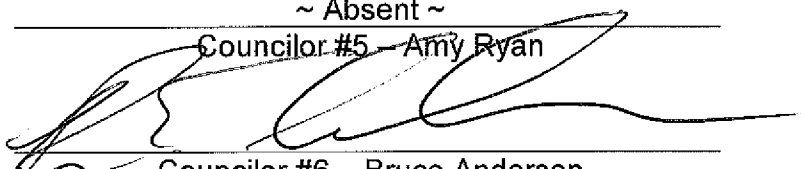

Councilor #4 – Roland Herrera


Councilor #2 – Kim Freeman

~ Absent ~

Councilor #5 – Amy Ryan


Councilor #3 – Marlene Parsons


Councilor #6 – Bruce Anderson

Minutes approved: November 10, 2018