



HRAP Feed Back <hrapfeedback@multco.us>

Feedback on homeless response plan

Alexandra Sergeeva <sasha.i.sergeeva@gmail.com>
To: HRAPfeedback@multco.us

Tue, Mar 12, 2024 at 8:20 PM



External Sender - Be Suspicious of Attachments, Links, and Requests for Payment or Login Information.

Hello,

I have seen so many plans to battle homeless crisis in Portland, plan and after plan but not much action is taken. I work in ER and call 211 every day for shelters and nothing, today I called for a family and was given only 2 places, one had 130 people on wait list.

1. Need easy referral process- I noticed that some shelters require an approved referral provider, or specific outreach team. If you are not those people, you cannot make a referral. I want easy referral process so that social workers in any ER can make referral to a shelter. Better, have reserved beds for hospital discharges. ERSW work with unhoused population all the time and we have nowhere to send people.
2. Please open DETOX place, again make easy referral process, direct admits from ER.
3. Make sure shelters have an outlet in sleeping area. Today I had someone needing to plug in oxygen machine and shelters did not have power outlet in sleeping area.



HRAP Feed Back <hrapfeedback@multco.us>

Homelessness Response Action Plan

August Jones <rejco@yahoo.com>

Mon, Mar 11, 2024 at 11:07 PM

To: "HRAPfeedback@multco.us" <HRAPfeedback@multco.us>



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Will everyone implementing the 'Homelessness Response Action Plan' be mandated to be 100% 'Clean & Sober' in their own lives, like they mandate/expect the homeless clients to be?

August Jones



HRAP Feed Back <hrapfeedback@multco.us>

Feedback

Kim Jarema <kariotiskim@hotmail.com>

Tue, Mar 12, 2024 at 8:41 AM

To: "HRAPfeedback@multco.us" <HRAPfeedback@multco.us>



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Hi!

I love the plan! Mainly these two items:

- **Ending discharges to the street** from all behavioral health, health systems or hospitals by the end of 2025, and ending discharges to the street from corrections settings by the end of 2026.
- Ending homelessness for **youth aging out of foster care** in Multnomah County by 2027.

I do not think the plan will be successful without the implementation of these two. I also think the foster care plan should be implemented now. These are children you are sending out into the streets and that should not be happening. It directly feeds the drug, prostitution, and homeless issue. This should be priority among the other items along with drug treatment options.

Thank you
Kim Jarema
25 year Portland resident and homeowner
Near Powell Frontage Roads



HRAP Feed Back <hrapfeedback@multco.us>

issues i have for my home loss (homeless soon)

John S Captain III <johncaptain@hotmail.com>

Wed, Mar 13, 2024 at 11:29 PM

To: "HRAPfeedback@multco.us" <HRAPfeedback@multco.us>

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After 28 years in business and paying all licenses and fees to Multnomah County as the only public rental spa location.. my store was closed on Dec 31 2023 and after that the landlord who owed me tens of Thousands of dollars filed for an eviction Feb 7th 2023

After the corrupt and unfair court the lawyer Craig Russillo wrongfully used the courts to get his payday ... at the end of v court i was told i lost and i owed \$32k dollars (nw its \$60,000.00)

23LT02701

This man ruined my 5 year old Native American childs entire life and whats so strange is no one cares..

He lied cheated and stole but i did not have a lawyer so i was cheated ..

Hew lied saying owed property taxes but he was one year off ... they actually owed me..

he lied saying i owed \$28,791.11 but i owed zero

He cheated the ADA i had signed up for (no emails) and his \$690.00 per hour lawyer bill means he got my home for one weeks work.. or not even that he purchased my home for \$10,000.00 total (divided by \$690.00 his labor charges was 15 hours work ... and im homeless soon

CRIAG Russillo then held an auction and did not even need to tell me or give me any notice where he placed ads about selling off my \$500,000 home at 8025 SE Washington ST Portland OR 97215 the Home i own separate and owed no money..

How can gown men lie in court and steal my home ?

You all spent millions and millions but no one helped me.. why ?

Multnomah County courts are corrupt why ? And why does not daughter get her life ruined by 3 white men in suits Craig Russillo Vahan Dinihanian and Harry Dinihanian all 3 lied cheated and stole PERIOD and whats most sad is...

They do not care..

My home sold for 10k and whats nuts is after buying my home the corrupt court claims i still owe another 50k so all my belongings are next.. they ruin my childs life .. shame on them

John S Captain III

Anyone needing "therapy" go to Tiffanys killer Michelle she's Oregon's finest. Only in Oregon do killers become counselors.



HRAP Feed Back <hrapfeedback@multco.us>

please do something that will actually work

Max Williker <maxgwilliker@gmail.com>

Fri, Mar 15, 2024 at 10:55 PM

To: "hrapfeedback@multco.us" <hrapfeedback@multco.us>



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your plan will not halve homelessness, and I suspect it won't come anywhere close. You can't slap a band-aid on someone who is still in the process of getting injured and expect everything to be fine.

How much money will be funneled into white collar jobs, windfalls for developers, and dividends for investors when people are literally dying on the street? How many of those lives could have been radically transformed if those billions of dollars that have been spent on this were instead given to the people who need it? If people have the money to secure housing, they don't need more "services" to secure it for them.

We can't keep doing the same thing, but we also don't need innovation or some new magical thing that would fix everything. We already know what works and you choose not to do it. Give people money. That's it. Take money, give it to people who need it. It's a shockingly low number too.

The Multnomah County Joint Office of Homelessness services states it helped 24,875 people. Assuming no overlap, with just the money from the Portland Housing bond, we could have given each person nearly \$10,000. Most pilot programs for UBI find widespread success with around half of that, and near universal success with around that amount. Instead, this money built 853 housing units. While I'm sure the people living in those 853 units are very happy, 6,297 people were counted as homeless this year alone. The number of people helped would be nearly identical between this program, or ONLY the \$10.3 million spent on administrative expenses had those dollars been given directly to people.

I will never understand the metrics of success and failure when it comes to things like this. Give precarious stability to a small fraction of those who need it, and it's WILDLY SUCCESSFUL!!! Pilot giving people money to take care of their own needs, resulting in universal success: well, we don't really know, it could be a whole bunch of different things. That is not how facts work.

If you are one of the people perpetuating the nanny state where human suffering is dismissed despite all the evidence to the contrary, you're as good as stealing from people who have nothing.

There is no shortage of nearly anything, it's a problem of allocation. Food is plentiful, yet it rots for some while others go hungry. There is housing, it's just priced out of reach. If just 1% of the state's empty bedrooms were filled, the entire houseless population would be housed. Stop making excuses. Stop helping the rich get richer. Stop whinging about how it's impossible to make meaningful change in our current landscape and just fix the problem. It's within your reach and you are choosing not to.

Some articles:

<https://www.sightline.org/2021/02/10/it-should-be-legal-to-live-in-more-of-oregons-1-5-million-empty-bedrooms/>

<https://www.cnbc.com/2021/08/21/how-one-universal-basic-income-experiment-is-helping-the-homeless.html>

<https://www.businessinsider.com/ubi-cash-payments-reduced-homelessness-increased-employment-denver-2023-10?op=1>

<https://www.portland.gov/phb/boc/documents/2022-portland-housing-bond-progress-report/download>

<https://johs.us/>

<https://www.multco.us/multnomah-county/news/news-release-chronic-homelessness-number-falls-across-tri-county-region-2023#:~:text=The%20full%20Point%20in%20Time,disparities%20and%20demographics%20in%20homelessness.&text=Multnomah%20County%20reported%20a%2016,to%202%2C610%20counted%20in%202023.>



HRAP Feed Back <hrapfeedback@multco.us>

come on

Aidan Moore <aidan.moore@odysseyprogram.org>
To: HRAPfeedback@multco.us

Fri, Mar 15, 2024 at 11:57 PM



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you know the amount of shelter beds doesn't matter in the long run and you probably won't get them anyway. Quit lying and wasting everyone's time and money and just build some public housing.

--

Sent from my Palantir



HRAP Feed Back <hrapfeedback@multco.us>

Newsletter

Curt Kimball <curtkimball@comcast.net>
To: HRAPfeedback@multco.us

Sat, Mar 16, 2024 at 7:43 AM

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Thanks for the update. However Goals, commissions, committees, photo ops, mean nothing when the execution of those goals isn't accomplished. The problems have been around, as pointed out by the photo op, since 2015 and before.

Accomplish the goals, people are dying, people's lives are messed up and it's politicians as yourselves that are a big blame . Execute the goals like an athlete achieves his goals. Curt

Sent from my iPhone




HRAP Feed Back <hrapfeedback@multco.us>

Serious thoughts on homeless, varied "community"

Elizabeth Dobbins <elizabethdobbins1234@gmail.com>
To: "hrapfeedback@multco.us" <hrapfeedback@multco.us>

Sat, Mar 16, 2024 at 8:37 AM

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The people most in need seem to be African American women. I don't know why. It must be something we are missing. I saw a woman who wrote a poem about how the water was all messed up. Maybe they are not getting enough info that the environment is a little OUT of our control? I don't know.

The people next in need seem to be the people who are working class in suburban communities. They have financial debt that is unreal. I don't think they really understood that there was nothing to make stuff but that industry would come back.

Anyway, I have a personal paper, since I don't really like to generalize like above to talk about my personal fight against homelessness, death, as I feel it is. It's disjointed from hacking, from lack of sleep and from cutting and pasting various essays together. Sorry. Hopefully some of the points will come to light for you it is mostly cliff notes and informational.



Tiger Lily-"my" kitten my sisters' two "girl" cats had. Had to put it to sleep, the apartment in Gresham refused to take pets at the last minute, a week before we moved on my birthday.

Grows wild in Alaska, even though it's Canadienne.



 Elizabeth Dobbins with Grandpa Lie.pdf
3893K



HRAP Feed Back <hrapfeedback@multco.us>

Feedback

Diane Drum <k.diane.drum@gmail.com>

Sat, Mar 16, 2024 at 9:27 AM

To: HRAPfeedback@multco.us

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This plan is inadequate. According to the national data collected through Point in Time surveys, Portland, OR has the second largest number of unsheltered unhoused people in the NATION. (Using per capita comparisons). All the root causes you mention affect every other city, so why are we the second worst city in the nation?

We had to flee our home where we raised 3 children; it broke our hearts. We loved Portland. We worked in public health and low-income housing our entire careers. Lots of community activism. But Portland/Multnomah County is now off-the-rails ideologically nuts. Even a person as reasonable as Dan Ryan has had to flee his home and get protection from threatening people who say they are leftists but act like they are nihilists.

We live in Oakland. Feel safer. Crazy. We are trying to manage our Portland home as a nice, affordable place, but people keep coming onto the property - leaving water running from the hoses all night, stealing anything that isn't tied down, at times defecating, often urinating. IT WAS A NICE NEIGHBORHOOD TO RAISE MY KIDS. IT IS NOW DYSTOPIAN. Our next step is to invest in more security, higher fences, and locked gates. These are costs that will be shared between us and our renters.

You need to shelter everyone who is on the streets. If they refuse shelter, if they break the rules in the shelter, they need to go into mental health treatment or into jail.

The "root causes" are, on one side, expensive housing, de-industrialization, and a lack of meaningful mental health resources. The "root causes" are, on the other side, conservatives who do not want to pay for anything and liberals who cannot admit that some humans, especially those whose executive function is wildly impaired by mental illness and/or drugs, need constraint. Lack of funds and lack of constraint dovetail into the crisis in Portland's communities.

Human beings CANNOT live in crowded conditions without structure and sanitation. Urban camping should be prohibited to the full extent of the law. Unless the Supreme Court rules differently, that will require a shelter bed for every human who is living on the street. Again - this plan is inadequate.

We plan to return in a year or so and give Portland another try. We loved our multiracial, multi-income (across the street from Dahlke Manor) neighborhood very much. At one point in time, the city valued neighborhoods like ours. Perhaps it will again one day.

Sent from my iPhone



HRAP Feed Back <hrapfeedback@multco.us>

Homelessness

cheryl carter <motherpatsy1940@gmail.com>
To: HRAPfeedback@multco.us

Tue, Mar 12, 2024 at 6:41 PM

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Sent from my iPad

Good evening

My name is Mz Cheryl I represent MCPAHB & SHS as a community member/leader I would like to see more BIPOC & LGBT members associates at each turn in this plan so that when the people we are here to assist out of homelessness and mental health issues that they are met where they stand first then show them that staff/ volunteers look and sound like the people we are working with to end houselessness. I think this is a great beginning middle and end to one of the greatest challenges as human are facing. Thank you for putting this draft together and having it open /roundtable discussions to the public.

Mz Cheryl

Community Advocate/ Warrior



HRAP Feed Back <hrapfeedback@multco.us>

HRAP feedback

Brandon Grant <gritsmoker@icloud.com>
To: HRAPfeedback@multco.us

Sun, Mar 17, 2024 at 12:49 PM

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Whatever plan you decide to take, stop raising taxes. Stop funding non profits that spend 90¢ of every dollar on administrative bloat. These people are a harm to themselves and everyone around them and are unable to make decisions beyond where to get money for their next fix.

I've witnessed far too many unhinged homeless drug addicts scare tourists, families, and local citizens. The hands off approach to this issue needs to come to an end.

Sent from my iPhone



HRAP Feed Back <hrapfeedback@multco.us>

Public Feedback

ActaPoliticus <actapoliticus@proton.me>

Mon, Mar 18, 2024 at 7:55 AM

To: "HRAPfeedback@multco.us" <HRAPfeedback@multco.us>

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Hello,

I'm writing to share feedback simply put I don't think the county will come close to reaching its goals with this plan. I think Commissioner Meieran is right this is just a recycling of past strategies that have failed. Also why is it that JOHS does not require every community partner, nonprofit and shelter to collect data from people receiving help? The city and county of San Francisco has collected photos and fingerprint of every person receiving service every do this to streamline services and to track how effective their efforts are. Without data we won't know how successful or unsuccessful this plan will be and we should be tracking every person receiving services like other major cities do. Mind you San Francisco has been tracking people and services they get since the early 2000's

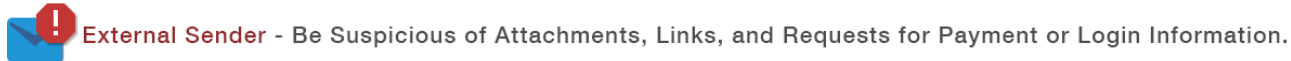


HRAP Feed Back <hrapfeedback@multco.us>

Homeless Crisis in Portland

Troy West <west.troy09@gmail.com>
To: HRAPfeedback@multco.us

Mon, Mar 18, 2024 at 11:30 AM



External Sender - Be Suspicious of Attachments, Links, and Requests for Payment or Login Information.

Hello,

I'm writing to express my support for stricter guidelines to get the homeless off the streets of Portland. For too long, they have been allowed to camp any and everywhere and be a public nuisance. I'm not without empathy but where is the justice for and rights of the taxpayers like me? The homeless contribute NOTHING to the area and are a nuisance and a threat. If the Portland Commissioners won't hear the voices of the average Portlander, and be under the sway of the homeless industrial complex and failed ideology, than we we'll vote in new commissioners. We are watching your decisions.

Sincerely,
Troy West



HRAP Feed Back <hrapfeedback@multco.us>

Homeless

michael fitzpatrick <mfitz054@yahoo.com>

Mon, Mar 18, 2024 at 12:24 PM

To: "HRAPfeedback@multco.us" <HRAPfeedback@multco.us>



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Priorities: Single women with children; families with children; elderly; able-bodied individuals willing to do something to help themselves.

Mentally disturbed and drug addicted WHO ARE WILLING TO TAKE REFFERAL FOR TREATMENT need special attention not provided in subsidized housing projects. A lot of homeless are afraid to live with/near these people.

Addicts not willing to follow up on referral should be removed from the city. Quit regarding a crime that brings harm to other people as just a "lapse" that is to be blamed, not on the criminal, but on the society that produced the criminal. It's not likely that you would accept a crime committed against you personally with such detachment.

Good luck. Try not to spend the next 3 years "investigating" this issue.

Mike Fitzpatrick

4265 NE Halsey St 804

PDX 97213

Sent from [Mail](#) for Windows



HRAP Feed Back <hrapfeedback@multco.us>

Homeless Action Plan

Paul Kuck <pablokuck@hotmail.com>

Tue, Mar 19, 2024 at 9:22 AM

To: "hrapfeedback@multco.us" <hrapfeedback@multco.us>



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The People for Portland organization is right. These things need to happen. But moreover, you need to stop forming committees and take action on these and previous plans. You don't need Directors overseeing things, you need doers on the ground implementing plans. The level of ineptitude at both governments is staggering and allowed by a culture of inaction and poor management. This must stop. The unions protection of inept workers must be fought and a culture of action and accountability created.

1. **End unregulated, dangerous camping**
2. **End the use and sale of deadly drugs in public.**
3. **Require independent oversight and accountability for homeless spending.**

I'll add one more.

4. Fine Airbnb, unlicensed and illegal rentals, and make Airbnb and other short term rental agencies remove those listings. This isn't hard and could literally be solved in a handful of weeks. The fact that it hasn't been shows that the people in charge of this aren't even trying.

Paul Kuck



HRAP Feed Back <hrapfeedback@multco.us>

It is time

Bobbie Parisi <bparisi18@gmail.com>

Tue, Mar 19, 2024 at 9:31 AM

To: "HRAPfeedback@multco.us" <HRAPfeedback@multco.us>



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It is time or you all to prove that you can manage this city or it is time for me to start looking at other politicians who can actually get the job done.

It is time to:

1. End unregulated, dangerous camping. Accepting shelter and services can no longer be an optional choice for people on the streets.
2. End the use and sale of deadly drugs in public. Our streets and parks can longer be open air drug markets.
3. Require independent oversight and accountability for homeless spending. The massive homeless industrial complex that receives taxpayer funds cannot be trusted to also oversee taxpayer funds.

Roberta Parisi: A fed up Multnomah tax payer.

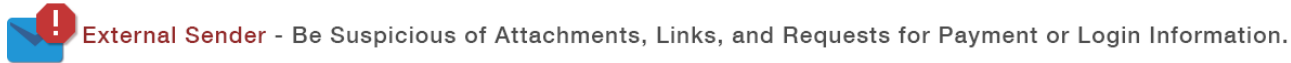


HRAP Feed Back <hrapfeedback@multco.us>

Action-less "Action Plan"

Brian B <belicabw@gmail.com>
To: HRAPfeedback@multco.us

Tue, Mar 19, 2024 at 9:31 AM



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We need action. Not more strategy and planning.

After \$2.5 BILLION dollars spent with limited accountability and results, I want this plant to:

1. Stop allowing people to choose homelessness over shelter when offered. Streets are not a safe place for anyone to live and are not designed to sustain life, hence livability, environmental, and social chaos around camps.
2. No more drugs. Homeless people are being taken advantage of by drug dealers who exploit them as easy targets. This must be met with aggressive and forceful enforcement, starting with dealers.
3. Bring accountability to spend. We need to stop handing out money to any non-profit that asks for it. There needs to be accountability for results and heavier oversight of where the money is going.

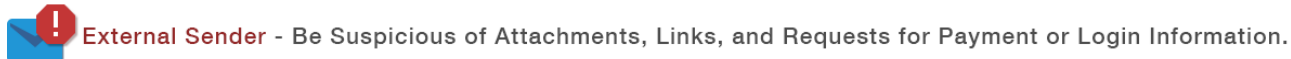


HRAP Feed Back <hrapfeedback@multco.us>

Homeless chaos

Scott Gordanier <scottgordanier@hotmail.com>
To: "HRAPfeedback@multco.us" <HRAPfeedback@multco.us>

Tue, Mar 19, 2024 at 9:36 AM



Hello,

I would like to state my dissatisfaction with the ineffective expenditure of County monies for such little progress in the fight to regain our streets and public spaces from drug addicted homeless persons. More needs to be done with some urgency now!!

Please adopt the following strategy immediately:

1. **End unregulated, dangerous camping.** Accepting shelter and services can no longer be an optional choice for people on the streets.
2. **End the use and sale of deadly drugs in public.** Our streets and parks can longer be open air drug markets.
3. **Require independent oversight and accountability for homeless spending.** The massive homeless industrial complex that receives taxpayer funds cannot be trusted to also oversee taxpayer funds.

Thank you,

Scott Gordanier

Sent from my iPhone



HRAP Feed Back <hrapfeedback@multco.us>

Continuing homeless crisis

Mary Saylor <gmsayler@gmail.com>

Tue, Mar 19, 2024 at 9:41 AM

To: HRAPfeedback@multco.us

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When will you all finally get your act together? You have lots of money to at least begin the process, but continue to dither and make excuses why all those tents still exist all over Portland. We are tired of your excuses - action speaks volumes!!!

I think the leaders in Portland - both METRO and City Council - do not have the experience or vision to see the homeless crisis out of Portland. Kicking the can down the road does not a solution make!!!



HRAP Feed Back <hrapfeedback@multco.us>

Requests

Judy Manchio <judy.manchio@gmail.com>
To: HRAPfeedback@multco.us

Tue, Mar 19, 2024 at 9:50 AM



External Sender - Be Suspicious of Attachments, Links, and Requests for Payment or Login Information.

Yes, I follow along with People for Portland. But YES, I have a near desperate faith that this city can turn around! So PLEASE:

1. **End unregulated, dangerous camping.** Accepting shelter and services can no longer be an optional choice for people on the streets.
2. **End the use and sale of deadly drugs in public.** Our streets and parks can longer be open air drug markets.
3. **Require independent oversight and accountability for homeless spending.** The massive homeless industrial complex that receives taxpayer funds cannot be trusted to also oversee taxpayer funds.

Thank you!
Judy Manchio

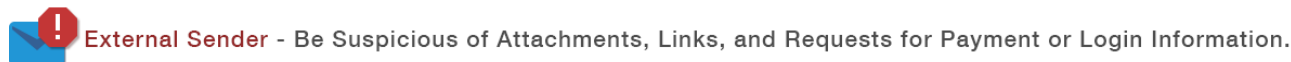


HRAP Feed Back <hrapfeedback@multco.us>

Portland Problems

Fancy Pat Klimas <patklimas@gmail.com>
To: HRAPfeedback@multco.us

Tue, Mar 19, 2024 at 9:54 AM



External Sender - Be Suspicious of Attachments, Links, and Requests for Payment or Login Information.

To All:

I am a liberal, have been in Portland for 6 1/2 years and I find the it to be a rare jewel of a city.

I urge you all to please honor what the city really is. I would like to see government officials agree on a vision for the city that does not allow egregious assaults on the humans who live here, who pay taxes and want to support businesses, especially small businesses, which is one of the very special features of the city. The inhumanity of the street camping is intolerable on so many levels for all and enabling it must be stopped.

I would like to see the following implemented:

1. **End unregulated, dangerous camping.** Accepting shelter and services can no longer be an optional choice for people on the streets.
2. **End the use and sale of deadly drugs in public.** Our streets and parks can longer be open air drug markets.
3. **Require independent oversight and accountability for homeless spending.** The massive homeless industrial complex that receives taxpayer funds cannot be trusted to also oversee taxpayer funds.

I send positive energy to you all in navigating through the difficulties. But please agree on a vision and stay on that path.

Thank you for listening.

Fancy Klimas



HRAP Feed Back <hrapfeedback@multco.us>

A larger "table"

William Warwick <mike@b-wprop.com>

Tue, Mar 19, 2024 at 10:00 AM

To: HRAPfeedback@multco.us



External Sender - Be Suspicious of Attachments, Links, and Requests for Payment or Login Information.

JVP your incompetence knows now bounds. It is, and always has been the COUNTY'S responsibility to provide social services, NOT the City's. "Services" in your mind means tents, bedrolls, and needles. Idiocy. The only reason a "joint" olan is needed is no one wants to take that responsibility away from the County, although Metro is on a path to do so (heaven help us).

This plan to increase the people at the table is both a way for you to spread the blame to those who had no part in it and to increase demands for tax dollars to fund these new "mouths."

More stupid. Less actual solutions.

Solutions include making it less comfortable to drug tourists (many of the homeless) to stay. No tents. No bedrolls. Strict regulation of free meal, etc. providers (for health, sanitation, and safety, which is the City and County's right). Immediately step up enforcement of re-regulation of drug measures, including turning undocumented violators over to ICE. Hopefully, the Court will enable more vigorous enforcement of anti-camping rules so this can be done promptly and without more of your planned endless studies, consultations, etc.



HRAP Feed Back <hrapfeedback@multco.us>

Feedback Multnomah County

sabrina Hess <sabrinakhess@mac.com>
To: HRAPfeedback@multco.us

Tue, Mar 19, 2024 at 10:00 AM



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Multnomah County Officials

1. **End unregulated, dangerous camping.** Accepting shelter and services can no longer be an optional choice for people on the streets.
2. **End the use and sale of deadly drugs in public.** Our streets and parks can longer be open air drug markets.
3. **Require independent oversight and accountability for homeless spending.** The massive homeless industrial complex that receives taxpayer funds cannot be trusted to also oversee taxpayer funds.



HRAP Feed Back <hrapfeedback@multco.us>

get your act together

Ann Rowland <cyclingfun01@yahoo.com>

Tue, Mar 19, 2024 at 10:03 AM

To: "HRAPfeedback@multco.us" <HRAPfeedback@multco.us>



External Sender - Be Suspicious of Attachments, Links, and Requests for Payment or Login Information.

Dear Sirs and Madams,

As a 25-year resident of Portland who has always loved her city and paid her taxes, I am incensed by the inaction and waste of taxpayers' dollars while our city has gone downhill. There is an appalling lack of accountability on the part of the city and county for what our taxes are supposed to be used for, for what we taxpayers have been asking for and are now demanding. We need oversight and action on the 3 biggest issues I and my fellow residents believe have so negatively affected our quality of life. Mainly, the continuing homeless situation, open drug use and increased crime.

No more studies, no more commissions; you must take action NOW on what we already know works in other cities to combat homelessness and the resulting unsightly trash and crime seen everywhere.

We cannot allow unregulated street and sidewalk camping. These people must be forced to go where there is safety for them, safety for us and services available. And if they do not comply, put them on busses or planes back to wherever they came from.

We must absolutely ban drug use and sale of drugs on the streets. I never voted for this completely ridiculous, ill-planned-and-executed measure and look at what has happened. It is horrifying to see addicts tripping out on city streets, and leaving needles and paraphernalia where families take their children and pets, in the parks, near every city event, and pretty much anywhere you turn. Drug users should be sent to jail for detox and put into treatment. If they do not comply, then put them on busses or planes and send them back to wherever they came from.

We citizens are holding you responsible for cleaning up this mess that you have allowed to happen. We want our beautiful and safe city back, a place where people love to live and visit, and not fear what they see. DO YOUR JOB!

Regards,
Ann Rowland



HRAP Feed Back <hrapfeedback@multco.us>

Latest Homeless Action Plan

mark atherton <athertonmarka@gmail.com>

Tue, Mar 19, 2024 at 10:11 AM

To: HRAPfeedback@multco.us



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Hello,

I would like to make a few points about the latest plan and the need for additional focus to prevent repeat of previous plan failures.

This is NOT primarily a housing issue. Housing is an important part of the equation but without significantly strengthened regulation and enforcement this latest plan will not meaningfully move the needle.

An easy test for this plan is to ask several questions;

- how many of current homeless will move to the targeted housing voluntarily?
- what will be done with the many who won't go voluntarily?
- assuming some large number move to this housing is there a realistic plan to oversee and keep them housed as many of these folks are mentally ill or use to operating without rules?

The latest plan seems to be mostly based on the assumption of positive behavior from the homeless, there must be an equally strong assumption that there will need to be strong preventative and correctional action on an ongoing basis to ensure success.

I am also very skeptical of the capability of the involved leaders and organizations to achieve almost any plan, it seems that history is the best predictor of the future and it's hard to see these leaders suddenly becoming strong and capable, or these organizations operating efficiently and with necessary focus. I wish I had more optimism but one recommendation would be that there needs to be someone in charge who has a vested interest for reducing and even ending homeless rather than having leaders and organizations who are vested for the continuation of these programs.

Respectfully, Mark Atherton



HRAP Feed Back <hrapfeedback@multco.us>

Mult Co Proposed Temporary Alternative Shelter Sites

Teresa <teresa-nc@hotmail.com>

Tue, Mar 19, 2024 at 10:13 AM

To: "HRAPfeedback@multco.us" <HRAPfeedback@multco.us>, "Comm.Rubio@portlandoregon.gov" <Comm.Rubio@portlandoregon.gov>, "CommissionerRyanOffice@portlandoregon.gov" <CommissionerRyanOffice@portlandoregon.gov>, "MappsOffice@portlandoregon.gov" <MappsOffice@portlandoregon.gov>, "auditorsoffice@portlandoregon.gov" <auditorsoffice@portlandoregon.gov>, "marnie.glickman@gmail.com" <marnie.glickman@gmail.com>, "oregon.sos@state.or.us" <oregon.sos@state.or.us>, "congressman.earlblumenauer@mail.house.gov" <congressman.earlblumenauer@mail.house.gov>, "Senator_Merkley@merkley.senate.gov" <Senator_Merkley@merkley.senate.gov>, "senator_wyden@wyden.senate.gov" <senator_wyden@wyden.senate.gov>, "Sen.KathleenTaylor@oregonlegislature.gov" <Sen.KathleenTaylor@oregonlegislature.gov>, "Sen.DavidBrockSmith@oregonlegislature.gov" <Sen.DavidBrockSmith@oregonlegislature.gov>, "Rep.MarkGamba@oregonlegislature.gov" <Rep.MarkGamba@oregonlegislature.gov>, "Rep.CyrusJavadi@oregonlegislature.gov" <Rep.CyrusJavadi@oregonlegislature.gov>



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I am writing as matriarch of a family of 7 adult voters stretching from Deep SW to Sellwood to NoPo & St. John's (we rent, we own, we vote), to express my family's views, with extended family across the state.

Having struggled with generational alcoholism and depression, we believe in the #LoveFirst approach to addiction recovery.

Having struggled with housing, we believe no child should have to suffer such instability where viable resources abound.

Having lived in PDX from one decade to four, we believe when large segments of society are allowed to go feral, everyone is less safe.

We also believe you have to meet people where they are, and work kindly at the level they can tolerate and receive.

We do not believe punitive measures work as well as healthy boundaries set kindly and compassionately, and ladders dropped that can be climbed.

We are tired of business as usual and outdated paradigms.

We are relieved to see another PDX Mayor without vision leaving and the advent of charter revisions and expanded council positions. We hope this will ease the County's burden.

We do not believe shuffling people around is helpful.

They already live in temporary alternative shelter sites of their own making.

Yours are only an upgrade if they lead to permanent housing options and compassionate care for their vulnerability.

We don't trust you, based on watching for over a decade as you further torment more people than you help (undermined, understaffed, under-supported), so we will be watching this program very closely (and if PDX supports or undermines it), as we are watching PDX charter revisions, elections, subsequent recalls, and police oversight agenda's (which we are currently very displeased with), as well as how medical marijuana tax dollars are implement (which PDX police knowingly abused over the protests of Amanda Fritz & others in recorded budget meetings).

We are not blind.

We are compelled to monitor & audit.

Our Federal & State reps are all doing great jobs. The County does a decent job (not sterling, as evidenced by failed Home Forward audits &

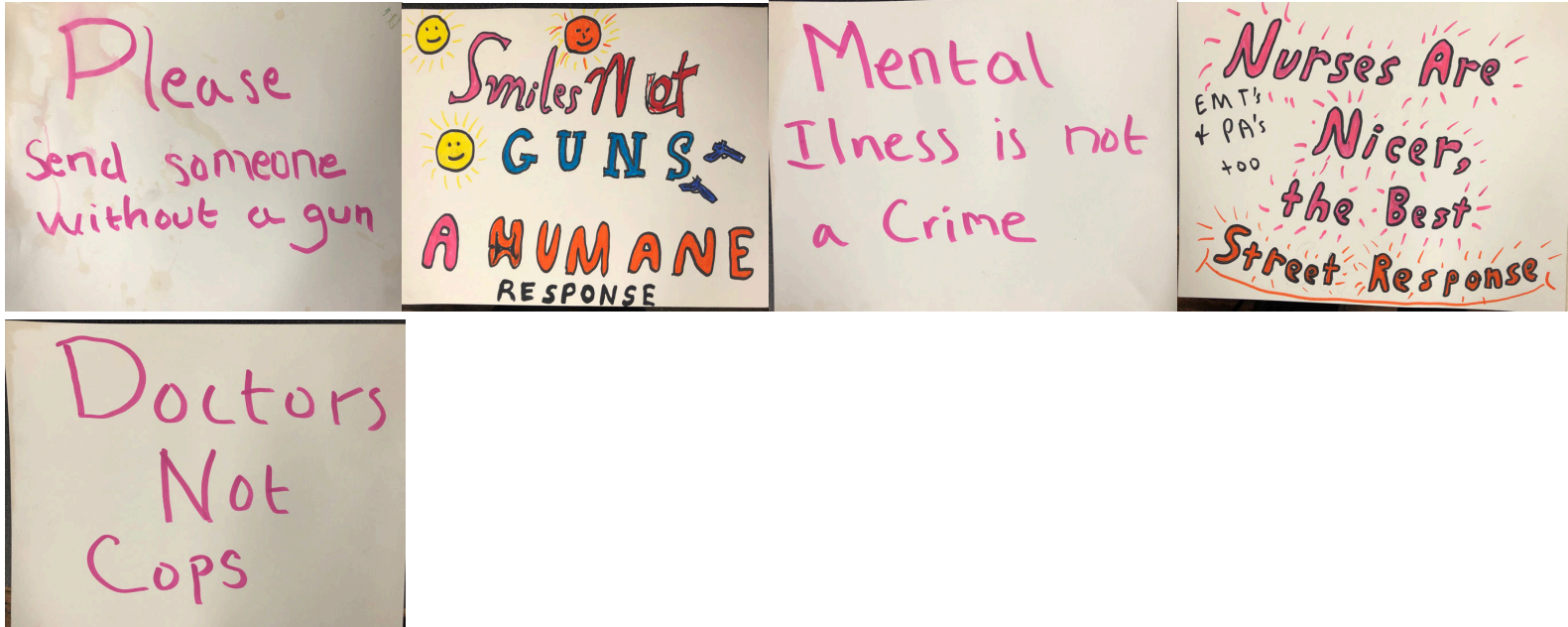
repeated School Board fiascos). Why isn't Portland City Council capable of doing even a mediocre job? They cripple county and state reforms, remaining mired in last-century paradigms that should be abandoned in the face of scientific advancements in our understanding of how humans do and do not work.

Please keep up.

With dire concern for my community,

Teresa Roberts 97202

Images courtesy Street Roots:



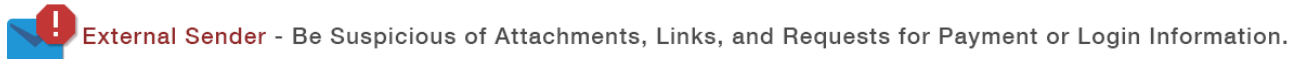


HRAP Feed Back <hrapfeedback@multco.us>

Get to Work Making Positive and Tough Steps Forward - Portland Deserves Better

LAH <lhaseman@comcast.net>
To: HRAPfeedback@multco.us

Tue, Mar 19, 2024 at 10:20 AM



March 19, 2024

Dear Multnomah County and Portland City Officials, below is our expectations for you as to how you expend taxpayers monies and bring effective, measurable, and expedient results to return Portland to being a livable city.

It's long past time that politicians and their failed policy initiatives need to fix their messes.
So, please get to work making the positive and tough steps forward listed below as Portland deserves better:

1. **End unregulated, dangerous camping.** Accepting shelter and services can no longer be an optional choice for people on the streets.
2. **End the use and sale of deadly drugs in public.** Our streets and parks can longer be open air drug markets.
3. **Require independent oversight and accountability for homeless spending.** The massive homeless industrial complex that receives taxpayer funds cannot be trusted to also oversee taxpayer funds.

Linda Haseman
Randy Hauth
[1773 N Jantzen Ave](#)
[Portland, OR 97217](#)

Sent from my iPhone



HRAP Feed Back <hrapfeedback@multco.us>

Action plan

Tracey <smith8130@comcast.net>
To: HRAPfeedback@multco.us

Tue, Mar 19, 2024 at 10:27 AM

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To whom it may concern,

I agree with everyone saying there needs to be 3rd party oversight for spending on homeless projects, as the last 3 years have shown very few positive results on this issue. It's time to clean this city up and make it what it was before the pandemic, a place people were actually moving to and not running from. Anyone who drives the city streets and freeways is embarrassed that we've allowed this to happen without much pushback or assistance from local government entities. Please step up to the plate and prove that you can all work together and make us proud to be residents of this area again.

Tracey Smith-Bowring
Sent from my iPhone



JVP's Newsletter:

A community where everyone has a safe place to call home



Dear Friends and Neighbors,



HRAP Feed Back <hrapfeedback@multco.us>

Homeless Response Action Plan

Lori Holmes <Lori.t.holmes@outlook.com>

Tue, Mar 19, 2024 at 10:31 AM

To: "HRAPfeedback@multco.us" <HRAPfeedback@multco.us>

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It's time to take back our streets and the generous people of Portland gave you more than enough money to do it. It was an outpouring of compassion that you have wasted.

Law abiding and tax paying citizens have as many rights as the people living in the streets. In particular:

- we have a right to walk the streets safely without tents, garbage and sleeping bags in our way
- we have the right to expect you to eliminate open drug use on our street's. We can't drink in the street, but somehow it's ok to allow fentanyl used openly?
- we expect you to actually help people. Make drug use a crime. They get an option. Jail or treatment. If I drive drunk, it's the same choice. Diversion or consequences.
- we expect you to manage our money like you would your own. Does the amount we are spending actually make sense to you for the results we are seeing????????

Compassion yes. But lead decisions with results.

DO BETTER!
Lori Holmes

Sent from my iPhone



HRAP Feed Back <hrapfeedback@multco.us>

Old Town

John P. Bishop <John.Bishop@penwool.com>
To: "HRAPfeedback@multco.us" <HRAPfeedback@multco.us>

Tue, Mar 19, 2024 at 10:36 AM



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Jessice and Ted:

Conditions in Old Town are better than they were a year ago but much remains to be done if Old Town is to return to being a desirable place to work, shop, visit or live. We are counting on you for dramatic results: no camping, safe streets, and effective services for eh mentally ill.

Best regards,

John Bishop



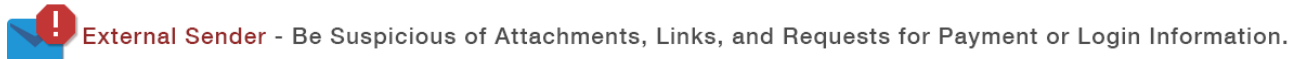
HRAP Feed Back <hrapfeedback@multco.us>

Homeless response action plan

Rachael jans <rachaelannjans@gmail.com>

Tue, Mar 19, 2024 at 10:38 AM

To: Chair Jessica Vega Pederson <mult.chair@multco.us>, HRAPfeedback@multco.us, comm.rubio@portlandoregon.gov



Greetings Multnomah Chair Vega Pederson, Commissioner Rubio & County officials,

I work in Multnomah county and until recently - lived in Multnomah County for 10 years. My family and I were forced to move out of the county (Woodstock neighborhood) into Clackamas due to homeless campers in our neighborhood committing crimes, open drug use (by a school no less) and rampant vandalism.

Since I work in Multnomah county and the impacts of its policies directly affect neighboring countries I am responding to your call for thoughts on the 'Homeless Response Action Plan'.

End unregulated, dangerous camping. Accepting shelter and services can no longer be an optional choice for people on the streets.

When I encountered the homeless campers outside my house I was told to contact, Portland Street Response, they came and gave the campers trash bags and left. Once that happened, the Pastor at the church by my house and school and I spoke with the campers, directing them to services. This is unacceptable.

End the use and sale of deadly drugs in public.

Our streets and parks can longer be open air drug markets. Woodstock Park - once safe for families and next to a school is now littered with used needles.

Require independent oversight and accountability for homeless spending.

Has there been an audit on current spending and its effectiveness? Are there other cities offering solutions that work?

I am pleased by the roll back of Measure 110 and still stay hopeful for Portland's future.

Thank you for your time.

Rachael Jans

On Fri, Mar 15, 2024 at 9:00 PM Chair Jessica Vega Pederson <mult.chair@multco.us> wrote:

Homelessness is one of the most complex and challenging issues we face. It's heartbreaking, devastating, and all-too-common: a humanitarian crisis. And we want to live in a community where everyone has a safe place to call home.

The problem this plan addresses

This is a crisis that has been decades in the making. Federal disinvestment in housing, economic instability, rising prices and inflation, persistent racial inequities in access to care and housing, too little mental health support, and the impacts of the pandemic have created a crisis of historic proportions. We see and feel this every day on our streets.

I see what you do: a dramatic increase in people who don't have a safe and stable place to call home. This impacts thousands of people and every neighborhood. I've seen examples in my own neighborhood of Hazelwood – multiple RVs parked along my streets or tents pitched in the medians near my house. In these moments, I know our system doesn't work to properly address the crisis and it can't if things don't change.

Specifics of the plan

I knew when I took office that we had to develop a coordinated effort to tackle this problem at its root. Our Homelessness Response Action Plan includes 3 things that will help us deliver: Bold goals and clear outcomes, a coordinated approach that makes homelessness the priority it must be, and key metrics to assess the work.

We now have a comprehensive count of people experiencing homelessness in our community. We know many of their names. We know 11,153 people were without a home in Multnomah County in January 2024. We know 29 percent were sleeping night-to-night on couches, in shelters, or in other temporary situations. Nearly 5,400 were sleeping outside, in vehicles, or otherwise without shelter.

This baseline helps us **set clear goals**:

- Shelter or house **2,700 more people** by the end of 2025, cutting the number of people sleeping outside last January by half
- Add **1,000 shelter beds** to our resources within two years
- Increase the number of people who **exit with a housing plan by 15 percent**
- Ensure **75 percent of people** placed into permanent supportive housing are there in two years

- Stop the inhumane practice of releasing people from hospital, treatment, or jail directly to the streets
- Increase the supply of affordable housing because housing people pushed into homelessness is the most important step we take to help people rebuild their lives

What makes this plan different?

Why will this plan succeed? We've tripled shelter capacity. We've been on a path of continuous process improvement. We've invited more people to the table. We have more data and better data – data collected over time through outreach and a by-name list. This plan is more specific about how, when and who will do this work. And this approach is about meeting people where they are. We're also not starting from zero, we're starting in a place of strength to grow our systems.

You may be thinking - this plan is ambitious. Yes, it is. It will be a challenge. But we will keep working together to meet the challenge because we're committed to ensuring the most vulnerable people in our community have the resources they need to be safe, sheltered and on the path to permanent housing. We've prioritized many of the most vulnerable people living on our streets, especially people of color and those who identify as LGBTQIA2S+. These are the people often hit hardest and longest by homelessness and we need to reverse these trends as quickly as we can.

What's next?

From here, we're bringing the community closer with a **feedback period now through March 29**. You are encouraged to lean in and weigh in. Information on the plan is online at multco.us/hrap. Anyone with comments can email county staff at HRAPfeedback@multco.us. The comment period will include virtual town halls for the general public on Thursday, March 21 at 7pm and service providers on Monday, March 18 at noon. You can sign up [here](#).

Together with state and regional partners, we're solving our housing crisis by building more affordable housing, creating accessible and safe shelters, and investing in rent assistance to prevent more hardworking families from losing their homes. I appreciate the many ways our community has already informed this plan and look forward to your feedback.

JVP

Get involved with our budget

Your voice in our budget process is important and we want to hear it. Multnomah County's budget is a reflection of the community's values and priorities. This is true now more than ever, with increased need and so many people struggling. Our county government must continue to be the safety net people need — regardless of where they live, what stage of life they're in, or what may be most challenging for them right now. It's a priority of mine that Multnomah County continues to care for and support our most vulnerable community members.

- [Take our community budget survey](#): A great way to share your priorities before this closes at the end of the March
- [Watch the Town Hall](#): A primer on how our budget process works
- [Ask a question](#): And find more ways to connect at our annual budget website
- Save these dates: For three public budget hearings on Wednesdays in May –
 - May 8th (Hybrid - Virtual and Multnomah Building)
 - May 15th (East Portland)
 - May 29th (Virtual)

And spread the word: The more people who share and take our budget survey, the better we'll understand the community's priorities!



4/15/24, 10:10 AM

Multnomah County Mail - Homeless response action plan

Contact Chair Jessica Vega Pederson
email: mult.chair@multco.us
phone: (503) 988-6277

Our mailing address is:
[501 SE Hawthorne Blvd, Suite 600, Portland, OR 97214](#)

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--

Rachael Jans
847-275-0038
Rachaelannjans@gmail.com
Portland, OR



HRAP Feed Back <hrapfeedback@multco.us>

HRAP Feedback

Pete Conklin <petermconklin@msn.com>

Tue, Mar 19, 2024 at 10:39 AM

To: "HRAPfeedback@multco.us" <HRAPfeedback@multco.us>



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HRAP Team,

I am writing to let you know that I was very disappointed that the HRAP does not include any type of ban on unsanctioned camping. We have slowly evolved towards a new normal that basically gives people experiencing homelessness a green light to do whatever they want, wherever they want. I have great compassion for folks suffering through hard times but allowing them to live in squalor is neither helpful nor compassionate to the homeless or the majority of residents that work to create a livable city. We have rules and expectations for citizens of a city for a reason. Please include a "reset" of expectations in the plan. Unsanctioned camping in the city is NOT okay and should not be allowed. If folks are experiencing homelessness, create a system that incentivizes folks to get off the street immediately, get into a group camp that offers protection and social supports, and then eventually into shelters/housing.

Pete Conklin


22 year Portland resident



HRAP Feed Back <hrapfeedback@multco.us>

Ann Lawrie <annmarielawrie@gmail.com>
To: HRAPfeedback@multco.us

Tue, Mar 19, 2024 at 10:45 AM

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Please be wise in your use of public funds for aiding the homeless crisis. Hire more police. Make camping on the street illegal once again. Provide legitimate camping spots with shower, laundry and bathrooms: several small campsites with good oversight. Drug users would not be allowed but redirected to dry out programs. Let's have a massive Portland clean up, hiring willing homeless to paint over graffiti, pick up junk, etc. Praying for your wise leadership!



HRAP Feed Back <hrapfeedback@multco.us>

HRAP

Rick Breckler <rick_breckler@hotmail.com>

Tue, Mar 19, 2024 at 10:47 AM

To: "HRAPfeedback@multco.us" <HRAPfeedback@multco.us>



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The only way out of this mess is to end all public camping ASAP. The most reasonable approach seems to be setting up large areas for people to "camp" that are not in public. Doing this one thing will improve livability for the housed drastically. When this is in place, start providing services to those at the camps. Service providers can be integrated right into the camps, and not have to be so mobile like they are today. When someone is sick and in need of extensive care, we get them to the hospital for care...we don't bring an entire hospital to every single sick person. It's not practical, and neither is our current approach.



HRAP Feed Back <hrapfeedback@multco.us>

End unregulated camping, end the use and sale of drugs, Require independent oversight

kelly lanspa <kellylanspa@yahoo.com>

Tue, Mar 19, 2024 at 10:47 AM

To: "HRAPfeedback@multco.us" <HRAPfeedback@multco.us>



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1. **End unregulated, dangerous camping.** Accepting shelter and services can no longer be an optional choice for people on the streets.
2. **End the use and sale of deadly drugs in public.** Our streets and parks can longer be open air drug markets.
3. **Require independent oversight and accountability for homeless spending.** The massive homeless industrial complex that receives taxpayer funds cannot be trusted to also oversee taxpayer funds.

Kelly Lanspa
Portland Ore
4086056846



HRAP Feed Back <hrapfeedback@multco.us>

End the homeless crisis

Brent Wolczynski <brent.wolczynski@me.com>
To: HRAPfeedback@multco.us

Tue, Mar 19, 2024 at 10:47 AM



External Sender - Be Suspicious of Attachments, Links, and Requests for Payment or Login Information.

1. **End unregulated, dangerous camping.** Accepting shelter and services can no longer be an optional choice for people on the streets.
2. **End the use and sale of deadly drugs in public.** Our streets and parks can longer be open air drug markets.
3. **Require independent oversight and accountability for homeless spending.** The massive homeless industrial complex that receives taxpayer funds cannot be trusted to also oversee taxpayer funds.



HRAP Feed Back <hrapfeedback@multco.us>

Keep our streets and tax money safe!

Gretchen Newmark <g6newmark@gmail.com>
To: HRAPfeedback@multco.us

Tue, Mar 19, 2024 at 10:56 AM



External Sender - Be Suspicious of Attachments, Links, and Requests for Payment or Login Information.

1. **End unregulated, dangerous camping.** Accepting shelter and services can no longer be an optional choice for people on the streets.
2. **End the use and sale of deadly drugs in public.** Our streets and parks can longer be open air drug markets.
3. **Require independent oversight and accountability for homeless spending.** The massive homeless industrial complex that receives taxpayer funds cannot be trusted to also oversee taxpayer funds.
4. People who are mentally ill or substance addicted cannot exercise free will. Their ability to make good choices for themselves is impossible because of their brain impairment. They need care, not unlimited options.

Gretchen Newmark
NE Portland 97213



HRAP Feed Back <hrapfeedback@multco.us>

ending homelessness

Brian Pienovi <bpienovi@pienoviproperties.com>

Tue, Mar 19, 2024 at 11:07 AM

To: HRAPfeedback@multco.us



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1. Accepting shelter and services can no longer be an option. If they disagree, they must be forcibly moved or go to jail.
2. End the use of drugs in public.
3. Someone needs to be accountable publically for their choices for the spending.

Thank you

--



Brian Pienovi, president

Licensed in Oregon

Pienovi Properties at Windermere Realty Trust

m: (503) 577.5858

e: bpienovi@pienoviproperties.com

w: pienoviproperties.com



HRAP Feed Back <hrapfeedback@multco.us>

"New" Homeless plan

Connor Irvine <ccheckis@gmail.com>
To: HRAPfeedback@multco.us

Tue, Mar 19, 2024 at 11:18 AM



External Sender - Be Suspicious of Attachments, Links, and Requests for Payment or Login Information.

I'm so tired of yet another "new" homeless plan. More committees, etc. We have had a so-called emergency going on for 9 years. Portland is looking worse than before. It's a joke.

We need ACTION! Stop the excuses and start doing the difficult things of getting this city back on track.

People have lost trust & faith in the current system. Portland is no longer a place that people want to live & work.

Discouraged,
Connor Irvine



HRAP Feed Back <hrapfeedback@multco.us>

Homelessness plan

sean sweeney <sweenes3@gmail.com>

Tue, Mar 19, 2024 at 11:43 AM

To: HRAPfeedback@multco.us



External Sender - Be Suspicious of Attachments, Links, and Requests for Payment or Login Information.

I read the news stories about the new strategy to decrease homelessness by 50%. I would like to say for as long as I've lived here local politicians have been unveiling some new plan or another to end homelessness and they have obviously not met the stated goals. The previous promises still unmet, it is hard not to be extremely cynical about new proposals. I think we need to focus more on outcomes and not processes. For too long I think we have enabled street camping- I understand we are in dire need of more shelter spaces and options to move people to-but we cannot have camping in public be an option when other options exist. Camping in public has become much more dangerous for those unhoused and those simply existing in the city alike. There seems to be a large disproportionate amount of homeless individuals involved in public consumption of drugs and violent and property crimes alike. The recent stabbing on the Steel Bridge comes to mind. We need to make sure people who are chronically homeless have a better option than sleeping on the street. And when those options exist they need to be mandated. Choosing to camp in the city should not be tolerated and open use of fentanyl and meth should be completely clamped down upon. The city has a serious livability issue right now and I hope that you all examine pragmatic and practical ways to get people off of the street as soon as possible- for too long I believe we have emphasized the process, striving for the most perfect solution at the expense of practical implementation that may not be perfect, but is inarguably better than the status quo. Letting people sleep in filth and pee and poop in the street and in parks is not progressive. It is not progressive to expose small children and pregnant women on public transit to toxic fumes of second hand smoke from fentanyl and meth, it is not progressive to saddle small business owners with massive bills to endlessly replace their glass and locks from repeated burglarization and struggle with ever increasing insurance costs. We need to have a grown up discussion about the problems and acknowledge the path we have taken the last decade has not worked. I remember Charlie Hales campaigning on ending homelessness- and it sounded a lot like the current county chair in her recent proclamations. Unfortunately the results speak for themselves. We need much more accountability from the non-profits receiving tax payer funds. Monies should go to organizations that have the infrastructure to start work right away. We need construction of buildings to start right away. We need decisive action; and we need to stop letting perfect be the enemy of good. Thank you and Godspeed.

Sean Sweeney
Portland Resident 97215
Sweenes3@gmail.com



HRAP Feed Back <hrapfeedback@multco.us>

Transparency of information re Spending by "Joint Office" for Homeless services

Sil Pienovi <sil.pienovi@pienovihealthcare.com>
To: "HRAPfeedback@multco.us" <HRAPfeedback@multco.us>

Tue, Mar 19, 2024 at 11:51 AM



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There is absolutely zero transparency into where and how the massive \$300 million+ "Joint Office" budget is spent by Multnomah County. We know nothing about what specific agencies are contracted with, for What amounts of money, and to perform what quantity of services. There is no information available on results or accountability from the contracts the County has with these agencies.

So far Multnomah County has refused to provide this information. That is unacceptable, and it needs to change. If it does not change, then the Commissioners need to be REPLACED.

I would like to see ALL Commissioners go on record regarding their intent to disclose this information to the public.

I have requested it, and I know others who have requested it. And so far the County has outright refused to provide it.

Sil Pienovi

Pienovi Healthcare, LLC

PO Box 4514

Portland, Oregon 97208

503-708-3148

sil.pienovi@pienovihealthcare.com



HRAP Feed Back <hrapfeedback@multco.us>

Please take action

Freddie Prez <freddieprez@gmail.com>
To: HRAPfeedback@multco.us

Tue, Mar 19, 2024 at 12:00 PM



External Sender - Be Suspicious of Attachments, Links, and Requests for Payment or Login Information.

I urge you to please take these steps:

1. **End unregulated, dangerous camping.** Accepting shelter and services can no longer be an optional choice for people on the streets.
2. **End the use and sale of deadly drugs in public.** Our streets and parks can longer be open air drug markets.
3. **Require independent oversight and accountability for homeless spending.** The massive homeless industrial complex that receives taxpayer funds cannot be trusted to also oversee taxpayer funds.

Freddie Perez

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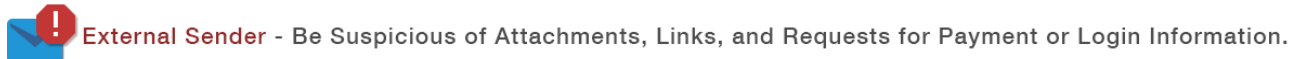


HRAP Feed Back <hrapfeedback@multco.us>

A tax payer and business person's demand from the county and city

Sohrab Vossoughi <sohrab_vossoughi@ziba.com>
To: "HRAPfeedback@multco.us" <HRAPfeedback@multco.us>

Tue, Mar 19, 2024 at 12:04 PM



To whom it may concern,

I am deeply concerned and frustrated about the allocation of tax funds and the apparent lack of tangible results from the County and City administrations. It's disheartening to witness a continuous cycle of meetings, discussions, and talks without seeing any significant improvements. As a taxpayer and business person, I expect transparency and accountability in how my money is utilized. You have more money than you need to fix the homeless, mental health, drug use/sale and safety issues we are encountering everyday in this city.

Here are my demands for immediate action:

1. **End unregulated, dangerous camping:** It is imperative to address the issue of unregulated camping, which poses risks to both individuals experiencing homelessness and the community at large. Providing and encouraging access to shelter and support services must become a mandatory directive, not merely an optional choice.
2. **Combat the use and sale of deadly drugs in public:** Our streets and parks should not serve as open-air drug markets. It is essential to implement measures to eradicate the presence of deadly drugs in public spaces, ensuring the safety and well-being of residents and visitors alike.
3. **Implement independent oversight and accountability for homeless spending:** The current system lacks sufficient checks and balances. To ensure transparency and prevent misuse of taxpayer funds, independent oversight and accountability mechanisms must be established for all expenditures related to addressing homelessness. It's crucial to break away from the monopolization of oversight within the "homeless industrial complex" and entrust oversight to impartial entities.

These demands reflect not only my personal frustrations but also the concerns of many other taxpayers who seek meaningful and effective solutions to the pressing issues facing our communities. I urge prompt and decisive action in addressing these matters.

Sincerely,

Sohrab Vossoughi

[Sohrab Vossoughi](#) | Founder/CEO | [Ziba Design, Inc.](#) | 503.223.9606 Office



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HRAP Feed Back <hrapfeedback@multco.us>

Portland Needs Action

Melissa Angeli <melissastrainangeli@gmail.com>
To: HRAPfeedback@multco.us

Tue, Mar 19, 2024 at 12:26 PM



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To Whom It May Concern:

I live and work in the Pearl District and I am a third generation Oregonian. I care about making things better for all Oregonians. You need to start making moves that help everyone.

We need to:

- **End unregulated, dangerous camping.** Accepting shelter and services can no longer be an optional choice for people on the streets.
- **End the use and sale of deadly drugs in public.** Our streets and parks can longer be open air drug markets.
- **Require independent oversight and accountability for homeless spending.** The massive homeless industrial complex that receives taxpayer funds cannot be trusted to also oversee taxpayer funds.

Thank you,
Melissa Angeli



HRAP Feed Back <hrapfeedback@multco.us>

Portland resident on homeless crisis

Tom Borden <borffmann@gmail.com>
To: HRAPfeedback@multco.us

Tue, Mar 19, 2024 at 12:31 PM



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To Whom it May Concern,

As someone who both lives (Lents neighborhood next to the Springwater corridor bike path) and works (SE Industrial district) on the front lines of the homeless crisis, I can tell you that the problem has gotten much worse in the past seven years. The City's response has been at best woefully inept and at worst criminally negligent. And things are getting much worse. I can tell you that just in the past two weeks, the situation in Lents has gotten dire. People obviously on serious drugs stumbling around half naked, people passed out in the streets and sidewalks, some right next to Lent Elementary School. Garbage and human waste everywhere. Theft is rampant. I'm saddened and disgusted at this city-wide disaster. And I strongly believe that the blame rest squarely on City and County officials' shoulders.

If you think it is at all humane or compassionate to allow these people to live on the streets and do these incredibly harmful drugs, effectively destroying their brains and their lives, then you aren't looking around this city. You aren't living in it like I am. You have to get people off the streets. Period. You have to enforce laws and prosecute crimes. I have watched the entire homeless crisis unfold from inside some of the worst zones in the city over the past seven years. And I can tell you that you haven't done anything but pushed the problem around. SPEND THE \$! TAKE ACTION! NOW!

Sincerely,
Tom Borden

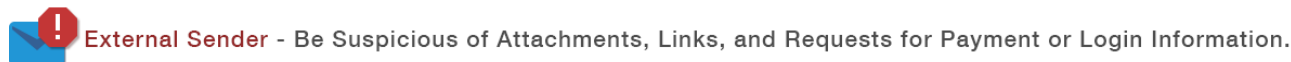


HRAP Feed Back <hrapfeedback@multco.us>

Feedback to City and County Action Plan

Mary Taylor <mlouisetaylor@comcast.net>
To: HRAPfeedback@multco.us

Tue, Mar 19, 2024 at 12:37 PM



Dear Official(s):

I absolutely agree with the People for Portland's call to tell county and city officials the following regarding the "Action Plan":

1. **End unregulated, dangerous camping.** Accepting shelter and services can no longer be an optional choice for people on the streets.
2. **End the use and sale of deadly drugs in public.** Our streets and parks can longer be open air drug markets.
3. **Require independent oversight and accountability for homeless spending.** The massive homeless industrial complex that receives taxpayer funds cannot be trusted to also oversee taxpayer funds

PLEASE:

- **Accept reality and STOP being Delusional.** The homeless population is largely addicted to substances (drug or alcohol) and/or mentally ill. They are unable to work reliably for a self-sufficient wage or manage social aid given to them to be tenants and achieve being independently housed. They are not, for the large part, just down on their luck and unable to afford housing. They are long-term unhoused individuals by poor choice and/or default. So stop the charade and accept reality in order to deal with the true problem - call it what it is, addiction and mental illness, versus hiding behind politically safe terminology: "homeless".
- **ENFORCE the LAW!**
- **Stop wasting tax payer money and have independent oversight and auditing to regulate this huge new enterprise system that is created.** Realize that the government misuse and neglect over the past years combined with the exceedingly high tax burden is going to have its consequences. For myself, this means that I am NEVER again going to vote in favor of any new City, County, Metro or State requests for expenditures or bonds (including school, library, parks, art, etc.) many which I had supported in the past. My response will always be NO in the future.
- **HURRY UP!** I cannot believe the timeline projections described in news recently that wouldn't deal with street-people significantly until way out into 2025. Surely, there are plenty of empty buildings in Portland that could be rented and transformed to help with this crisis of trying to sober people up and get them supervised and off the street. Less talk, more action needed!

Perhaps the best strategy for my household is to move away from Oregon thus reversing the family history of settling here in the latter 1800's. I don't think we can wait for City and County to actually achieve anything.

Mary Taylor



HRAP Feed Back <hrapfeedback@multco.us>

No more bragging about collaboration. Results now

David Ward <davidbrianward@hotmail.com>

Tue, Mar 19, 2024 at 1:03 PM

To: "hrapfeedback@multco.us" <hrapfeedback@multco.us>



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Unregulated camping has grown over decades. But the city and county essentially ceded control of our public spaces four years ago to the homeless, drug addicts, criminals, and vandals. They don't even vote, yet policy was set to meet their needs.

It's been nothing but excuses and bragging about collaboration and "evidence based policies" that don't pass the laugh test. Addicts are expected to check themselves into treatment? Apparently not one of our leaders have ever had an addict in their family. Build thousands of high cost homes before regulating camping? Apparently the time and cost of building was a great secret only now revealed. Repeat offenders released over and over? Apparently offenders were supposed to be so grateful they'd change their ways.

Does anyone in our government understand human nature at all?

I grew up near Detroit. Portland has begun a similar long term decline. The tax base is the next to go. Then we'll really have a crisis.

1. **End unregulated, dangerous camping.** Accepting shelter and services can no longer be an optional choice for people on the streets.
2. **End the use and sale of deadly drugs in public.** Our streets and parks can longer be open air drug markets.
3. **Require independent oversight and accountability for homeless spending.** The massive homeless industrial complex that receives taxpayer funds cannot be trusted to also oversee taxpayer funds.

David Ward, Mississippi Ave., NE

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HRAP Feed Back <hrapfeedback@multco.us>

Homelessness Response Action Plan feedback

Halvor Tweto <htweto@gmail.com>

Tue, Mar 19, 2024 at 1:31 PM

To: HRAPfeedback@multco.us



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Hello,

I'm writing to OPPOSE the Homeless Response Action Plan.

I live in the City of Portland with my family, specifically in Southeast Portland. We moved away from the Laurelhurst neighborhood four years ago because of frequent criminal activity (i.e. theft, vandalism, illegal camping and public defecation/urination, open drug use -- which was illegal then) and drug paraphernalia in our parks and front lawn. Our new location in Southeast is sadly just as busy: Our home was broken into while we were here, a fentanyl dealer lived two doors down, a woman who had been using crashed through an elderly neighbor's window and barricaded herself in a basement with a knife, and in February our neighborhood experienced four car break-ins related to a nearby entrenched encampment that Multnomah County did nothing about.

My level of trust in the current Multnomah County government, the Multnomah County Health Department, and specifically Jessica Vega Pederson, is at zero. Between the failure to allocate money for preschool for all, the tax structure for which I opposed, the failure to allocate money for housing, the crazy idea to purchase harm reduction supplies for the county's addicts without running that through proper channels, the endorsement of the legislative disaster that is Measure 110, and the failure of previous programs to involve the private sector in housing solutions, I am absolutely convinced that Jessica Vega Pederson is the wrong person for this job. Unfortunately for us all, she has this in common with Ted Wheeler. I have no faith in the city or the county to implement a new approach and strategy addressing housing or any of our public health crises. The announcement of this Homeless Response Action Plan was literally laughable, and it is difficult to imagine two elected officials looking more obtuse and effete. The follow-up announcement that this program is going to require more funding, however, was absolutely infuriating. Due to the aforementioned failures, I CANNOT support a vision sponsored by Jessica Vega Pederson or Ted Wheeler, especially when they are asking for MORE money for implementation.

I have voted for Democrats my entire life (I'm 50). Portland's preponderance of poorly conceived and improperly executed progressive policies has completely changed my mind about that going forward.

Thank you for your time.

--

Hal Tweto
(406) 381-5232



HRAP Feed Back <hrapfeedback@multco.us>

The Time for Action and Progress is NOW!

Sean Murray <S.Murray@alliant-systems.com>

Tue, Mar 19, 2024 at 1:35 PM

To: "HRAPfeedback@multco.us" <HRAPfeedback@multco.us>



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Although I am happy to continue paying taxes to support Homeless Services, the time for action and progress is NOW!

As a daily bike commuter on the East Bank Esplanade and Old Town, I am happy to see progress being made but it is obvious that there remains much work to do.

Key actions that I would like to see immediate focus on include:

1. **End unregulated, dangerous camping.** Accepting shelter and services can no longer be an optional choice for people on the streets.
2. **End the use and sale of deadly drugs in public.** Our streets and parks can longer be open air drug markets.
3. **Require independent oversight and accountability for homeless spending.** The massive homeless industrial complex that receives taxpayer funds cannot be trusted to also oversee taxpayer funds.
4. **Enforce existing laws and penalties on graffiti and defacing property.**

I realize that none of these are easy actions, but I believe in the power of Portland to rise to the occasion.

It seems that you have adequate funding to develop resources to target all these issues – please do so now.

Sincerely

Sean Murray

Southeast Portland



HRAP Feed Back <hrapfeedback@multco.us>

Independent Auditor Essential

Sue Ferguson <oakbay12@comcast.net>

Tue, Mar 19, 2024 at 2:03 PM

To: HRAPfeedback@multco.us

Cc: Ted Wheeler <MayorWheeler@portlandoregon.gov>, Jessica Vega Pederson <mult.chair@multco.us>



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Dear Mayor Wheeler and Chair Petersen—

Thank you for working together to address our homeless crisis.

We are typical Portlanders—saddened by what has happened to our City/County and appalled at the flagrant waste of billions of taxpayer dollars (we voted for every measure out of compassion for our houseless neighbors, thinking it was the right thing to do). It was the right thing to do , but instead of solving the problem, due to a lack of accountability, we have even more homeless on our streets.

I appreciate the work of the Governor's Task Force, but can you blame us for being skeptical that anything will change? To build trust with ordinary taxpayers/voters/citizens like us, please ensure a respected independent auditor (Secretary of State Lavonne Griffin-Valade comes to mind) is assigned to monitor the progress (or lack thereof) of the Homelessness Response Action Plan at least quarterly, with the results being shared with the public at large. Transparency and Accountability are essential.

Thank you for listening. I wish you only the best in your joint effort to successfully address our homeless crisis.

Sincerely,

Roger and Susan Ferguson
6119 NE Sacramento Street
Portland OR 97213



HRAP Feed Back <hrapfeedback@multco.us>

Homelessness response - take action now!

Dana Cody <dana.cody@where-inc.com>
To: HRAPfeedback@multco.us

Tue, Mar 19, 2024 at 3:40 PM



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Hello,

The word is frustrated, scared, disappointed at the condition of our not so beautiful city any longer. Shame on YOU!!! Now that our city has over run streets with drugs and more drugs, garbage and more garbage, graffiti and LOTS of graffiti...

What I have said for years, in my job if I did not do MY JOB, I would be fired!!! But you continue to get paid. Take the correct action and stop the insane enviroment that YOU have created.

I work, I pay my taxes.....I'm done supporting and paying for for others that do not contribute for the better for our city and state.

1. **End unregulated, dangerous camping.** Accepting shelter and services can no longer be an optional choice for people on the streets.
2. **End the use and sale of deadly drugs in public.** Our streets and parks can longer be open air drug markets.
3. **Require independent oversight and accountability for homeless spending.** The massive homeless industrial complex that receives taxpayer funds cannot be trusted to also oversee taxpayer funds.

Dana Cody



HRAP Feed Back <hrapfeedback@multco.us>

End Unregulated Homeless Camping NOW!!

Dr. Michael Gualtieri <drmichaelgualtieri@gmail.com>

Tue, Mar 19, 2024 at 4:18 PM

To: HRAPfeedback@multco.us

Cc: "Dr. Michael Gualtieri" <drmichaelgualtieri@gmail.com>



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So... it's been years now since we entered the present crisis! And yet, we continue to hear our "mayor," Mr. Ted Wheeler, voicing the same tired platitudes about "fixing" the problems of homelessness. I am personally SICK of his lies and stalling tactics. Fix the problem now Ted, you Betrayer-of-the-City-of-Portland! Do you really think that we are completely stupid in Portland?! You must... or else you would have recognized by now, as years have gone by, that your "assurances" to be on top of the problem are utterly false; sadly, you have betrayed the City of Portland, as crimes have risen, trash has piled up--forever soiling our hitherto beautiful city--and crime has gone wholly unchecked!

You and the ridiculous excuse for a Multnomah County District Attorney, the do-nothing Mike Schmidt, have in fact made matters much worse in our city. I cannot actually believe that the City Administration has ignored the 14th Amendment to the US Constitution, and placed the "need" of homeless folks to spread their trash around as superior-to the desire of ordinary citizens of the City of Portland to be trash-free, as well as safe in their physical property.

In similar fashion, I cannot believe that you allow these property-crime monsters to repeatedly vandalize small businesses throughout Portland, while turning a blind-eye to your legal requirement under the 14th Amendment to apply the principle of equal protection under the law EQUALLY to everyone! Disgusting the way that you have betrayed the good citizens of our city!

Finally, I know that I might be sounding like a Republican here-- I am NOT! I am a life-long Democrat who recognizes that we cannot continue down this flawed pathway of lies and deceit, and expect that things will just magically get better! Step up to the plate and earn your salaries, for once! Thank you.

Michael Gualtieri Ph.D.



HRAP Feed Back <hrapfeedback@multco.us>

Action Plan on Homeless Crisis in Portland

Robert Cleveland <rfcjr23@yahoo.com>

Tue, Mar 19, 2024 at 4:27 PM

To: "HRAPfeedback@multco.us" <hrapfeedback@multco.us>



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As a concerned resident of Portland I am submitting some thoughts on the proposed "Action Plan" recently released for addressing the homeless crisis in Portland. Our city is suffering due to the deterioration of the quality of life due to this crisis. The priorities of any plan should be as follows:

- (1) End unregulated camping in public spaces. Accepting shelter and services should NOT be an option for anyone continuing to camp on the street or in public spaces.
- (2) End the use and sale of dangerous drugs in public. No more open air drug markets!!
- (3) Require independent oversight and accountability for spending on the homeless crisis. Better evaluation of the use of taxpayer funds by independent bodies is essential. No more wasteful spending and incompetence.

Respectfully submitted,

Robert Cleveland
9011 SW 15th Ave.
Portland, OR 97219




HRAP Feed Back <hrapfeedback@multco.us>

POOR JOB 🙄

charpennie@comcast.net <charpennie@comcast.net>
To: "HRAPfeedback@multco.us" <HRAPfeedback@multco.us>

Tue, Mar 19, 2024 at 5:00 PM

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After years of playing around with our money you are now "supposedly" going to do something?

Anyone with any brains knows better and have already moved out of Portland.

Best of luck to the remaining Portlanders.

Char
503-358-2032





HRAP Feed Back <hrapfeedback@multco.us>

The latest nonsense called an action plan needs some serious folks running it to be successful

CHRISTIAN STEINBRECHER <cfs4694@comcast.net>
To: "HRAPfeedback@multco.us" <HRAPfeedback@multco.us>

Tue, Mar 19, 2024 at 6:44 PM



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In any case:

1. **End unregulated, dangerous camping.** Accepting shelter and services can no longer be an optional choice for people on the streets.
2. **End the use and sale of deadly drugs in public.** Our streets and parks can longer be open air drug markets.
3. **Require independent oversight and accountability for homeless spending.** The massive homeless industrial complex that receives taxpayer funds cannot be trusted to also oversee taxpayer funds.

Christian Steinbrecher
503-292-2165



HRAP Feed Back <hrapfeedback@multco.us>

Homelessness

Cheryl Pratt <livingwell20@gmail.com>

Tue, Mar 19, 2024 at 6:58 PM

To: HRAPfeedback@multco.us



External Sender - Be Suspicious of Attachments, Links, and Requests for Payment or Login Information.

Tax payers have been robbed by both the city and the county and you well know it. You have been 'voted' into positions you are totally unqualified for. Who in their right mind considers giving drugs to drug addicts, homeless, except those who gain to profit from it. And who wants to give drug addicts/homeless choices to make except those who profit from it and ACLU. Listening to the professionals might make sense, not to social workers, the lowest educated people that exist. STOP USING MY MONEY TO SUPPORT CRIME.

1. **End unregulated, dangerous camping.** Accepting shelter and services can no longer be an optional choice for people on the streets. Do you have a clue where these homeless are from? I bet few are from Multnomah County, there here because you welcome them here. The more you bring in the more continuation of the nonsense.
2. **End the use and sale of deadly drugs in public.** Our streets and parks can longer be open air drug markets. Our mass transit needs to be drug free. I wouldn't consider riding mass transit which tested 100% drug detected.
3. **Require independent oversight and accountability for homeless spending.** The massive homeless industrial complex that receives taxpayer funds cannot be trusted to also oversee taxpayer funds. I cannot wait for an audit of this money and these organizations. I hope heads fly.

I am so sick of how you all have destroyed this city. You have absolutely no common sense. Obviously you need a paycheck, nothing more.




HRAP Feed Back <hrapfeedback@multco.us>

Homeless Action Plan

W S <wsbusy@gmail.com>
To: HRAPfeedback@multco.us

Tue, Mar 19, 2024 at 7:18 PM

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1. **End unregulated, dangerous camping.** Accepting shelter and services can no longer be an optional choice for people on the streets.
2. **End the use and sale of deadly drugs in public.** Our streets and parks can longer be open air drug markets.
3. **Require independent oversight and accountability for homeless spending.** The massive homeless industrial complex that receives taxpayer funds cannot be trusted to also oversee taxpayer funds.



HRAP Feed Back <hrapfeedback@multco.us>

FIX PORTLAND

Larissa Ienna <larissa.c.ienna@gmail.com>
To: "hrapfeedback@multco.us" <hrapfeedback@multco.us>

Wed, Mar 20, 2024 at 6:37 AM



External Sender - Be Suspicious of Attachments, Links, and Requests for Payment or Login Information.

PLEASE do something different with this city! I see bits being cleaned up, but it's not enough. Yesterday we drove near Powell and 205, and it was nuts! People in the streets (walking in the middle of the streets), drug deals going on, minors around walking or buying drugs (!!!!!), tents everywhere, graffiti, trash, body fluids, drug paraphernalia etc. Downtown? The same. I met my dad for lunch, and across from a cute local Italian shop we had front row access to full on fentanyl/meth smoking, drug deals, overly sedated individuals, etc etc. Portland is out of control! I used to be proud of this city, now it's embarrassing to have friends/family visit, all the while having some of the highest taxes in the country with little benefit.

1. **End unregulated, dangerous camping.** Accepting shelter and services can no longer be an optional choice for people on the streets.
2. **End the use and sale of deadly drugs in public.** Our streets and parks can longer be open air drug markets.
3. **Require independent oversight and accountability for homeless spending.** The massive homeless industrial complex that receives taxpayer funds cannot be trusted to also oversee taxpayer funds.

Thanks,
Larissa

Sent from Samsung Galaxy smartphone.
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HRAP Feed Back <hrapfeedback@multco.us>

Personal Opinion

David S <wirenut1462@gmail.com>
To: HRAPfeedback@multco.us

Wed, Mar 20, 2024 at 11:29 AM



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I moved to the Portland Oregon area almost forty years ago and was proud to call the Portland area home. Throughout those forty years I have watched this area and its government leaders slowly erode and change this once beautiful city into a slum, outdoor toilet and garbage pit. An area that once was touted as being a jewel of a city to visit by numerous national and international travel experts and advisors is now listed as one of those cities to avoid, not only for the crime but the filth, the homelessness and the general overall decay. I'm not sure if it can ever be restored back to its once "shiny" example of what a city should be but if the present politics and leaders stay in place, there will be no hope of that ever happening. It is sad that businesses such as restaurants, brick and mortar retailers and others have to not only struggle to make a living but also deal with the rampant property crimes and the exploding drug problems right in front of their places of business.. The current drug problems were created and caused by the State of Oregon past and present government officials "selling" the idea to the citizens of Oregon that decriminalizing drugs would lead to a decrease in usage. Local and state officials also worked hard to defund law enforcement and with the failure of the local legal establishment to prosecute these criminal activities added to the criminal problems.

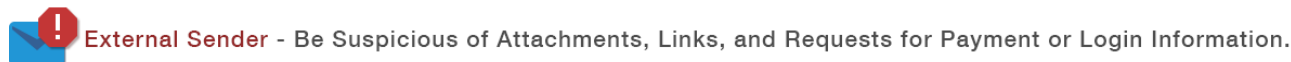


HRAP Feed Back <hrapfeedback@multco.us>

Feedback on Homelessness Response Plan - from refugee perspective

Rebecca Battin <rebecca@pdxrsg.org>
To: HRAPfeedback@multco.us

Wed, Mar 20, 2024 at 12:07 PM



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Hello,

I attended the Monday meeting for Service Providers on the Homelessness Response Action Plan Roll Out. Firstly, I really appreciated the comprehensive aspects of the plan and the focus on addressing the many root causes of homelessness as well as currently unhoused individuals.

From the perspective of an organization that works with the immigrant/refugee/asylum seeker community and works to combat high rates of homelessness in these communities, it was disappointing to see absolutely no mention of these intersectional folks in the presentation. Oregon, and specifically the Metro area, is getting dramatic increases in migrant arrivals each year and I think it would be in the City and County's best interest to make efforts to include these populations in homelessness response planning.

Additionally, I think it is imperative to include at least one organization directly working with these communities in the Community Advisory Subcommittee. If not us then there are many other organizations in the area doing this work and seeing the same homelessness concerns that we are.

I would love to talk with someone in the office about this if at all possible and share more about the trends we are seeing and how we could potentially contribute to this plan.

Thank you very much for your time!

Warmly,

Rebecca Battin (she/her) -- [Pronounce my name](#)

Director of Policy and Operations

rebecca@pdxrsg.org

(971) 895-2819



Portland Refugee Support Group

10725 SW Barbur Blvd, Ste 350

Portland, OR 97219



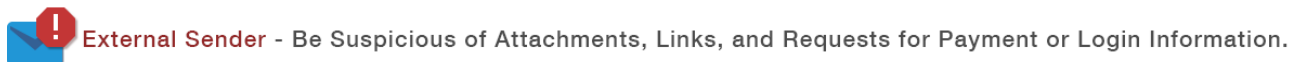
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[HRAP Feed Back <hrapfeedback@multco.us>](mailto:hrapfeedback@multco.us)

Day Centers look forward to supporting the plan

Scott Kerman <skerman@blanchethouse.org>
To: "HRAPfeedback@multco.us" <HRAPfeedback@multco.us>

Mon, Mar 18, 2024 at 1:05 PM



Dear Chair Vega Pederson,

Blanchet House looks forward to supporting the Homelessness Response Action Plan. It is an ambitious plan, but the magnitude of the situation calls for the bold vision and the collective efforts of diverse stakeholders that the plan calls for.

Blanchet House is confident that we have a significant role to play in helping this plan succeed. For this and other reasons, we ask that the Day Center Services funding approved by County Commissioners last fall be extended in the County's next budget. The extraordinary circumstances facing day centers such as Blanchet House, Rose Haven, TPI, and others will continue through the next fiscal year. Already this year, we're seeing increased need for services over last year, which was in itself a record breaking year for Blanchet House.

There also is still great uncertainty as to how and when the camping ban will take effect, but we anticipate that the Supreme Court's Grants Pass decision (expected this summer) will permit some level of the ban to occur. Consequently, the reasons behind last fall's funding will continue, and we would be grateful for the County's support.

Blanchet House is committed to helping our houseless and housing/food insecure communities stabilize and survive. Our services promote hope and faith in humanity in a community marked by despair and disappointment, not to mention the violence and trauma resulting from houselessness and insecurity. At the root of it all is dire poverty, and Blanchet House exists to alleviate suffering caused by such poverty. Multnomah County's support helps Blanchet House meet the financial costs of this service in such extraordinary times and circumstances. Your support allows us to sustain our high level of services and to expand our services to meet increased need.

Thank you for your consideration.

Scott



Scott Kerman (he/his)

Executive Director

O: 503 606 8180 C: 360 771 0747

Blanchet House / [Blanchet Farm](#)

On a mission to alleviate suffering and offer hope for a better life by serving essential aid with dignity.





HRAP Feed Back <hrapfeedback@multco.us>

HRAP County Staff Town Hall Additional Feedback

Katie Dineen <katie.dineen@multco.us>

Wed, Mar 20, 2024 at 8:16 AM

To: HRAP Feed Back <HRAPfeedback@multco.us>

Hi Ryan and Chris,

Thank you again for the Town Hall. The opportunity for County staff to provide feedback on the HRAP is critical and I hope there will be more opportunities for subject matter experts to weigh in throughout the process.

I wanted to follow up on the comments made about Housing First (HF) and comments from politicians. I agree it's important that HF principles are mentioned throughout the HRAP and for our electeds to understand HF practices are vital to this work. As mentioned in the meeting, how electeds talk about HF and the HRAP is necessary in order for the general public to understand why shelter is just one of our many strategies, and why the incredible work funded by Metro SHS might not lead to a significant visible reduction in street homelessness in the immediate future.

Local politicians will be on these steering committees where the HRAP will be carried out. If our politicians do not fully comprehend the importance of HF and support HF efforts, they may ultimately steamroll efforts to incorporate HF into policies carried out by these steering committees. In this instance, good politics and good policies can not be separated, as this top down approach blends the two.

Lastly, a final comment is to have more realistic and achievable goals in the HRAP, so the public sees progress and is more likely to support SHS the next time they are voting on the measure.

Thank you for your work on this. Looking forward to seeing this roll out.

--

Katie Dineen

(pronouns: she/her/hers)

Local 88 Lead Union Steward

Coordinated Access Program Specialist Senior

Joint Office of Homeless Services, Multnomah County

Gladys McCoy Building

619 NW 6th Avenue, Portland, OR 97209

(M) 503.260.4753

Monday-Thursday 7:30am - 5pm

Friday 7:30am - 4:00pm (Off every other Friday)

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HRAP Feed Back <hrapfeedback@multco.us>

HRAP as it relates to discharge from healthcare facility

Bevington, Samantha J :LGS Rehabilitation Services <SBEVINGT@lhs.org>

Tue, Mar 19, 2024 at 2:06 PM

To: "HRAPfeedback@multco.us" <HRAPfeedback@multco.us>



External Sender - Be Suspicious of Attachments, Links, and Requests for Payment or Login Information.

Hello, I work in an inpatient healthcare setting as a Speech Language Pathologist which means I am one of the key team members participating in discharge planning for our many patients that are recovering from stroke, brain injury, spinal cord injury, and more.

I notice the Draft Homelessness Response Action Plan from March 11th 2024 has a goal for zero discharges to street from healthcare settings by 2025. I also noticed that Goal Number 4 indicates several action items dedicated to foster youth and those exiting corrections, but no action items directed to pathways to decrease homelessness after discharging from a health care facility. It would be wise to add some healthcare related action items to Goal Number 4. I have a few comments on how the county could help healthcare facilities be more in line with our shared goals of reduced homelessness.

- 1.) There is a short-term outcome within the draft plan stating, “connect foster youth case managers to housing navigation”. The social workers in our healthcare facilities are often asked to be housing navigators which is, frankly, out of their scope of practice, having a county liaison or housing navigator to connect with when we have an “at risk” discharge plan would be ideal. This would ideally be an actual human that can hear from the interdisciplinary team or physician all about that particular individual's needs.
- 2.) Many of those discharging from us are now permanently and newly disabled and require various ADA accessibility features such as ramps and elevators, and equipment such as “tub transfer benches” or bedside commodes as well as the room/space to accommodate those items. Having shelters or other forms of housing dedicated to ADA accessibility would be logistically helpful and potentially empowering and appealing to the individual patient/client.
- 3.) Many discharges are made complicated by what is termed “walking wounded” or “unseen disability”. These are folks who, perhaps from a brain injury, have little to no physical disability, but their cognition or language skills are not functional enough to safely navigate much of the world independently. Often, health insurances and health care facilities will only offer to pay for caregivers or admit patients that have *physical* needs, so the “walking wounded” patients are left caught in the middle: not enough injury to get help, but not able to be independent. These are also patients that might be able to do simple tasks such as grocery shopping on their own, but a few months after leaving the hospital and trying to go it alone, may find that they can't hold down their job anymore due to memory loss or executive dysfunction. There is a huge community need for supportive housing for those with

Brain Injury. Having a county or city contact person to follow up with our brain injury survivors would be ideal. In fact, brain injury is so heavily associated with future homelessness AND incarceration that having an entire subgoal within the draft plan dedicated to exploring and tackling that overlap would be sensible. Perhaps some sub-goals or action plans could be about collaborating with organizations such as "Brain Injury Alliance" or "Brain injury connection NW" to understand the connection and create whatever preventative networks are necessary.

4.) There have been several instances in the past of people fearing homelessness simply due to the inability or delay on their landlord's part to confirm that they could move to a bottom floor/accessible level of their apartment complex. Having either a legal "stick" or incentive "carrot" to encourage landlords to help patient's make such switches would be helpful. As well as having clear and easy-to-access information regarding this issue for patients/tenants to self-advocate for their housing and accessibility needs. This may be another need for healthcare facilities to have a "housing navigator" liaison to help us prevent homelessness from happening in the first place. I'm sure there are plenty of other bureaucratic loop-hole's to tackle similar to this one such as waiving late fees when rent is due during a hospital admission.

5.) What about patient choice? We have had several instances of patients having no other suitable discharge plan and thus were offered discharge to a shelter but refused and opted to discharge to the streets, this is more often the case with people who have been chronically homeless. Clear language about how this fits into the goal of "0 discharges to the streets" would be appreciated.

6.) What about limited bed availability? When a suitable discharge plan cannot be agreed upon because of lack of discharge location and/or patient refusal to discharge to a shelter, it results in a patient, who is no longer in need of medical services, taking up limited resources that could better be served to the next patient waiting for admission. Clear language that indicates healthcare facilities are NOT housing facilities would be much appreciated.

Thank you for your time and good works,

Sam Bevington, MS, CCC-SLP

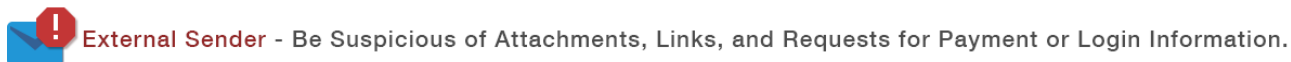


HRAP Feed Back <hrapfeedback@multco.us>

Do your job

Brandi Harris <brandi.harris@stagatha.us>
To: HRAPfeedback@multco.us

Wed, Mar 20, 2024 at 3:12 PM



External Sender - Be Suspicious of Attachments, Links, and Requests for Payment or Login Information.

I am writing to BEG all of you to just do your job! I can't believe the world I live in and you all are directly responsible for ruining our city! I am in shock that my amazing city is just a joke at this point! You put all your "effort" in "helping" the homeless community and you have forgotten that you are killing those of us who have worked hard to live a decent life. We are in danger in East County every single day and have to confront the disgusting homeless camps that surround us and you do nothing to help us! Let us not forget that without the hardworking people like myself YOU would not have billions of dollars to WASTE on tents and drug paraphernalia..How about start looking at how you are one sided and you are only caring about the people on the streets who CHOOSE to be there. Let's look at the equity that is not happening! You took away the police that gave us some power but now we have no one to help us! These street vagrants are DANGEROUS and I am sick and tired of the city council defending the drug addicts and criminals over the law abiding and hard working citizens that just want to live a safe and simple life. When will you hear us?!

Brandi Harris



HRAP Feed Back <hrapfeedback@multco.us>

Comments on the Vagrant plan

jb <jbauco@yahoo.com>

Wed, Mar 20, 2024 at 4:05 PM

To: "HRAPfeedback@multco.us" <HRAPfeedback@multco.us>



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1. End public drug use.
2. End public camping on sidewalks, under overpasses, along the banks of the Willamette.
3. Apply laws equally. This means ticket & tow RV's that have parked overtime in on street parking. Vagrant boats need to be towed and disposed of. Derelict rv's need to be towed & disposed of. No more violating EPA rules by shitting everywhere & leaving garbage everywhere.
4. Make Non-profits publicly accountable with full public accounting & audits. We suspect that this money is used for 6 figure salaries and constant meetings, but no real outreach to vagrants.
5. If vagrant junkies do not want to accept shelter, arrest & jail them for vagrancy. Offer them rehab instead of jail.
6. Many of these vagrants have mental issues along with drug issues. Can they be committed to a mental institution?
7. STOP ALL ENABLING.

Sincerely,

Jim Baucom
6408 SW Loop DR
97221




HRAP Feed Back <hrapfeedback@multco.us>

We Need More "Safe-Rest" Villages!!

Dr. Michael Gualtieri <drmichaelgualtieri@gmail.com>
To: HRAPfeedback@multco.us
Cc: "Dr. Michael Gualtieri" <drmichaelgualtieri@gmail.com>

Mon, Mar 18, 2024 at 3:04 PM

 **External Sender** - Be Suspicious of Attachments, Links, and Requests for Payment or Login Information.

Please proceed with the process of funding and construction of the "safe-rest" villages! This would seem to be the ONLY way to effectively and eventually implement the City of Portland's camping ban (which itself is an absolute "must" for restoring the integrity of our hitherto beautiful city!). The problem seems to be that the process of gaining admission to these sites is itself extremely laborious and/or prohibitive for those who are camping. Make these processes more sensitive and effective for people who "call-in" for admission!!! Thank you.

Michael Gualtieri Ph.D.



HRAP Feed Back <hrapfeedback@multco.us>

Stop the dishonesty!

Pat Z <patz4commish@gmail.com>
To: HRAPfeedback@multco.us

Wed, Mar 20, 2024 at 6:55 PM



External Sender - Be Suspicious of Attachments, Links, and Requests for Payment or Login Information.

You politicians have been lying to us for years. We don't believe you'll do anything except continue to feather your and your buddies' nests. 400 homeless "helper" organizations in Portland? It'd be a joke if it weren't my tax dollars.

End camping.

Make sale of all dangerous drugs illegal

Audit, in depth, the 400 homeless-industrial complex businesses ("non-profits"). Stop funding 90% of them.

--

PatZ

patz4commish@gmail.com



HRAP Feed Back <hrapfeedback@multco.us>

Hey! Y'all! Please consider the options outlined in the attached article. Great strategies for housing people. Very similar to the Oxford House model. Thank, Kathryn Reder

Kathryn reder <kathrynuffin2@gmail.com>
To: HRAPfeedback@multco.us

Wed, Mar 20, 2024 at 11:01 PM



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<https://www.civilbeat.org/2024/03/homeless-villages-a-viable-solution-to-getting-people-off-the-street-or-just-the-latest-fad/>



HRAP Feed Back <hrapfeedback@multco.us>

Homelessness Proposal

Anna Donovan <donoam@comcast.net>
To: HRAPfeedback@multco.us

Thu, Mar 21, 2024 at 9:21 AM

External Sender - Be Suspicious of Attachments, Links, and Requests for Payment or Login Information.

Hello,
Please end camping, end the use and sale of deadly drugs in public, and require oversight and accountability for homeless funding. Money is not the answer.
PS,
If you have yet to witness a "zombie", drive past Jefferson Street from 10th up you should go on a field trip. Would you want a brother or sister to be caught in that web of addiction or receiving real help?
Anna Donovan
7240 SE 34th Ave
Portland, OR. 97202
Sent from my iPhone



HRAP Feed Back <hrapfeedback@multco.us>

Fwd: Feedback

2 messages

Lance Gilmore <gilmorelk@gmail.com>
To: HRAPfeedback@multco.us

Wed, Mar 20, 2024 at 3:37 PM

External Sender - Be Suspicious of Attachments, Links, and Requests for Payment or Login Information.

- > NO unsanctioned camping
- > NO handing out of tents and sleeping bags that prolong unsheltered homelessness
- > NO handing out of enabling drug paraphernalia
- >
- > DON'T put all shelters, drug addiction services, mental health clinics in one place (like downtown Portland); these places have proven to be magnets for behavioral problems and criminal activities
- >
- > FUND sanctioned supported transitional shelters (some people are not ready for homes)
- > FUND all types of shelters including those that have rules (like Bybee Lakes Hope Center); we need all types of shelters for all types of people
- >
- > Sent from my iPad

gilmorelk@gmail.com <gilmorelk@gmail.com>
To: HRAPfeedback@multco.us

Thu, Mar 21, 2024 at 11:34 AM

External Sender - Be Suspicious of Attachments, Links, and Requests for Payment or Login Information.

In case it wasn't clear from my feedback below, I believe we need to help homeless, mentally ill, and addicted people. But I'd like to see two changes:

1. We've been spending A LOT of money for a long time with minimal success. We need to stop enabling and really start helping. We need to fund organizations that Multco has rebuffed in the past because they didn't embrace the failed housing first philosophy. We need some teeth along with carrots.
2. While homeless, mentally ill, and addicted people deserve help it has to be balanced with the livability and safety of our neighborhoods. The concerns of our housed tax payers have for too long been ignored or dismissed. It's insulting and wrong.

Sent from my iPhone

> On Mar 20, 2024, at 3:37 PM, Lance Gilmore <gilmorelk@gmail.com> wrote:

>
>

[Quoted text hidden]



HRAP Feed Back <hrapfeedback@multco.us>

Please stop unregulated camping NOW!

Peggy McDaniel <sailgirl62@gmail.com>
To: HRAPfeedback@multco.us

Thu, Mar 21, 2024 at 3:20 PM



External Sender - Be Suspicious of Attachments, Links, and Requests for Payment or Login Information.

Hello,

As a long time Portland resident, homeowner, taxpayer, and VOTER I would like to see the following happen as soon as possible.

1. **End unregulated, dangerous camping.** Accepting shelter and services can no longer be an optional choice for people on the streets. Many of these folks are truly unable to care for themselves and are causing themselves active harm. Time to change our commitment laws, pick these people up, and place them in appropriate care facilities for AS LONG AS THEY NEED IT- which may mean forever, maybe not. Frequent assessment and less restrictive options as they improve should be built into the plan.
2. **End the use and sale of deadly drugs in public.** Our streets and parks can longer be open air drug markets.
3. **Require independent oversight and accountability for homeless spending.** The massive homeless industrial complex that receives taxpayer funds cannot be trusted to also oversee taxpayer funds.

I have been a registered nurse for 40 years and we are truly in a humanitarian crisis in Multnomah County and across Oregon. The "Houseless Advocates" promoting the idea of autonomy and the right to live anywhere are doing more damage than good. Any non-profit that hands out tents, should be fined. Any shelters that allow people to sleep outside on the sidewalk next to their door or even on the same block should be required to add more space or allow those people inside, on the floor. (City Team on Grand comes to mind).

I'm an active member of my neighborhood board (HAND) and on the CTOC for the Clinton Street Temp Shelter Site. I've seen the good the CTASS has done and more should be added much sooner than later! Rent some buildings, maybe rent the majority of the empty business complex on 82nd next to EastPort, open more TASS sites- NOW! It shouldn't take so long when there are many empty large lots all over town festering with graffiti and garbage.

Anyone that wants to do drugs anywhere, throw garbage anywhere and graffiti all over public and private property needs to be stopped. The city has lost its lustre and we are hemorrhaging business from Multnomah county. Clean up the streets of people, trash and graffiti. We want our beautiful Portland back.

4/15/24, 10:23 AM

Multnomah County Mail - Please stop unregulated camping NOW!

Please step up to the plate,

Peggy McDaniel BSN RN
[2925 SE 19th Ave.](#)
[Portland OR 97202](#)



HRAP Feed Back <hrapfeedback@multco.us>

Support Asylum Seekers in the chair's budget

Beth Outterson <bethoutterson@icloud.com>

Thu, Mar 21, 2024 at 6:48 PM

To: HRAPfeedback@multco.us



External Sender - Be Suspicious of Attachments, Links, and Requests for Payment or Login Information.

Dear Commissioner Jessica Vega Pederson,

My name is Beth Outterson and I am a resident of County District 2, writing in support of unhoused families and newcomer immigrant communities, especially those at the intersection of these experiences: unhoused asylum seekers arriving to Oregon seeking safety. I urge you to include **investments in culturally appropriate shelter and case management in this year's chair's budget**. These community members are County residents and should be met with welcome and services according to our values and commitments.

We know that the lack of federal action has meant that counties across the country are left to respond without a coordinated investment. I have observed how you have attentively listened to the testimony of community members arriving in Multnomah County at Board of County Commissioners meetings. We ask you to join us in living into our values and ensuring that small children are not sleeping outside while they wait for months on waitlists that may never be able to call them back in their language and/or without a US phone number. Together, we can lead the way in being a welcoming community for all, and provide a critical bridge to a more sustainable system that we will advocate for the state to create in 2025.

This issue is important to me because asylum seekers are human beings who need to be treated with dignity. Through my membership at Westminster Presbyterian church and its link with IMIRJ, I have gotten to know many of the Venezuelans and Haitians who have recently arrived. They did not want to leave their countries but fled out of desperation, risking their lives to make the journey. They shared with me how they eagerly want to have a place to live, learn English, find work and pay into the tax base. Over many years I have also volunteered with refugee families, to support their settling in to live in the United States. I felt shameful as a member of Multnomah County when I learned that my representatives voted to discontinue funding for asylum seekers in Portland, who must wait several years for a hearing, yet will be forced to live on the streets, many of them pregnant or with small children. Please use your heart as you make these decisions that are affecting people I call my friends.

Thank you for your attention and work,
Beth Outterson



HRAP Feed Back <hrapfeedback@multco.us>

Shelter beds for asylum seekers and everyone

Sharon Ericson <ericsonsharon@gmail.com>

Thu, Mar 21, 2024 at 6:51 PM

To: HRAPfeedback@multco.us



External Sender - Be Suspicious of Attachments, Links, and Requests for Payment or Login Information.

Dear Comissioners,

150 people are on waiting lists now for shelter beds. Pleading that we do not evict asylum seekers Easter Sunday and the County fund more beds and consider keeping people housed until the new budget term starts.

Thank you.

Sharon Ericson

Parkrose Community United Church of Christ

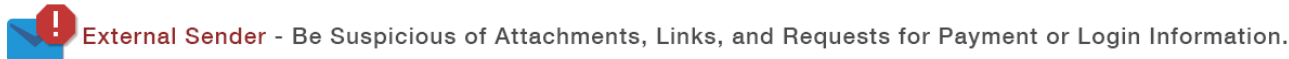


HRAP Feed Back <hrapfeedback@multco.us>

Stop the Waste!

Steven Rebischke <srebischke@yahoo.com>
To: HRAPfeedback@multco.us

Thu, Mar 21, 2024 at 7:05 PM



JVP, etal

The politicians at Multnomah County and the City of Portland have released yet another “action plan” to address the homeless crisis. It was over three years ago that voters approved a new \$2.5 billion tax that these same politicians said would “end the homeless crisis”. As we all know, the crisis is worse today than three years ago.

Stop the ideological WASTE and focus on creating a more livable city/county - NOW!

1. **End unregulated, dangerous camping.** Accepting shelter and services can no longer be an optional choice for people on the streets.
2. **End the use and sale of deadly drugs in public.** Our streets and parks can longer be open air drug markets.
3. **Require independent oversight and accountability for homeless spending.** The massive homeless industrial complex that receives taxpayer funds cannot be trusted to also oversee taxpayer funds.

Take your fiduciary duty seriously for goodness sakes - people are giving up their hard earned money - use it to end/solve our most pressing problems - which are evident.

Steven Rebischke

Sent from my iPhone



HRAP Feed Back <hrapfeedback@multco.us>

Shelter for Asylum seekers.

KENNETH CROPPER Owner <bluesies@q.com>
To: HRAPfeedback@multco.us

Thu, Mar 21, 2024 at 8:18 PM



External Sender - Be Suspicious of Attachments, Links, and Requests for Payment or Login Information.

Chair Pederson: Please include shelter and beds for asylum seekers in Multnomah County in the upcoming Multnomah County budget.

Thank you

Ken Cropper
2208 NE 49th
Portland, Oregon 97213



HRAP Feed Back <hrapfeedback@multco.us>

HRAP Feedback: Asylum Seekers & Family Shelter

Asylum Solidarity Collective <asylumsolidaritypdx@gmail.com>

Thu, Mar 21, 2024 at 5:40 PM

To: HRAPfeedback@multco.us



External Sender - Be Suspicious of Attachments, Links, and Requests for Payment or Login Information.

Dear Multnomah County Homeless Response Action Plan team,

We are writing as members of the Asylum Solidarity Collective, a network of community members and organizations who have been receiving asylum seekers, navigating them into homeless services, and advocating alongside this community for the past year (though many members and organizations have been doing this work much longer!). We have seen hundreds of homeless families, couples, and individuals who are arriving seeking asylum from countries around the world and seeking refuge and stability here in Multnomah County. As part of our community's commitment to racial justice and sanctuary, asylum seekers, like folks with all immigration statuses and lack thereof, qualify for homeless services in our County and it is the responsibility of the JOHS to provide these critical services. We have reviewed the HRAP and are concerned to see the report does not note that many homeless community members are homeless in part due to being asylum seekers who arrive with limited to no familial or social supports in the area, with almost, or no financial resources, and who experience many barriers to services due to their language and immigration status (in addition to racial, gendered, and anti-LGBTQIA+ etc. barriers).

We deeply appreciate this opportunity to provide feedback from our experiences on the ground.

Family Shelter

The current waitlist time for family shelter in Multnomah County is around 3 months long. This means, for asylum seeking families without networks of support, cars to sleep in, or even a US phone and structural knowledge to access tent supplies, are expected to sleep outside with their children for three months with little to no support while they wait to receive services. We would like to see this plan significantly increase family shelter beds and family rehousing capacity as to eliminate the wait time for emergency shelter for families.

As it stands, this plan intends to increase shelter beds for families by 150 beds by December 2025, doubling the system. We know through the Asylum Solidarity Collective case tracker that there are over 150 members of asylum seekers families alone waiting for

shelter beds and services *today*. We have also heard from partners in the family system that they are and have been desperate for more family beds. 150 beds does not seem sufficient to meet the needs of unhoused families in our community and we recommend you increase it substantially.

We would like to see more creativity in this plan or come out of this plan, such as programs like the "A Place for You" ADU project - we have been running an informal hosting network, including ADUs, and have had several community members ask us if there was support in constructing tiny houses or ADUs on their property to house arriving unhousing families. It is far beyond our capacity but, from what we have heard, was a promising pilot and could bring much needed sheltering capacity for families. We hope the county invests further in create solutions to sheltering and homelessness as part of this plan.

Rehousing Programs

While accompanying asylum seeking families in accessing family shelter and rehousing services through 211, ASC has seen families who are stably, if temporarily, sheltered with friends and family be encouraged by case workers and others to move into emergency shelters (after their 3mo wait) in order to be able to access rehousing services. We recommend you increase access rehousing services while people are couch surfing or doubled up and are interested in staying in their temporary living situation while they get rehoused. This is both more trauma informed and allows autonomy and choice, and can ensure emergency shelter is available to those who do not have a safe place to crash.

Finally, we hope to see CCO flex funds more easily utilized for asylum seekers and all homeless communities in the months to come through this coordination. However, we've been told that rental assistance flex funds take a month to be approved, 3 weeks for the landlord to receive the check, and do not come with case management or assistance finding and applying for housing. For homeless communities with language, cultural, and source of income barriers to renting these are insurmountable barriers. We've been told that flex funds can also only cover 3 weeks of hotel stays (with 7 day turnaround), meaning unhoused community members would not be sheltered for as long as it would take for rent assistance to materialize, even if they were able to locate an apartment and get a landlord to agree to this arrangement. To access these services asylum seekers need:

1. Sheltering available upon arrival and
2. Case management that is responsive to their unique barriers related to work authorization, time in the US, and languages.

Coordination between all homeless service providers

Homeless services providers and immigration organizations are often siloed, leading to gaps in support for homeless immigrants at worst and substandard service at best when homeless services are asked to provide immigrant specific services without training or support (as seen in Bybee Lakes and other shelters), or immigration organizations are asked to provide homeless services without training or support (as seen with the Welcome Center/See No Stranger).

Recommendations:

1. As part of creating a more cohesive network, we recommend you invite organizations who do not provide housing services, but do serve unhoused communities, into these groups and roundtables.
2. Culturally specific organizations who take on sheltering and/or rehousing for the first time must be mentored and supported with onboarding, including access to and training on HMIS so all organizations know who is receiving what services and their communities are included in by-name lists of unhoused and unstably house community members.
3. Homeless service providers from the family and young adult system, as well as the Joint Office, have also turned to us in confusion for support in how to rehouse asylum seeking communities. This plan needs to account for the training and cross-community support needed for all workers to be able to do their jobs and unhoused community members to receive effective support.

Once again, we must not only create culturally specific services but ensure that both culturally specific and 'mainstream' services have well trained staff, access to data and coordination systems, and are able to serve anyone who walks through their door.

Data tracking

While the County does not and should not collect immigration status, this report leads us to wonder how the County could best track immigrant housing needs within the community. Does the County track languages of clients and access to interpretation? Language access, regardless of immigration status, is an indicator of many possible barriers to support and understanding the languages spoken by unhoused communities can paint a better picture of their needs. ASC has worked with unhoused community members who attempt to access shelter and rehousing services but are unable to understand the directions in a shelter, or meet with case managers due to long wait times to arrange interpretation.

Recommendation:

In addition to tracking and publicizing data on language access needs, we recommend the HRAP include commitment to funding bi/multilingual staff, access to timely on-call interpretation, and translation of key documents in the housing system such as shelter and housing program rules.

Intersectionality and barriers

When creating culturally specific shelter sites the county needs to attend to intersectional identities. When trying to navigate recently arrived asylum seeker adults into culturally specific sites the Asylum Solidarity Collective has run into barriers due to language (turned away from LGBTQIA+ Tiny House Village) and work permit/immigration status (BIPOC Tiny House Village). Additional barriers for language access and access to services for community members without a US phone (ie via WhatsApp) have also been common. This county plan needs to *ensure access to resources through language access, WhatsApp access, and barrier reduction that can address the diverse barriers unhoused people face.*

Intersectionality needs to be central to culturally specific sites, and mainstream services also need to be equipped with knowledge and resources to support all community members rather than send them to the (waitlisted) culturally specific sites only. If mainstream and 'culturally specific' sites are unable to support the intersecting needs of arriving asylum seekers, as they have been shown to be in the past year, we need a *reception site day space and/or sheltering sites to support their needs and intersecting identities*.

We have seen immigrant community members who do not have work authorization turned away from rehousing and even sheltering programs due to this paperwork issue. While working under the table can make finding and proving work difficult, immigrants do not have to be documented to rent in our County and in fact many undocumented and under-the-table workers rent and receive rehousing assistance in our County each year. Oregon has a strong record of supporting rights of undocumented community members in fair housing policy as well as other services such as access to medicaid. We recommend that, as part of its commitment to being a sanctuary for immigrants and as part of its commitment to addressing the many issues that lead to homelessness, Multnomah county reaffirm that immigrants are welcome here and undocumented community members have the right to access homeless services, as they already are doing, and be recognized for their strengths and barriers like any other community member without being denied supposed based on their immigration status/work authorization.

Work Programs

To that point, as you explore workforce development, and work requirements for programs, we strongly recommend you keep in mind that many community members may be working under the table and have difficulty proving that income due to that, even if they are rent-ready. Our homeless services need to recognize that people without work authorization can and do make income, and need to implement training and support to get out of this community's way by denying services based on work authorization.

Formerly incarcerated support

We applaud the efforts to support community members leaving incarceration. We would like to see undocumented folks leaving incarceration written into the policy as being eligible for the same rehousing support as other formerly incarcerated communities.

We also recommend that the county work with organizations who support Multnomah County community members in families impacted by ICE detention in Tacoma and around the country when reaching to communities impacted by mass incarceration and the housing instability that often follows the incarceration of loved ones.

Conclusion

In conclusion, we urge you to explicitly include immigrant communities, especially those who are undocumented, don't have work authorization, have language barriers and don't have support in the area when you review this plan. I also encourage you to strive for a shelter system where families with children can access shelter *the day they need it*, not multiple months after they become

homeless. Please reach out to organizations who serve and rehouse these arriving, unhoused immigrant communities as you develop this plan and in your eventual Community Sheltering Strategy Steering Committee, as well as involve newcomers themselves and mainstream direct service staff working with them to better understand the barriers and opportunities.

Thank you for your work on this plan, please let us know if you have feedback for this feedback!

Sincerely,

The Asylum Solidarity Collective

--

[Asylum Seeker Solidarity Collective](#)

Mutual Aid, Organizing, and Accompaniment

Please email us to be added to the listserv, if you want to learn more about hosting asylum seekers, or you have other ideas!

Donate to the [IMrJ Sanctuary Fund](#) to support emergency housing for asylum seekers



HRAP Feed Back <hrapfeedback@multco.us>

Priority Portland

Thad <Thad97@comcast.net>

Fri, Mar 22, 2024 at 11:08 AM

To: "HRAPfeedback@multco.us" <HRAPfeedback@multco.us>



External Sender - Be Suspicious of Attachments, Links, and Requests for Payment or Login Information.

Thank you for the recent clean up of graffiti in the Brooklyn neighborhood along SE Powell. I thought I was in a time warp !

This note is in support of continuing to clean up the city and returning it as a viable safe place to live for the tax paying residents, voters, kids and future residents.

Please aggressively move to eliminate the camping around the city.

We were so thankful when this sounded like leadership from city hall as it was verbalized last year, but then the actual implementation dates, the blurring of lines and waffling started to creep forward.

Logical people can easily see that constant re-identifying and poorly executed soft approaches towards the city's "homeless crisis" has only continued the faster paddling in the direction of the swirl around this dirty drain.

NGO's and non-profits that accomplish little more than employing people are tearing at the patience of those who would and should support them.

The ones that are doing a great job should be recognized.

The ones that quite frankly suck – need to be shown the door and exposed.

When FDR put in the work programs in the Great Depression – most of those jobs were not the work from home or have a mtg., lunch and punch by 2 careers.

Elected city leaders would do well to run this city like a real business.

The kind that stays in business by winning or leaves the field after repeated losing.

Congratulations on the windfall of additional tax revenue over the last couple years.

We currently do not have even a remote basis of trust that these monies will be effectively allocated and spent wisely.

Now is when we need critical eyed oversight and tight accountability on spending of these earmarked tax dollars.

(Please find some of those overly rational, boring and gruff accounting types that aren't worried about calling things as they see them.)

Portland's non profits should be measured the same way as any business.

Results matter. Not talking points...results.

If agencies (both government and NGO) are not getting tangible bottom line results, they need a structured and monitored improvement program with a very tight leash.

Portland needs to once again be “the city that works”

A city with a great quality of life.

A city with serious leadership.

A city we can be proud of.

Poor management, poor execution and poor legal support has undermined stable structures that allowed Portland to thrive in the past.

Perhaps we need to “reimagine” awareness and focus on that blaring wake up call !

Unregulated and bio hazard clean up site camping needs to not be an option. Zero tolerance.

Clean up crews could and should be staffed by those having difficulty with rules.

- Graffiti artists can scrub their stolen walls, Campers clean up their stolen campgrounds, A healthy concept.

Not accepting shelter and services cannot be an option for individuals inflicting their lifestyle choices on our community.

Refusing to take care of themselves, can't let them off the hook either.

Portland is a caring community and nobody should slip through the cracks even if they are using a personal chainsaw to make more.

Is it really a housing problem ? Really ?

Drug abuse, mental health passes, drug abuse, weak government response and drug abuse are most of the main causes.

And the repercussions seem minimal. So minimal that they are a magnet attracting who knows what from who knows where.

We'll never have enough housing while we keep advertising to attract more of these individuals.

They will continue to move here faster than our responsible tax paying, rule following residents can move out.

Let's legitimately identify the upstream problem and fix it vs. expending huge fruitless efforts down river.

The perception is that spending money on "shelters" is a way of showing all the wonderful work getting done – barely touching the problem.

Increase the penalties and enforcement against deadly drug use.

Dramatically increase the penalties for selling and sharing drugs.

Please look into bringing back the work farms and sanitariums for those that would just injure themselves and others without supervision and constraints.

(if your first reaction to that previous sentence is “Oh..My !” – maybe you aren’t bought in on how serious this problem is. You’re either having tea with Chamberlain or getting in line behind Patton. We need real results. The life of this city depends on it !)

Whether we’re seniors, children, disabled or typical - every citizen needs and should have access to our sidewalks, wonderful safe parks and open areas.

Access without risk and exposure to drug dealers, campers, addicts and individuals seeking to unload their baggage.

When planning the city, people in positions like you, placed high value on parks and open spaces.

We’ve all benefited from their foresight and efforts.

These spaces need to be maintained and available for future use.

Portland is a beautiful city.

No, Portland is a gorgeous city.

We’re blessed to be able to live in this area.

We have a true responsibility to be good stewards of this garden of roses.

My role is to pay taxes, vote, comply with laws, advocate for my community and support / hold accountable the leadership.

You have a role also.

I ask for your honest effort to lead and execute.

Looking forward to the next graffiti or camp clean up advertising that we are getting something accomplished.

Thx

TC

Thad Collins

503-806-1166



HRAP Feed Back <hrapfeedback@multco.us>

Portland Is Failing

Mel Ellis <melellis8463@gmail.com>

Fri, Mar 22, 2024 at 11:15 AM

To: HRAPfeedback@multco.us

External Sender - Be Suspicious of Attachments, Links, and Requests for Payment or Login Information.

Three weeks ago, I had an errand on 12th and Washington. As I got out of my car, a woman, about 50 feet away, dropped her trousers and urinated on the sidewalk. This was about two o'clock on a weekday afternoon.

Then, last week, I came back to pick up my order and had to step over a young man who was asleep in the doorway of the building next door. His pants were far too low for modesty, and his abdomen was exposed up to his chest.

Since the riots in the summer of 2020, my wife and I only come into Portland if we have to. We used to come in regularly, for restaurant meals, symphony, or theatrical events, but no longer.

We came here from Connecticut over 30 years ago to raise our three children in a healthy, positive, and beautiful environment. Now that the kids are all grown with families of their own, my wife and I are talking nearly every day about leaving here altogether, and moving to a part of the country where we will be safe, and not have to witness the kind of vagrancy described above.

My two bits for your consideration.

Mel Ellis
Cell: 503-780-8463



HRAP Feed Back <hrapfeedback@multco.us>

Development of workforce to address homelessness

CYNTHIA YEE <cyee40@msn.com>

Thu, Mar 21, 2024 at 8:49 PM

To: "hrapfeedback@multco.us" <hrapfeedback@multco.us>



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I am concerned about the development of the workforce to address homelessness.

Plans are great, but if we do not have the social workers, drug counselors, housing specialists, etc to implement the plans, we will not successfully reach our goals.

Cynthia Yee

cyee40@msn.com



HRAP Feed Back <hrapfeedback@multco.us>

Serious Deterioration of Life in Portland

ezra rabie <ezrarabie@gmail.com>

Fri, Mar 22, 2024 at 1:39 PM

To: HRAPfeedback@multco.us



External Sender - Be Suspicious of Attachments, Links, and Requests for Payment or Login Information.

It is with great sadness and frustration that I submit this testimony. I live in downtown Portland and have probably experienced the effects of open drug use far more than the suburbs, but yet with the same overall effect on the community, namely the sense of fear and trepidation in walking downtown for recreation or shopping purposes. Long story short the inordinately high number of tragic overdose deaths clearly relates to Bill 101 which thankfully is now being seriously considered for reversal by the governor. That is a huge step forward. Associated with that are the obstructed sidewalks by encampments, filth, and garbage as well as human excrement. Many of these encampments are tied to the access of hard drugs, resulting in vandalism, theft, and fear of ordinary citizens walking the streets sidewalks. This is wholly unacceptable! We as taxpayers have every right to our privacy and safety while we go about our business shopping and recreating in the city. I personally have been accosted twice by mentally unstable and or drug affected vagrants. Until the presence of encampments and drugs, I have never felt the need for protecting myself from an unexpected assault. I now carry mace at all times. How sad!

There have been interminable meetings on the city, county and state levels, and then meetings about those meetings with funding that has never been used. The efforts to date to make even a dent in this unimaginably horrible situation have failed miserably. I am especially disappointed in the local officials at city Council, namely Mr Ryan and Mr Wheeler. They have failed on so many levels to address this problem and have even contributed to it with complacency and lack of vision. I implore you to find and properly fund a permanent solution to this deplorable situation we find ourselves in today, so that our beautiful city with so many wonderful attributes, can reclaim its former highly deserved reputation of being friendly and welcoming to visitors, businesses, and its own citizens.

Ezra Rabie

[333 NW 9th Avenue](#)

Portland.



HRAP Feed Back <hrapfeedback@multco.us>

Feedback on "Action Plan"

Andrew Bergman <andrewbergmanfv@gmail.com>
To: HRAPfeedback@multco.us

Tue, Mar 19, 2024 at 9:23 AM



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The TASS approach is the best I have heard of to date. I do not understand why it takes so long to setup. When Katrina struck Louisiana, they setup shelter for thousands of people in days. I get that this is very different, but it takes us years and years to even build sites for dozens of people. And, it seems like every site has a cost of \$16-\$20K per pod. That is unacceptable use of our money. Certainly with the TASS approach, we could invest in something much more affordable, such as canvas tents or some other more reasonable structure.

Another great thing about the TASS concept is service delivery. We can't expect that people are going to "find their way" to the services they need when the people are in every corner, nook and cranny of the city. If everyone in need is centralized, service delivery becomes exponentially easier.



HRAP Feed Back <hrapfeedback@multco.us>

Question / Feedback: JOHS Supply Distribution

Peter Tiso <peter.tiso@multco.us>

Wed, Mar 13, 2024 at 2:15 PM

To: HRAP Feed Back <hrapfeedback@multco.us>, Chris Fick <chris.fick@multco.us>

Hi Chris & HRAP Team,

On page 12 of the draft plan the description of Goal 1 says:

Outreach, relationship-building and life-saving supply provision must be effectively linked to housing navigation and moving people off the streets into supportive programs.

In my current role as supervisor of the supply center responsible for much of the "life-saving supply provision" that accompanies outreach. My question: Do these plans have a vision for how this team can best support overall implementation? There are obvious and visible political implications to our distribution of supplies such as tents, and I am eager to make sure that this work is an explicit part of the broader strategy and responsive to changing needs.

It is also an area for very straightforward collaboration that I would encourage us to take advantage of: we already are pursuing partnerships such as working with PBOT's vision zero team and the Chair's office to distribute items to reduce roadway deaths, and we already distribute supplies to city groups such as Portland Fire Department, the Street Services Coordination Team, and Portland Street Response to enhance their outreach work.

This activity may not merit being called out in the plan itself, but I wanted to encourage your team to keep us in mind when considering your options to effect rapid, flexible changes to our outreach presence!

Thanks,
Peter

--

Peter Tiso

*Shelter Development Project Manager and
Weather Response & Supplies Outreach Supervisor
Joint Office of Homeless Services
Multnomah County*

He/Him/His

971-710-8125 | Mobile

peter.tiso@multco.us



HRAP Feed Back <hrapfeedback@multco.us>

Draft HRAP Feedback

Christopher Brummer <baamin@yahoo.com>
To: "HRAPfeedback@multco.us" <HRAPfeedback@multco.us>

Fri, Mar 22, 2024 at 5:10 PM



External Sender - Be Suspicious of Attachments, Links, and Requests for Payment or Login Information.

Hello, Feedback Team.

Housing solves homelessness. Permanent supportive housing solves homelessness, and connects people with services and resources to help them stabilize in their homes. The Draft Homelessness Response Action Plan (DHRAP) makes many program and policy proposals for Portland and Multnomah County. Unfortunately many of those proposals do not actually create or provide housing to people who are homeless.

Goal 3 of the DHRAP discusses outpatient drug treatment, psychiatric treatment, temporary shelter beds, and a 24/7 drop off or sobering center for both homeless and housed people. None of these proposals solve homelessness, because none of the proposals provide housing to homeless people. Further, Goal 3 appears to assume, in a report that claims to be about solving homelessness, that drug use, addiction, psychiatric or mental health problems, and inebriation cause homelessness or should be grouped with homelessness. Issues like addiction and mental health problems are more often the products of homelessness and/or are worsened by homelessness, than they are the causes of homelessness. Which means that housing is still what solves homelessness, while also helping to address, through supportive services, things like addiction and mental health issues.

Outpatient drug treatment is a needed and admirable service to provide to all people who want and need it. But outpatient drug treatment does not provide housing to homeless people. Therefore, outpatient drug treatment does not solve homelessness. If someone is struggling with addiction and does not have a home, that person needs the safety and stability of a home to be able to address their struggle with addiction. No amount of outpatient treatment is going to generate housing, and housing is what is needed to solve homelessness.

Portland and Multnomah County, and their Joint Office of Homeless Services, are currently sitting on over \$129 million that could be used immediately to secure housing for people—as in right now. Municipal government can use its power to pay for and insure currently available leases at or below market rate. The County and City Commissions need to take action now. No studies are needed. No restructuring is necessary. Community partners and other agencies, like Home Forward and Central City Concern, are experts in supportive housing services and homeless services, respectively. These are just two of many on-the-ground organizations who could be consulted and partnered with to make the work of providing housing to homeless people viable, scalable, and successful.

Housing solves homelessness. We need to provide people with permanent supportive housing. Supportive housing gives people the stability to access the services that can see them through the other struggles they may face in living their lives on their terms.

Thank you for reading.

Sincerely,
Chris Brummer



HRAP Feed Back <hrapfeedback@multco.us>

Regarding homeless response Action Plan

Krista Harrison <Specialk0316@comcast.net>

Fri, Mar 22, 2024 at 5:45 PM

To: HRAPfeedback@multco.us

External Sender - Be Suspicious of Attachments, Links, and Requests for Payment or Login Information.

I do like that you are looking into this problem and trying to find a solution that works for all.

I have two concerns. First the use of the emergency funds that were used during the January storm to help people who were homeless and or lost their house due to the ice snow and wind. I believe the funds that were used did not get used correctly because they did not keep the shelters long enough.

The other issue I have is that if you are using emergency phones to help house the asylum seekers because are not allowed to work then why are you ending the funds on March 31. An emergency is an emergency. It does not depend on whether. Emergency funds are there to help those who need assistance.

When you make the decision to no longer make funds available to the asylum seekers, you have now made the homeless problem three times bigger. You can't stop saying there's no money. We can't help you when we are a sanctuary city. We are saying to these people that we will help you Helping them means you're not putting them in further danger by telling them they need to live on the streets.

Krista
Sent from my iPhone



HRAP Feed Back <hrapfeedback@multco.us>

Feedback on homelessness plan

Joan Holup <joanholup@yahoo.com>
To: HRAPfeedback@multco.us

Sat, Mar 23, 2024 at 1:45 PM



External Sender - Be Suspicious of Attachments, Links, and Requests for Payment or Login Information.

Dear City and County elected officials,

Please consider this input on your plan to address homelessness.

These should be primary objectives of your plan:

1. That accepting shelter and services no longer be an optional choice for people on the streets.
2. That our streets and parks no longer be open air drug markets.
3. That there be much greater oversight and accountability from homeless services providers who receive taxpayer funds.

Thank you for considering this input.

Joan Holup
4224 NE 32nd Place
Portland, OR 97211



HRAP Feed Back <hrapfeedback@multco.us>

Fwd: Draft HRAP Feedback

Multnomah County Chair <mult.chair@multco.us>
To: HRAP Feed Back <HRAPfeedback@multco.us>
Cc: Jenny Smith <jenny.smith@multco.us>

Mon, Mar 25, 2024 at 9:13 AM

Feedback re: DHRAP

----- Forwarded message -----

From: **Christopher Brummer** <baamin@yahoo.com>
Date: Fri, Mar 22, 2024 at 5:14 PM
Subject: Draft HRAP Feedback
To: mult.chair@multco.us <mult.chair@multco.us>



External Sender - Be Suspicious of Attachments, Links, and Requests for Payment or Login Information.

Hello, Chair Pederson and Staff.

Housing solves homelessness. Permanent supportive housing solves homelessness, and connects people with services and resources to help them stabilize in their homes. The Draft Homelessness Response Action Plan (DHRAP) makes many program and policy proposals for Portland and Multnomah County. Unfortunately many of those proposals do not actually create or provide housing to people who are homeless.

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address their struggle with addiction. No amount of outpatient treatment is going to generate housing, and housing is what is needed to solve homelessness.

Portland and Multnomah County, and their Joint Office of Homeless Services, are currently sitting on over \$129 million that could be used immediately to secure housing for people—as in right now. Municipal government can use its power to pay for and insure currently available leases at or below market rate. The County and City Commissions need to take action now. No studies are needed. No restructuring is necessary. Community partners and other agencies, like Home Forward and Central City Concern, are experts in supportive housing services and homeless services, respectively. These are just two of many on-the-ground organizations who could be consulted and partnered with to make the work of providing housing to homeless people viable, scalable, and successful.

Housing solves homelessness. We need to provide people with permanent supportive housing. Supportive housing gives people the stability to access the services that can see them through the other struggles they may face in living their lives on their terms.

Thank you for reading.

Sincerely,
Chris Brummer

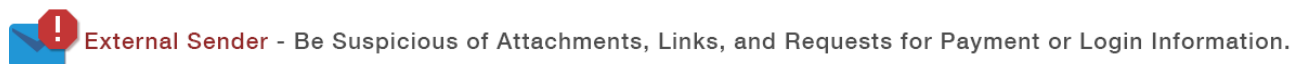


HRAP Feed Back <hrapfeedback@multco.us>

the future of Portland

Lisa Marsh <l88marsh@comcast.net>
To: "HRAPfeedback@multco.us" <HRAPfeedback@multco.us>

Tue, Mar 26, 2024 at 12:33 PM



Dear County and City Officials-

Our city is declining. People are moving out— homelessness, drug use, garbage and graffiti are staking claims. There has been some progress in the past few months, but more needs to be done. We can never stop until we take our city back and return it to the citizens. It is being overrun by people who do not even pay taxes.

I have lived and worked in Portland for 44 years and reside in one of the highest property tax areas in the country. Many neighbors are moving out. Where are my taxes going?

In 2025 I will host an international conference at Portland State University. People will come from all over the world to our fair city. What will they see? Garbage and graffiti? Homeless camps? I almost refused to host this event, but I still have hope.

Please do your part every day to help us take back our city. Let the public know every day what you are doing. Let me know what you are doing by answering this email.

Sincerely,

Lisa Marsh
Director Coordinate Movement Program
Portland State University

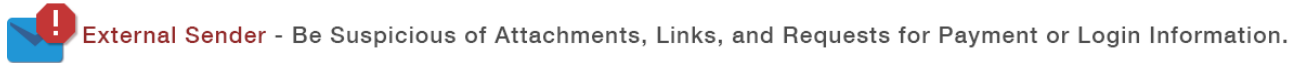


HRAP Feed Back <hrapfeedback@multco.us>

Comments - Homelessness Response Action Plan

Margaret Salazar <msalazar@reachcdc.org>
To: "HRAPfeedback@multco.us" <HRAPfeedback@multco.us>

Tue, Mar 26, 2024 at 3:47 PM



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Please see attached comments from REACH Community Development on the Homelessness Response Action Plan.

Margaret Salazar

Chief Executive Officer

Email: msalazar@reachcdc.org | Direct: 971-442-6226 | Fax: 503-236-3429

Main Office: [4150 S Moody Ave.](#) | Portland, OR 97239



Everyone deserves a place to call *Home.*



Everyone deserves a place to call home.

Comments Homelessness Action Plan.pdf
285K



Everyone deserves a place to call home.

March 26, 2024

Jessica Vega Pederson
Chair, Multnomah County
501 SE Hawthorne Blvd., Suite 600
Portland, OR 97214

Dear Chair Vega Pederson,

On behalf of REACH Community Development, thank you for the opportunity to comment on the County's Homelessness Response Action Plan. We applaud your efforts to take a comprehensive approach to our community's housing stability.

At REACH, we know that everyone deserves a place to call home. Tonight, more than 2700 individuals and families across the Portland metro region will go to bed in safe, stable, and affordable homes provided by REACH CDC. Our model includes affordable housing development and in-house property management, resident and neighbor support services that increase the economic stability of our communities.

As a housing policymaker, I have long advocated for alignment of our housing and homelessness systems. And now, as a housing practitioner at REACH, I am experiencing first-hand how critical that alignment is – and the consequences of our fragmented system.

Ultimately, the solution to homelessness is housing. We affordable housing providers know that “housing first” is not “housing only.” It means we align housing with the right services and supports to move people inside *and* to keep folks successfully housed. With the right resources and the right alignment, affordable housing providers can be a more impactful, strategic part of our community effort to move people inside and help retain permanent housing. I am heartened to see the plan's intentional focus on bringing affordable housing providers to the table to be part of the solution.

REACH offers the following comments on the Homeless Response Action Plan:

- **Shelter to permanent housing:** We applaud your focus on aligning shelter exits to permanent housing. REACH extends our partnership to you for this effort. We encourage you to convene affordable housing providers to hear how we can rapidly move people from shelter or transitional settings into permanent homes. At nearly every REACH property in Multnomah County, we have vacant units affordable at the 30% or 60% AMI level. We are finding that it is difficult to lease these homes to individuals and families without rental assistance. Meanwhile, we know that homeless service providers have access to rental assistance and case management resources from an array of sources. In some cases, this might be three or six months of assistance, or up to two years.



Everyone deserves a place to call home.

We believe there is a great opportunity to connect these systems and move dozens of people inside, within just a few weeks. Right now, we are attempting to build these connections on our own, pursuing individual agreements with service providers. We need the County's help to do this at scale. With the right connection points, we can rapidly move folks into safe, stable REACH properties.

- **Permanent Supportive Housing (PSH) conversions:** We appreciate the plan's focus on creating more PSH and we strongly support the increase in per-unit PSH subsidy to \$17,500 per household and building in a process to calibrate the per-unit expenditure to address the real cost in the field. We urge you to move quickly to convert existing affordable homes to Permanent Supportive Housing. We hope that the County can expedite the allocation of additional rental assistance and support services to vacant affordable units. With your help, we can move quickly to fill those units, bring people out of the cold, and keep them stably housed – using our existing housing stock. REACH extends our hand to you today and we are prepared to commit to this effort. At REACH, we are operating many units as “de facto” PSH, without any rental assistance or services funding attached. For example, our portfolio includes numerous units restricted to 30% AMI rent levels, but without dedicated rental assistance or services funding. We are finding that extremely low-income residents who move in to these 30% AMI units experience high acuity and high need for services. This situation is untenable for all residents in our properties. With dedicated services and rental assistance, REACH could rapidly create dedicated PSH and improve the housing retention for extremely low-income people across our portfolio.
- **Prevention of homelessness:** We appreciate your plan to assemble a workgroup to discuss eviction prevention strategies and we strongly encourage you to include providers of affordable housing in this conversation. Our work does not end when a family moves into one of our properties. In many ways, that is when the work begins. Today, as they recover from the COVID crisis, too many families are struggling to pay the rent – because, yes, even the rents in affordable housing can be too high. We call on you to make flexible resources available to affordable housing providers so that we can help stabilize families in their homes and prevent evictions. We cannot ignore residents struggling to stay housed in affordable housing, and we cannot keep our properties afloat without rental income. Ultimately, we cannot afford to see individuals and families fall back into homelessness. The stakes are too high.
- **Housing Production:** Finally, we applaud the plan and our local leaders for continuing to emphasize housing production. Together, we have made incredible strides in recent years, opening doors for thousands. Affordable housing providers want to work with you to preserve and stabilize our existing properties and bring new homes online. But our organizations have stretched in unprecedented ways through COVID, and this has drained our working capital. To create the next projects, we need not just an ongoing commitment of development resources, but also flexible predevelopment dollars and working capital to help us deliver what is in the pipeline and gear up for long term production goals.



Everyone deserves a place to call home.

REACH looks forward to engaging with you to bring our voice into the planning process, and to help you deliver on our shared goals. Affordable housing providers are ready, willing, and able to be part of the solution to homelessness. Thank you for the opportunity to comment and for your leadership on these issues.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "MS", with a long, sweeping horizontal line extending to the right.

Margaret Salazar
REACH CEO



HRAP Feed Back <hrapfeedback@multco.us>

HRAP feedback

Mark Jamieson <mark.jamieson.or@gmail.com>
To: HRAPfeedback@multco.us

Wed, Mar 27, 2024 at 5:15 AM

External Sender - Be Suspicious of Attachments, Links, and Requests for Payment or Login Information.

Immediate and complete banning of all street camping.

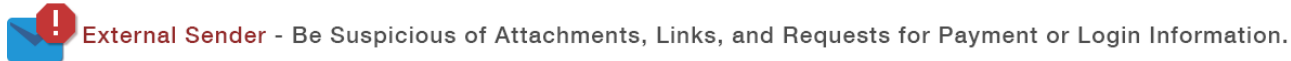


HRAP Feed Back <hrapfeedback@multco.us>

Home Forward Comment | HRAP

Christina Dirks <Christina.Dirks@homeforward.org>
To: "HRAPfeedback@multco.us" <HRAPfeedback@multco.us>

Wed, Mar 27, 2024 at 3:51 PM



External Sender - Be Suspicious of Attachments, Links, and Requests for Payment or Login Information.

Thank you for the opportunity to review the draft Homelessness Response Action Plan. Home Forward values its role as a system partner in this critical work. To that end, please find Home Forward's comments to the draft Homelessness Response Action Plan.

We look forward to ongoing engagement and collaboration in this work.

Christina Dirks

Director of Policy and Planning

Pronouns: she/her ([learn more](#))



[135 Ash Street](#)

[Portland, Oregon 97204](#)

cell: 503.348.1196

tty: 503.802.8554

web: www.homeforward.org

PLEASE NOTE: My work schedule is Tuesday through Friday. I do not work on Mondays.

Confidentiality Notice: This communication may contain privileged or other confidential information exempt from disclosure. If you are not the intended recipient, you may not use, copy, disseminate or retain this message. Please delete the copy you received and alert the sender to the transmission error. Thank you.

 **Home Forward Public Comment -- Homelessness Response Action Plan .pdf**
242K



March 27, 2024

Multnomah County Chair Jessica Vega Pederson
501 Southeast Hawthorne Boulevard
Portland, OR 97214

City of Portland Mayor Ted Wheeler
1221 Southwest Fourth Avenue
Portland, OR 97204

Chair Jessica Vega Pederson and Mayor Ted Wheeler:

Home Forward is the largest affordable housing provider locally and statewide and a committed partner to address homelessness in our community. From October 2022 to October 2023, the majority of individuals that received a housing resource from Home Forward were exiting directly from homelessness¹ – a significant change in the types of households that have traditionally accessed these affordable housing resources. This shift represents both the organization’s investment in resolving homelessness and the importance of engaging in these policy discussions.

Homelessness is a significant, systemic problem that greatly impacts individuals and communities. We at Home Forward appreciate the opportunity to review the draft Homelessness Response Action Plan that offers a “strategic reset of the community’s response to homelessness.” The Plan can create urgent action, macro changes, and immediate results. Home Forward’s leadership with the Policy and Planning Department have drafted a response for consideration that we understand will progress strategies, goals, and outcomes with the proposed plan. Our response is listed under sections in the draft plan.

Outcomes

Support: Systems-change to address homelessness

Systems are interconnected to homelessness. The plan calls for ending all exits into homelessness from the behavioral health and health systems by December 31, 2025, incarceration by 2026, and foster care by 2027. This work is important to reduce the inflow of homelessness that result from systemic issues.

In 2022, Home Forward revamped our screening criteria to reduce barriers including removing many types of criminal legal system involvement. In 2023, Home Forward significantly reduced our eligibility criteria for the Housing Choice Voucher program along similar lines. This work is in recognition of how the criminal legal system disproportionately impacts and harms BIPOC (Black, Indigenous, and People of Color) people, those economically marginalized, people experiencing homelessness, and people with these intersectional identities.

We accomplished these changes in good faith with other systems to be accountable in reducing impacts on homelessness and housing affordability. It’s important to call out how the homelessness response is not responsible for, nor capable of fixing the behavioral health system, larger health system, criminal legal system, and foster care system. When these institutions don’t make system-wide changes, it is not the role of the homelessness system to be the fix.

¹ Internal analysis of allocated units and housing resources from October 2022 to October 2023

In Portland, a disproportionate number of people experiencing homelessness have been impacted by the criminal legal system including the majority of all arrests in 2017.² Other data points to 89% of homeless people being taken into custody after an arrest³ – an enormous disruption that reduces opportunities to end one’s homelessness. A recent report also found that 72% of people being arrested for a trespass violation while in hospital emergency departments within Portland were homeless. Out of that number, 94% of those resulted in jail custody while three-quarters of those had no risk of being violent.⁴ The mere functioning of the criminal legal system is a contributing factor of homelessness.

The 2022 local homelessness count showed 35.1% of people experiencing homelessness having a substance use disorder (SUD).⁵ While the data set is from previous years, this can be compared to 11.2% of all residents in the Portland-metro area having a SUD.⁶ This illustrates a significant disproportionality but does not necessarily describe a causal relationship for every individual. Instead, individuals can legitimately use substances because of the traumatic experience of homelessness.⁷ It’s also important to identify how the majority of people who use illicit substances do not qualify for a SUD,⁸ which should be weighed when developing behavioral health programming for people experiencing homelessness.

At Home Forward, we are experiencing households requiring higher levels of care because of behavioral health conditions. For example, an internal analysis showed that out of a subset of larger buildings, the majority of tenants facing lease violations are due to an unmet behavioral health need.⁹ Relying on the current treatment system often does not result in housing success. Rather, meeting one’s individualized self-identified needs are optimal for long-term housing stability.

The goal of ensuring that permanent supportive housing placements are successful within two years versus the current one-year time frame is an important step to assess housing retention. However, the measurement of housing retention does not fully identify housing success. A person in supportive housing can achieve two-year retention but experience unsuccessful tenancy. Locally, this is becoming more evident with higher acuity needs within housing placements.

Missing Strategy: Improving Housing Retention Evaluations

A two-year retention rate is important and should be evaluated, but a different, transformative approach should also be used to identify housing success. Only identifying the two-year retention can be understood as a blanket approach and is limited as a system-driven outcome. We recommend two evaluators. First, identify if a supportive housing tenant is happy and feels supported. While that may seem simplistic, it’s a person-centered outcome and it’s important to center those most impacted. Second, surveying the supportive housing workforce and property management on their experiences will inform gaps in the system.

Foundational Strategies

The plan describes a “commitment to addressing root causes and barriers.” As mentioned in the plan, one of the main factors that causes homelessness is an unaffordable and inaccessible housing system. Recently, research was conducted where rates of behavioral health, poverty statistics, and housing costs were compared with rates of homelessness. The research found that behavioral health and poverty

² Homelessness in Portland: A Meta-analysis and Recommendations for Success (Citizens Crime Commission of Portland; 2019)

³ Portland Police Bureau (Independent Review)

⁴ The ‘Unwanted’: Looking for Help, Landing in Jail (Disability Rights Oregon; 2019)

⁵ Portland/Gresham/Multnomah County 2022 Point in Time Count

⁶ National Survey on Drug Use and Health: Substance Use and Mental Disorders in the Metro Brief Portland-Vancouver-Hillsboro MSA (2005 -n 2010)

⁷ Statewide Study of People Experiencing Homelessness (University of California San Francisco California; 2023)

⁸ National Survey on Drug Use and Health (2022)

⁹ Internal analysis of lease violations in agency owned affordable housing units

factors did not produce higher rates of homelessness while higher housing costs were determined as the cause.¹⁰

In Dallas, almost 18% of residents experience poverty compared to 11.5% in Portland.¹¹ Though Dallas's rate of people experiencing homelessness is 0.96 while Portland's is almost 6.¹² The percent of residents who use illicit drugs excluding marijuana in West Virginia are more than three-times the total of Oregon.¹³ Yet, Oregon's rate per capita of homelessness is 42.2 with West Virginia totaling 7.7.¹⁴

In 2019, a robust study found a need of \$21.2 billion to adequately address homelessness and housing affordability in the tri-county region over a ten-year period.¹⁵ With current tax collections, the Supportive Housing Services (SHS) measure for Multnomah County would generate approximately \$962 million over ten-years in addition to housing bonds that have created approximately an additional \$911 million for affordable housing development generally. In total, these resources will not entirely address homelessness and housing unaffordability.

It is clear then that we need a significant increase in resources to address the root cause as the plan identifies as a strategy. We encourage a focus on progressive funding strategies for the provision of affordable housing including new construction and both site and building acquisition that can better meet the actual need in our community. Additional strategies to de-commodify housing should be deployed as well. This effort should be led by the housing system as the homelessness system is not responsible for making housing affordable.

Goals

Goal One

Support: Coordinated Access Improvements

We appreciate the work of the JOHS and the providers on the Coordinated Access leadership team to center equity and race disparities in homelessness as a driver for a revamped Coordinated Access system. We also appreciate that significant work has been done to make the assessment more trauma-informed. However, our current Coordinated Access system still relies on "vulnerabilities" to prioritize housing and housing resources which do not always translate into an assessment of the reason why someone is unable to obtain permanent housing. Instead, focusing on housing barriers may be more conducive to prioritize and correctly match a housing opportunity. This type of approach has been recommended by Barb Poppe, former director for the United States Interagency Council on Homelessness.¹⁶

This shift can support a focus on unsheltered homelessness and improve housing access for those impacted by behavioral health and the criminal legal system. As the majority of recent admissions for Home Forward's housing and resources are exiting homelessness, this additional prioritization will affect our affordable housing. With this opportunity, we recommend other strategies described in the remainder of this letter to support success: increased funding for supportive services in supportive housing units; a countywide roving tenancy support team; appropriate supportive services in affordable housing; and transitioning affordable housing units into supportive housing units.

¹⁰ Homelessness is a Housing Problem (Colburn, Aldem; 2022)

¹¹ U.S. Census Bureau

¹² U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development

¹³ National Survey on Drug Use and Health

¹⁴ National Alliance to End Homelessness State of Homelessness: 2023 Edition

¹⁵ Governance, Costs, and Revenue Raising to Address and Prevent Homelessness in the Portland Tri-County Region Report (Portland State University Homelessness Research & Action Collaborative, Northwest Economic Research Center; 2019)

¹⁶ Recommendations for the City of Seattle's Homeless Investment Policy: The Path Forward – Act Now, Act Strategically, and Act Decisively (Barb Poppe and Associates; 2016)

Goal Two

Support: Increased Per Household Cap Amount

We appreciate this plan highlighting that the current per household funding cap for supportive housing units at \$10,000 is not adequate. Increasing funding to \$15,000 - \$17,000 will improve success, better ensure our work is sustainable, and more appropriately meet household needs. A recent study from the Turner Center for Housing Innovation found that supportive housing units in urban areas can cost up to \$20,000 for operations and supportive services¹⁷ – this illustrates the need to increase dollar amounts for supportive housing units. We desire for those in permanent housing to not only achieve retention but thrive in housing and increased funding is critical to actualize that desire.

Support: Housing Support Team

We support the strategy for a Housing Support Team, which is also an advocacy priority for Home Forward. In a recent survey, supportive housing staff in San Francisco selected a roving service provision by a behavioral health team as one of the top two recommendations to improve supportive housing.¹⁸ This type of recognition is even more profound with increasing rates of people experiencing homelessness with unmet behavioral health needs locally.

This programing should be developed as a roving supportive tenancy program with behavioral health and other supports that will benefit both housing providers and individuals facing tenancy challenges. Not only should the program deliver care and support but should also prioritize advocacy for individuals to stay housed. Programs that use this model have shown success across the country. Seattle/King County's program found 91% of participants said services helped meet their needs,¹⁹ and 94% of participants in San Francisco found satisfaction and life improvements with a similar service provision.²⁰ These program models have unique components that should be used for local implementation:

- Proactive, longer-term support without limiting care to the point of a crisis;
- Innovative interventions to move beyond conventional treatment through person-centered approaches;
- Outcomes beyond eviction rates that better describe housing stability and quality of life; and
- External to the housing provider to fully support and advocate with the participant.

Support: Landlord Incentives

We support all strategies listed to align landlord incentives to provide housing and move towards an improved capture of the community housing inventory.

Missing Strategy: Flexible Funding for Buildings

A flexible funding pool and moving towards other supportive housing dollars being made flexible can better meet the needs of supportive housing and affordable housing buildings. No individual tenant in supportive housing or building is alike or static, and funding should be made adaptive where the actual needs can be met. Examples of use of this funding could include increasing and enhancing supportive services, adding building operations, improving systems to support collaboration with building staff, and more. Washington County has adopted a similar type of funding strategy through flexible funds with Supportive Housing Services (SHS) dollars and can be expanded and modified to ensure flexibility for implementation in Multnomah County.

¹⁷ Supportive Housing as a Solution to Homelessness: The Critical Role of Long-Term Operating Subsidies (Turner Center for Housing Innovation Permanent; 2023)

¹⁸ San Francisco Services and Staffing Recommendations (Corporation for Supportive Housing; 2021)

¹⁹ Eviction Mitigation Program Evaluation (King County Department of Community and Human Services; 2022)

²⁰ Citywide Roving Team Evaluation (San Francisco Department of Public Health; 2014)

Missing Strategy: Conversion of Existing Units to Supportive Housing

There is also a need to resource existing affordable housing units with supportive services. In our current portfolio, we are providing affordable housing to a significant number of individuals that require supportive services. While these units are not designed or funded as supportive housing, the need for supportive services is there. This shift is happening in part due to homeless service providers supporting individuals to access these units because of reduced barriers, lower rents, and progressive screening criteria at Home Forward. As mentioned, an internal analysis showed that the majority of lease violations in a subset of our larger buildings were a result of an unmet behavioral health need. This is being experienced across all local affordable housing providers. We urge a strategy to transition existing units into supportive housing to ensure the type of housing is appropriate.

Missing Strategy: Landlord Engagement and Managing Inventory of Units

In order to maximize units, we also recommend expanding Housing Connector. This would better centralize real-estate focused services related to recruiting and incentivizing landlords and streamline the management of available rental unit inventory. Housing Connector was implemented locally through the Housing Multnomah Now initiative. In Seattle/King County Housing Connector successfully accessed and prioritized units for 1,022 people during year one, and 3,509 people during the first three years. Importantly, seventy-two percent of households remained housed after two years.²¹ Quite simply we cannot build our way out of homelessness and Housing Connector offers a solution to maximize opportunities in the housing market.

Goal Three

Supported: Behavioral Health Interventions

We have shared how a significant amount of our housing portfolio is being impacted by behavioral health challenges resulting in unsuccessful tenancies, lease violations, and overtaxed staff. To make our housing and affordable housing in our community safer and healthier, we support robust behavioral health services for people with mental health and substance use issues.

Missing Strategy: Innovating Behavioral Health

Behavioral health treatment strategies need to innovate beyond status-quo treatment and include permanent housing. Research on people experiencing homeless has found: 69% of people utilizing traditional substance use treatment programs remained homeless after completion;²² retention for gold standard medication treatments for opioid use is extremely low (11.3% at twelve months);²³ mental health conservatorships are temporary without permanent housing;²⁴ and inpatient psychiatric treatment frequently without housing results in re-admissions.²⁵

Permanent housing is critical for any behavioral health change. Housing First compared to “treatment first” has been found to reduce admissions into behavioral health treatment and emergency

²¹ Interview with Housing Connector Staff (2022)

²² Lo, Rhee, Rosenheck (2022) Housing Outcomes of Adults Who Were Homeless at Admission to Substance Use Disorder Treatment Programs Nationwide

²³ Office-Based Addiction Treatment Retention and Mortality Among People Experiencing Homelessness (Fine et al.; 2021)

²⁴ Mental Health Conservatorship Among Homeless People With Serious Mental Illness (Choi et al.; 2021)

²⁵ Association of homelessness and psychiatric hospital readmission—a retrospective cohort study 2016–2020 (Russolillo et al.; 2023)

departments.²⁶ Further, Housing First has been found to decrease homelessness by 88% and improve housing stability by 41%.²⁷

System-driven outcomes, such as abstinence, can reduce person-centered approaches. Research has shown that when centering those most impacted, harm reduction and quality-of-life improvement should be prioritized without the outcome of abstinence.²⁸ It's also important to understand that behavioral health challenges are frequently the result of or exacerbated by homelessness;²⁹ housing is essential.

With Home Forward's housing supporting many affected by behavioral health, behavioral health policy and programming should include other innovative, evidence-based strategies outside of the conventional system to increase individual wellbeing and ensure person-centered outcomes.

Goal Four

Support: Voucher Prioritizations

We support efforts to align voucher programming that can prioritize populations with an equity lens. Home Forward is a participant in the Moving to Work (MTW) Demonstration Program, a federal program that provides Public Housing Authorities discretion over funding allocation, policies, and procedures to address needs in communities. This includes federally funded voucher programs. Currently, we are taking strategic approaches to progress racial equity through voucher programming. That focus may support some efforts to prioritize these housing resources for people exiting incarceration.

As part of Home Forward's participation in MTW, we are required to continue to serve a comparable mix of families by family size as we served prior to our entry into the MTW demonstration. For the last decade plus, Home Forward's Housing Choice Voucher program has trended away from serving larger households, including families with minor children. We are serving a sizably larger proportion of single person households. As we work with our jurisdictional and community partners to identify opportunities to align resources in support of this plan, any efforts on alignment that include new commitments of Housing Choice Vouchers will need to prioritize strategies meeting the needs of families with children. Currently, Home Forward has significant resources in place for youth leaving the foster system. These include vouchers known as FYI/FUP (Foster Youth to Independence Program/Family Unification Program) vouchers that are funded by the federal government and administered by Home Forward. FYI/FUP vouchers are time-limited, and federal policy does not match any continued housing resources when the use of those vouchers is completed. Though, Home Forward has set a preference policy for a long-term voucher for those whose FYI/FUP vouchers are expiring.

Missing Strategy: Funding Alignment

As part of our larger Housing Choice Voucher program, Home Forward administers over 2,000 Special Purpose Vouchers (SPV). These vouchers serve specific populations experiencing or at significant risk of homelessness, and include Family Unification Program vouchers, Foster Youth to Independence vouchers, Mainstream Vouchers, Stability Vouchers, Emergency Housing Vouchers and Veterans Affairs Supportive Housing vouchers. SPVs are generally awarded through competitive processes. Our success in bringing these vouchers to Multnomah County and our ability to fully utilize the vouchers is dependent on alignment of locally funded services and flexible supports for the households served. Substantial coordination between Home Forward and our jurisdictional and community partners currently takes

²⁶ Changes in Medicaid Utilization and Spending Associated with Homeless Adults' Entry into Permanent Supportive Housing (Hollander et al.; 2021)

²⁷ Permanent Supportive Housing With Housing First to Reduce Homelessness and Promote Health Among Homeless Populations With Disability: A Community Guide Systematic Review (Peng et al.; 2021)

²⁸ In their own words: Content analysis of pathways to recovery among individuals with the lived experience of homelessness and alcohol use disorders (Collins et al.; 2016)

²⁹ The California Statewide Study of People Experiencing Homelessness (Benioff Homelessness and Housing Initiative; 2023)

place, and we need to commit to ongoing collaboration and resource identification to ensure aligned services and supports are adequate to ensure housing success and wellbeing. Identifying gaps and adding local resources is crucial to help ensure we are maximizing federal resources available to our community.

Goal Six

Support: New Affordable Housing Construction

We support the goal to increase affordable housing production. Our community has a severe shortage of housing at all affordability levels. However, the greatest shortage of housing in Portland is for those with the lowest incomes – 80% Area Median Income (AMI) and particularly 0-30% AMI.³⁰ The National Low Income Housing Coalition’s recent reporting indicates significant problems in the Portland-metro region: deficit of 56, 972 affordable units for those with the lowest incomes; deficit of 80,971 units at or below 50% AMI; and 86% of those with the lowest incomes and at or 50% AMI are cost-burdened with rent.³¹ To address this need, the private market alone will not solve the affordability challenge or increase the production of affordable units. It’s clear that increased funding is critical to produce sufficient affordable housing. Importantly, this should be accomplished through progressive funding.

Missing Strategy: New Housing Acquisition

Construction and new development of affordable housing is a complicated and challenging process that typically takes from four to seven years for completion.³² A separate strategy that is optimal to increase affordable housing is building acquisition. As interest rates have increased at historical levels, recently completed housing projects can be purchased at much lower costs than new construction. Instead of only relying on new construction, an existing building acquisition approach would allow developers such as Home Forward to get affordable housing units online at both a significantly lower costs and at greater speed than new development. These types of policy approaches should be advanced to better increase affordable housing.

Missing Strategy: Funding for Supports

While we agree that the supply of affordable housing needs to be increased, funding for tenancy programs and supportive services must be part of the funding design. As we have noted, Home Forward is seeing unprecedented levels of residents in our housing portfolio with a dire need for tenancy and supportive services. While some resources exist for supportive services through the Supportive Housing Services (SHS) measure, it will be critical to ensure that funding allocations for affordable housing are matched with tenancy programming and supportive services.

Goal Seven

Support: Housing Stock Inventory

We support a robust effort to capture the inventory of units in the local housing market, and we have two qualifiers for that strategy. First, an existing resource may be improved to provide a more meaningful and accurate capture of the housing inventory, at least within the private market in the City of Portland. The City of Portland already requires landlords to register nonregulated or certified affordable rental units as part of the Residential Rental Registration Program. As outlined in the ordinance, the purpose of this registration requirement is “to maintain an updated and reliable inventory of residential rental housing unit locations within the City.”³³ The rental registration could be updated to provide a deeper

³⁰ Housing Needs Analysis (City of Portland Bureau of Planning and Sustainability; 2023)

³¹ The Gap: A Shortage of Affordable Homes (National Low Income Housing Coalition; 2023)

³² Housing Development Capacity Building Program Report (Alameda County; 2019)

³³ City of Portland Ordinance 189086

understanding of the existing housing stock. Lastly, another opportunity would be engaging the private sector where real estate platforms have been developed to manage some inventory of units.

Other

Missing Strategy: Identifying Rent Assistance Gaps

Our current system invests heavily in short-term rent assistance, including Rapid Rehousing (RRH). RRH can be effective but does not solve long-term housing affordability problems. A 2020 report commissioned by the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) has found that long-term rent assistance is more optimal than RRH to achieve housing stability.³⁴ We request an evaluation of the utility of Rapid Rehousing as a tool for housing placement because of the disparity between increasing rental costs and inaccessible incomes. Current evaluations for RRH are not sufficient and outcomes should be analyzed for longer periods of time. We also support the recommendations of the Community Sheltering Workgroup to increase the baseline length of support for RRH and increase flexibility to extend beyond the baseline when necessary for housing stability and retention. In addition, work should continue to better prioritize households with RRH needing to transition into long-term subsidies or supportive housing through Coordinated Access.

Missing Strategy: Unfair Wages

We support efforts to increase and retain workers in the supportive housing and affordable housing sectors, as well as the entire human services workforce. Human services are woefully underfunded to achieve fair wages. One major factor is how this work is recognized as feminized labor, which results in the work of human services being undervalued. A recent report indicated that almost 60% of workers contracted through the Joint Office of Homeless Services identified as women.³⁵ The report also found extremely low wages with the majority of workers classified as a case manager with a median wage of \$42,998.

While a case manager's median wage is below a housing wage of \$63,835,³⁶ identifying a fair wage should not rely on cost of living or affordability. Instead, a fair wage should be developed through a comparable worth analysis to determine equal pay for equivalent work. The goal is to compare jobs with those requiring similar skills, level of knowledge; similarly demanding environments; and comparable levels of responsibilities. A 2023 study found that Seattle and King County human service workers would need a 37% wage increase for equal pay in equivalent work within non-care industries.³⁷ Unfair wages must be addressed to support workers, ensure programs are sustainable, and make local efforts on homelessness successful.

Missing Strategy: Alignment for Supportive Housing Placements

We recommend a robust discussion on ways to engage and support Home Forward and other Community Development Corporations in order to increase access to units. Home Forward has interest in expanding opportunities for supportive housing placements (project-based or tenant-based) in our portfolio if appropriate supports are aligned with that access. Partnerships with mission-driven housing providers will create the most stable long-term access. This should be a priority for resources over incentives and agency leasing in the private, for-profit market. Agency leasing can be an effective tool, but also creates "expiring use/cliff-events" at the end of leases that will have to be managed and often costs a premium.

³⁴ Understanding Rapid Re-housing: What Did We Learn? (U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development; 2020)

³⁵ Classification, Compensation, and Benefits Study (Joint Office of Homeless Services; 2023)

³⁶ Out of Reach Report (National Low Income Housing Alliance; 2023)

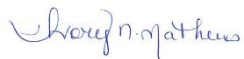
³⁷ Wage Equity for Non-Profit Human Services Workers: A study of work and pay in Seattle and King County (University of Washington School of Social Work; 2023)

Lastly, we request that Home Forward directly support and/or lead many of these efforts:

- Lead: Rework and improve voucher programs (listed under Additional and Future Considerations for the Homelessness Response System)
- Lead: Alignment for Supportive Housing Placements (recommended new strategy)
- Support: Work done in advancement of Goal 6, Increase the production of affordable housing
- Support: Housing Stability Team, i.e. roving behavioral health and advocacy team
- Support: New governance structure

Thank you for the opportunity to provide a formal comment on the draft Homelessness Response Action Plan, and we appreciate the opportunity to support this work in the Steering and Oversight Committee and Implementation Committee. As a committed partner in addressing homelessness, we hope our comment letter can advance much of this work. For communications regarding this comment letter, please contact Christina Dirks, Director of Policy and Planning, at christina.dirks@homeforward.org, and Jesse Rawlins, Senior Policy Manager, at jesse.rawlins@homeforward.org.

Sincerely,



Ivory N. Mathews
CEO



HRAP Feed Back <hrapfeedback@multco.us>

Multnomah County Homelessness Response Action Plan Comments

wikihousepdx <wikihousepdx@gmail.com>
To: HRAPfeedback@multco.us
Cc: Skip Trantow <skiptrantow@gmail.com>

Wed, Mar 27, 2024 at 6:41 PM



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Multnomah County Homelessness Response Action Plan Comments

Skip Trantow
March 27, 2024

Dear Multnomah County Staff:

I found the March 2024 draft Homelessness Response Action Plan well thought out and clear. I would like to add a few comments related to the affordable housing buildout strategy. To be sure, large-scale commercially built private and public turn-key housing projects are needed, but there is another house building modality that has been omitted in the plan that I feel should be considered - the **self-built** small home on a micro-lot. The self-built small to medium size house is the core proposition of **WikiHouse**. I invite you to read through the <https://wikihousepdx.com> website to learn about the WikiHouse concept/opensource system in detail.

Large single-family and multi-unit housing has its place, and we should invest resources into conventional construction workforce training to produce more conventionally constructed housing, but trying to train our way out of our affordable housing problem will take a long time, and in the end it may not be enough. By creating a WikiHouse housing economy we stand to quickly and substantially increase the number of people who can contribute to building affordable houses and eliminating homelessness in Oregon. By reducing construction complexity to the point where lightly skilled people with simple tools can do the job, WikiHouse is a novel, and credible, approach to the problem.

Key Values:

Self-building (i.e., DIY or DIWF "Do it with Friends") equates to **lower cost of home ownership**.

When you enable more people to participate in any aspect of the economy **innovation naturally follows**. What digital publishing platforms like YouTube did for the information economy, WikiHouse could do for housing economy. People will get creative in finding places to put houses, in creating micro-village communities and lifestyles. The WikiHouse self-builder **can capitalize on locations that conventional builders may not find feasible**, e.g., small lots, irregular shaped lots, challenging/sloping terrain using SpaceFrame foundations, rooftops, mobile trailer beds, etc.),

A WikiHouse housing economy could provide **meaningful employment** for people re-entering society after incarceration, addiction recovery programs, etc. There is a low training requirement.

WikiHouse is a zero-carbon building modality – it uses **lots of plywood**. Oregon is the epicenter of the sustainable forest products industry and a climate leader, so who better to take the lead on this building modality than Oregon?

Pre-requisites:

Public funds should be used to jump-start a WikiHouse ecosystem here in Portland. An evolved WikiHouse ecosystem would be a cottage-industry sub-economy, i.e., a network of micro-factories comprised of one or more CNC machines, where plywood is milled into 2D patterns then hand assembled into 3D building blocks that are trucked to a building site where a small crew (4-6 people) will erect the blocks into a structure. There would be a network of small businesses comprised of project advisors and assembly helpers that the self-builder could contract with to get the job done.

In practice, a modest initial public investment would go toward a proof-of-concept pilot, i.e., build a WikiHouse and learn-by-doing. If found viable, to get the ball rolling, additional public funding would be applied toward creating a dedicated micro-factory to produce WikiHouse blocks for early-adopter self-builders per their designs.

Thankyou,
Skip Trantow
503-806-3914
wikihousepdx@gmail.com
skiptrantow@gmail.com



HRAP Feed Back <hrapfeedback@multco.us>

Homeless Response Action Plan4

3 messages

Steve <steveschell@comcast.net>

Wed, Mar 27, 2024 at 8:11 PM

To: HRAPfeedback@multco.us

Cc: Douglas Walta <douglas.walta@icloud.com>, kateathompson97@gmail.com



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Attached please find comments and suggested changes on the Draft Homelessness Response Action Plan.

Steve Schell

 **Homeless Response Action Plan4.xps**
599K

Tuck Wilson <ltuckwilson@gmail.com>

Thu, Mar 28, 2024 at 8:05 AM

To: Steve <steveschell@comcast.net>

Cc: HRAPfeedback@multco.us, Douglas Walta <douglas.walta@icloud.com>, kateathompson97@gmail.com



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Good morning Steve, unfortunately, the attachment does not come through —
Sent from my iPad

On Mar 27, 2024, at 8:12 PM, Steve <steveschell@comcast.net> wrote:


Attached please find comments and suggested changes on the Draft Homelessness Response Action Plan.

Steve Schell

<Homeless Response Action Plan4.xps>

Douglas Walta <douglas.walta@icloud.com>
To: Steve <steveschell@comcast.net>
Cc: HRAPfeedback@multco.us, kateathompson97@gmail.com

Thu, Mar 28, 2024 at 8:23 AM

 **External Sender** - Be Suspicious of Attachments, Links, and Requests for Payment or Login Information.

I cannot open this attachment
Sorry
Doug
Sent from my iPhone

On Mar 27, 2024, at 8:12 PM, Steve <steveschell@comcast.net> wrote:

Attached please find comments and suggested changes on the Draft Homelessness Response Action Plan.

Steve Schell

<Homeless Response Action Plan4.xps>



HRAP Feed Back <hrapfeedback@multco.us>

Homeless Response AAction Plan 5.docx

Steve <steveschell@comcast.net>
To: HRAPfeedback@multco.us

Thu, Mar 28, 2024 at 9:02 AM



External Sender - Be Suspicious of Attachments, Links, and Requests for Payment or Login Information.

Please include this as comments and suggestions to improve the Draft Homelessness Response Action Plan.



Homeless Response AAction Plan 5.docx
29K

HRAPfeedback@multco.us

To: City of Portland and Multnomah County

From: Doug Walta, Kate Thompson, Steve Schell (steveschell@comcast.net)

Date: March 27, 2024 (Due no later than March 29, 2024)

Re: Proposed Revisions to the Draft Homelessness Response Action Plan

The Draft Homelessness Response Action Plan as written provides a good sense of what needs to be done, but it does not fulfill its objectives and needs to be revised extensively.

- 1. Problem Statement:** the plan needs to be rewritten to set forth the overall social and economic impact of the current local situation.
- 2. Deadline:** To make the wish-list of actions in the draft a reality the County and the Cities of Gresham and Portland need a methodology. The governments and providers (thru pre-qualification for receipt of Metro Supportive Housing Services funds and modified intergovernmental agreements [IGAs]) need to commit to and implement a deadline – we suggest July 1, 2027, for homelessness to be reduced to “Functional Zero,” as defined by the already adopted “Built for Zero” methodology.
- 3. Better Coordination:** The plan obviously was written to address criticism of the Joint Office of Homeless Services by a narrow group of specialists without consideration or even mention of (1) Portland’s self-image of a clean and safe city and (2) the actions undertaken by many other entities.
- 4. Real Time Data Base:** While there is some progress on developing a “By-Name-List” there is little or no progress in developing the real time information necessary to help solve the housing and service needs of the homeless and those facing homelessness and in putting this real time information into the hands of social workers, navigators, and Portland Street Response personnel. The Homeless Response System needs to cause implementation of an off-the-shelf, real-time, provider-availability data base.
- 5. Drug Courts:** For those homeless persons who are unable or unwilling to use the available shelters, drug or care courts provide help each participant develop and stay on a path to recovery of self-sufficiency and/or permanent support. This system must be integrated with the overall Response Action Plan and Homelessness Response System.
- 6. Homeless Response System Project Manager.:** Unless there is a designated person whose sole responsibility is to assure compliance with the specified outcomes they amount to no more than another wish-list.

Detailed Line-by-line drafting change suggestions follow.

Line by line changes to Draft Homeless Response Action Plan

Page 3, bottom, add new paragraph: “In 2023 Criticism of the Joint Office of Homeless Services by a 3rd party, Health Management Associates, highlighted a need to find a better working relationship between the City of Portland and Multnomah County. What the study did not provide was an understanding of arising out of the cultural, social, economic and law required needs and expectations of the Portland area community for a clean, safe, well maintained and law-abiding place to live and work.”

Page 4, add an: “8. Aims to solve the housing and shelter needs of the homeless by a set date – 7/1/27”

Page 5, new 3rd paragraph: “While the PIT fixes a single number (or set of numbers) for one night in January, it is widely understood that the number of homeless far exceeds that number – for planning purposes When accounting for all the doubling up of the homeless, an accurate count would multiply the overall PIT homeless number by about 7 times.”¹

Page 5, Executive summary - it needs extensive expansion as follows:

- (1) Discussion of “Built For Zero” and its goal of “Functional Zero,” as formally committed to by Portland, Multnomah County and others;
- (2) What the 2024 Legislature did to assist the Portland area;
- (3) Discussion of the JOHS Inter-Governmental Agreement (IGA) and changes needed to implement any plan and HRS;
- (4) Role of Home Forward and how to reduce wait-times for Section 8 voucher housing
- (5) Prosper Portland discussion of the services need for affordable housing planned for the old Post Office site;
- (6) Discussion of what is needed in the mental health services plan being completed by the Oregon Health Authority;
- (7) Discussion of the impact of public street and sidewalk camping on the economy of downtown;
- (8) Discussion of how HRS should use drug or care courts; and
- (9) Discussion of the requirements of the *Boise* and *Grants Pass* cases (*Grants Pass* is now under review by the US Supreme Court).

Page 5, new paragraph after paragraph ending rental support: “While “Housing First” is a worthwhile goal, the Portland area will be unable to build its way out of homelessness for decades. Adequate shelter and transition housing must be provided as quickly as possible.”

Page 7, a 4th Vision bullet:

- “A community that is clean, safe, and well maintained.”

Page 7, An additional “Guiding Principle bullet:

- “Drug² or care courts are available for those unable or unwilling to abide by community standards of sanitation, safety and routine maintenance.”

¹ The 2019 PSU Study compared the three county area of homeless under the 2017 Point In Time count of 5200 with an overall homeless figure, including doubling up, of 38,000.

² ORS 3.450.

Page 7, Theory of Change, a beginning paragraph to read: The Cities and County have already formally committed to “Built for Zero” which includes the idea of “Functional Zero” by a fixed date. That date is July 1, 2027.

Page 8 new last paragraph: “We are ending the “a new year - a new plan:” and “a new politician - a new plan” The 29 data objectives of Built for Zero provide specific guidance on how to obtain Functional Zero for each group of people (eg, veterans, chronic homeless, behavioral health sufferers) confronting homelessness, the institutionally discharged, and others). This Action Plan calls for tracking and implementation of all the BFZ data objectives and “Functional Zero” by a time certain and based on a complete By-Name-List.

Page 9, in the Outcomes first paragraph add a 3rd sentence to read: “We also acknowledge that people will leave Portland if it is unable to provide safe, clean and well maintained public places.

Page 9, add at the bottom a last bullet to read:

- Achieve Functional Zero for each group by July 1, 2027.

Page 11, add an additional Foundational Strategy to Accomplish Goals: “14. Built for Zero, as designed by Community Solutions, will be the basis for ending homelessness in Portland, Gresham and Multnomah County.”

Page 12, Change the period in Goal 1 to a comma and add the following: “and provide a real-time data base showing service availability or slot with specifications.”

Page 12, at the end of the 2nd paragraph add: “We also must strive for outcomes that public areas and streets must be clean, safe and accessible to all people.”

On page 12, under Goal 1, Outcomes, just before “Short term,” add the following:

“Project Manager with sole Responsibility.

Goal 1 calls for a system-wide housing navigation, care coordination and crisis intervention capability. The Goal’s “Outcomes” specify tasks. Unless there is a designated person to assure compliance with the specified outcomes they amount to no more than another wish-list. Through careful selection of a leader-director-project manager, the sought-after outcomes are more likely to be achieved. The position must have a job description that requires implementation on a schedule of time-lines for completion. The position must have sole responsibility to implement the HRS in accordance with the timelines in the Action Plan. The HRS itself must have funding, at least for the Project Manager and a staff of at least 2, one of whom is skilled in constructing, gaining approval of, and implementing IGAs. This HRS manager needs to report to a Homelessness Emergency Management Team chaired by the Governor and to include the Governor, the Mayors of Portland and Gresham, the Chair of the Multnomah County Commissioners, the Director of JOHS and the President of the Oregon Metro Regional Council and serve at their pleasure. Using the Metro Supportive Housing Services provider prequalification process and the strong support of each of the Team members, the HRS will become a reality, “

Page 13. Add an additional Action Item as follows:

Action Item: “Obtain from each of the more than 100 providers as part of the pre-qualification process an express written commitment to implement all services in compliance with this HRS”

Date: June 2024

Responsible: Mayor Wheeler and Chair Vega Pederson.

Page 15, Strategy 2, delete 1,000 and substitute 2,000³

Page 18, Goal 3, Outcomes, Short term, add a bullet as follows:

- “Adopt a services data base that is real time, off the shelf, and covers all providers and sources (e.g., McKinney-Vento school children, prison releasees, those discharged from sobering centers or the Unity facility).”

Page 27, Strategy 4, add an additional:

Action Item: integrate the existing Oregon law of drug courts into the homelessness system and provide a simple referral system to deal with those who are not capable of managing their substance abuse or behavioral health or refuse to do so.

Date: December 2024

Responsible: Designated Drug Court Judge and District Attorney working with the HRS.

On page 32, Goal 7 Improve Data and Analytics, Outcomes, Short Term add the following bullet points:

- “. Add to the each SHS provider **prequalification agreement** requirements in accordance with BFZ’s goal of Functional Zero by July 1, 2027 to: (1) develop its own provider plan, (2) participate in coordination with plans of other providers, (3) provide real time-data for the HRS, and (4) be responsible for reducing the number a specific individuals served by the provider to Functional Zero by July 1, 2027.
- Adopt, modify and build an off-the-shelf, real-time, service provider, Homelessness Response System **data-base**, similar to those data bases used in dealing with commercial customers and sales prospects, provide access by navigators and case managers, and integrate the By-Name- Lists to it.

End

³ Court decisions may enable changing this number. The *Grants Pass* decision is under review by the United States Supreme Court in 2024.



HRAP Feed Back <hrapfeedback@multco.us>

Re: Home Forward Comment | Homelessness Response Action Plan

Multnomah County Chair <mult.chair@multco.us>

Thu, Mar 28, 2024 at 9:31 AM

To: Christina Dirks <Christina.Dirks@homeforward.org>

Cc: Stacy Borke <stacy.borke@multco.us>, "Ivory N. Mathews" <Ivory.Mathews@homeforward.org>, Jenny Smith <jenny.smith@multco.us>, HRAP Feed Back <HRAPfeedback@multco.us>

Hi Christina,

Thank you for sharing your feedback and excitement. We acknowledge the receipt of the public comments and will forward them to the Homelessness Response Action Plan team.

Thank you,

Office of Chair Jessica Vega Pederson

Multnomah County

503-988-3308

www.multco.us[Sign up for Chair Vega Pederson's Newsletter](#)

On Wed, Mar 27, 2024 at 3:35 PM Christina Dirks <Christina.Dirks@homeforward.org> wrote:

**External Sender** - Be Suspicious of Attachments, Links, and Requests for Payment or Login Information.

Chair Vega Pederson,

Thank you for your leadership in addressing the housing needs of our marginalized and vulnerable community members. We are excited about the holistic approach and bold steps outlined in the Homelessness Response Action Plan.

Home Forward values its role as a systems partners in advancing this critical work. To that end, we appreciate the opportunity to provide the attached comments to the draft Homelessness Response Action Plan.

We look forward to ongoing engagement and collaboration in this work.

Christina Dirks

Director of Policy and Planning

Pronouns: she/her ([learn more](#))



[135 Ash Street](#)

[Portland, Oregon 97204](#)

cell: 503.348.1196

tty: 503.802.8554

web: www.homeforward.org

PLEASE NOTE: My work schedule is Tuesday through Friday. I do not work on Mondays.

Confidentiality Notice: This communication may contain privileged or other confidential information exempt from disclosure. If you are not the intended recipient, you may not use, copy, disseminate or retain this message. Please delete the copy you received and alert the sender to the transmission error. Thank you.

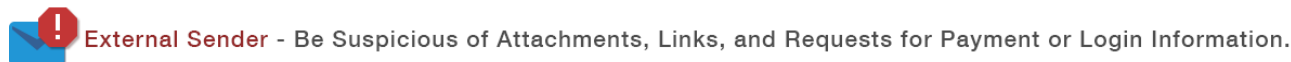


HRAP Feed Back <hrapfeedback@multco.us>

Feedback on HRAP

Brandi Tuck <brandi@path-home.org>
To: HRAPfeedback@multco.us

Thu, Mar 28, 2024 at 10:56 AM



External Sender - Be Suspicious of Attachments, Links, and Requests for Payment or Login Information.

Thank you for this opportunity to comment on the draft Homeless Response Action Plan. I am grateful to Multnomah County and the City of Portland for collaborating to produce a strategic plan to address homelessness in our community.

My biggest piece of feedback is that this plan focuses too narrowly on visible single adult populations, and does not focus on the rest of the people who experience homelessness – including families with children.

Here are specific comments and recommendations:

- **Families with children:**

- Feedback: There is not enough focus on families with children in this plan even though they make up a substantial number of people who experience homelessness in our community and are the most vulnerable people.
- Recommendation:
 - 1) Specifically call out families with children as a priority population in the Overarching Strategy recommendations on Page 8.
 - 2) On Page 9, add an outcome about reducing the number of children who experience homelessness and increasing the positive housing placement rate from family shelter. Specifically, the plans should set a goal to reduce the incidence of homelessness in families with children – by December 31, 2025, reduce by 50% the number of families with children who experience homelessness. This can be demonstrated by increasing housing placement resources and increasing the percentage of families who exit shelter from 56% to 75%.
 - 3) On Page 11 – add a goal to establish rapid and long-term interventions at preventing unsheltered homelessness for families with children. Reduce the Homeless Family System waitlist from 800 households to 400 households by the end of 2025.
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 - In the last school year (2022-23), the Oregon Department of Education reported that 4,008 students experienced homelessness in Multnomah County alone. That doesn't count their pre-school brothers and sisters, or their parents. Yet there is no focus on providing

family resources in this plan, likely because they are the “invisible homeless” population. They may or may not show up on the “By Name List” but the data is clear – there are thousands of children and their parents without homes.

- We cannot say that the figure of 5,398 people on the by-name list is the entire group of people who experience homelessness – because this data conflicts with Oregon Department of Education data.
- Oregon has more homeless families with children than any other state in the country (as reported by KOIN News and the Oregonian in Dec 2023)
- Children who don’t have homes are the most vulnerable people in our community, yet the homeless family system at JOHS receives less than 10% of the total JOHS dollars allocated each year.
- There are currently 800 households on the JOHS homeless family system waitlist - about 2,500 kids and parents (are these individuals counted on the By-Name-List?). And this is a severe undercount, because you have to score a 6 or above on the F-SPDAT in order to get on the list (this was a decision made a few years ago because the list had 1,600 households on it and we hadn’t been able to decrease the number less than 1,600 since 2013 when the waitlist began. Rather than increasing the resources available to families to help reduce the number of people on the waitlist, we just made it harder for families to get on the waitlist. This also needs to be fixed!)
- The homeless children of today are the chronically homeless adults of the future. If we ever are going to break the cycle of poverty and homelessness, we must focus on providing services to families right now.

- **Matching Need with Service:**

- Feedback: The plan sets a goal of serving the most vulnerable folks first. That’s admirable, but often the resources that are given to providers to work with the most vulnerable people do not meet the needs of that population.
- Recommendation: Ensure that all services are matched to the appropriate level of need for the population being served. Ensure that we are using the right dollars for the right service, and that the right service is being delivered to the right population. Add a priority population to Goal #4 to move families with children into housing and ensure up to 24 months of rent assistance for families who do not qualify for permanent supportive housing. Also – add a goal to increase the amount of permanent supportive housing provided in the family system. Additionally, add a goal on Page 39 under “Additional strategies” to provide up to 24 months of rent assistance to all households exiting homelessness as well as deep case management services to help people keep housing long-term.
- Here’s an example: the Homeless Family System was formed in 2013 and set a system value to work with the most vulnerable families first, defined using the F-SPDAT tool. Shelter and Re-Housing providers are asked to work with families who have the highest vulnerability, meaning the highest scores on the F-SPDAT. But the only intervention that the Homeless Family System is funded with is STRA (Short term rent assistance). The system provides between \$6,000-\$10,000 of short-term rent assistance per household. But these families are the highest vulnerability families, and thus the highest need families and likely need long-term (24 months) rent assistance or permanent supportive housing. This small amount of STRA does not go nearly far enough to meet the needs of the most vulnerable families, and they are not successful in retaining their housing long-term. These families need more like \$17,000-\$18,000 per household to help them move from homelessness to housing. Any time rent assistance is being mentioned in the plan, ensure that the goal includes this amount of rent assistance if a voucher is not otherwise provided.
- If we don’t pair enough funding with the most vulnerable people, then we will never be able to meet the goals in this plan.
- Recommendation: In Goal 2, Strategy 3 on Page 6 – Set a goal to provide robust housing placement resources with 24 months of rent assistance, as well as deep services to provide mental health care, recovery support, employment training, childcare, and connection to health services – completed by December 2024. This will require substantially greater funding than the system currently allocates to providers serving the most vulnerable families.

- **Fully Fund existing programs before creating new programs**

- Feedback: Many programs that currently exist are not funded at appropriate levels. Provider staff are poorly paid, and JOHS contracts fund only a portion of the services being delivered.
 - Recommendation: Fully fund programs to meet the true cost of service delivery. Before establishing new programs, we must ensure that currently contracted services are being fully funded so they can continue to be delivered.
 - Background:
 - Path Home's contract was created in 2017 and we were given the total amount of resources that JOHS said they could afford to fund our shelter and rapid re-housing programs; however, the contract did not come close to funding our programs. In shelter, JOHS only funds 42% of operating costs and only funds 25% of staffing costs for rapid re-housing. When we have asked for additional funds, we have been told that there are no funds for us. But we are required to take 100% of our shelter and rapid re-housing referrals from the Homeless Family System Coordinated Entry process, and we are required to put 100% of our data into HMIS.
 - We need our costs to cover shelter brought up to at least 85% of what it costs to deliver shelter. If not, we will not be able to continue to operate shelter.
 - Path Home is not unique in this situation – this is a very common situation experienced by most providers who have had contracts for more than 2 years.
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 - We need to engage not just one or two providers in the implementation groups, but we need a robust group of providers that represent all services sectors – individuals, families, domestic and sexual violence, and youth.
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keeps people in survival mode longer, and it is a main reason why people are not able to move through shelter and back into housing. It is also a main reason why there are fights, behavioral issues, and discharges from shelter. Additionally, it's the reason people are deemed "service resistant" – they don't want to be demeaned, embarrassed, and fail in an environment when their brains literally cannot understand what is going on. If we trained our shelter providers in what it means to be trauma-informed and required them to demonstrate competency, we would be much more successful in getting people to come to shelter and moving people through shelter faster.

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Please let me know if you have questions or would like to discuss further.

brandi tuck

executive director

she/her

(503) 719-2769

brandi@path-home.org



path-home.org



HRAP Feed Back <hrapfeedback@multco.us>

HRAP Feedback

Ron Schubert <ron@path-home.org>
To: HRAPfeedback@multco.us

Thu, Mar 28, 2024 at 11:15 AM



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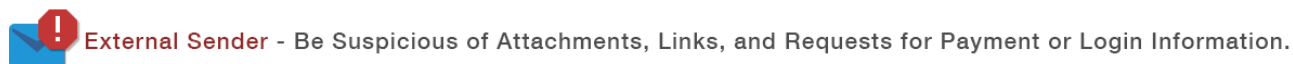


HRAP Feed Back <hrapfeedback@multco.us>

Feedback

Bethany Anderson <bethany.a@path-home.org>
To: HRAPfeedback@multco.us

Thu, Mar 28, 2024 at 12:33 PM



External Sender - Be Suspicious of Attachments, Links, and Requests for Payment or Login Information.

To Whom it May Concern,

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Thank you very much.

bethany anderson

volunteer and admin coordinator

she/her

971-865-1351

bethany.a@path-home.org





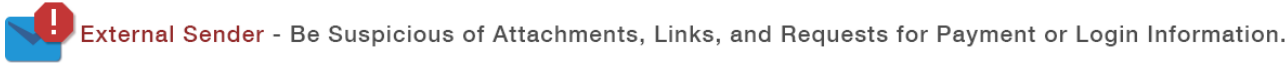
HRAP Feed Back <hrapfeedback@multco.us>

Re: An effective, humane response to the homeless crisis

Jeffrey N. Hardy <jnh@filmprofit.com>

Mon, Mar 18, 2024 at 11:16 AM

To: Commissioner Carmen Rubio <reply+2cza1j&4avtw&&1b115f11f80078cbc471fd9f508580af34e49d8d8ae806055b640101a530df17@mg1.substack.com>, HRAPfeedback@multco.us



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The following article shows how EVERYBODY in the government and provider space MUST coordinate together to achieve success.

https://www.houstonpublicmedia.org/articles/shows/houston-matters/2024/01/18/474908/houston-succeeding-addressing-homelessness-despite-national-trend-upward/

Best,

Jeffrey Hardy



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=====

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| (310) 593 4616
| jnh@filmprofit.com
| www.filmprofit.com

=====

On Mon, Mar 18, 2024 at 11:08 AM Commissioner Carmen Rubio <commrubio@substack.com> wrote:

Forwarded this email? [Subscribe here](#) for more

An effective, humane response to the homeless crisis

COMMISSIONER CARMEN RUBIO

MAR 18



READ IN APP 

The homeless crisis is the most urgent issue facing our communities, and we need some serious radical acceptance of what it takes to see that people can be successful.

The only way to get there is through collaboration and effective implementation – and I want to update you on some significant actions from this past month.

Last week I joined city and county leaders for the announcement of a joint **Homeless Response Action Plan** that aims to house or shelter roughly 2,700 more people living outside over the next two years.

Recognizing, embracing, and building the continuum in response to what people truly need to be successful is what this plan is all about. In short, that continuum is: shelter, services, stability, and housing – and I am pleased to see increased city-county planning and coordination to get us there.

This is why I took the time to learn from other cities; to see this continuum in action; and to help invest in the city's Temporary Alternative Shelter Sites. We can design a system to ensure that our houseless neighbors have the services, the trusted relationships, and the consistent communication they need as they move from the streets and toward stable, permanent housing.

Our city needs systems and solutions to houselessness that will work for real people. In my capacity as the city's Housing Commissioner, I've completed, led, and passed numerous policy changes to speed up housing production in the face of serious financial barriers that are not in the city's control.

This plan is not yet final, and it requires the input from community members, homeless and housing services providers, and other stakeholders. Through March 29th, you can send your feedback and ideas to HRAPfeedback@multco.us. Please click [here](#) for details on two virtual town halls scheduled for this week.

* * *

In addition, this month the Oregon Supreme Court decided it would not weigh in on a Multnomah County judge's injunction on the City's **camping ban**. I could see this coming, which is why I warned that we needed to first ensure

our timelines matched with adequate shelter sites and day center capacity, as well as a clear and defined shelter and housing strategy.

Back then I said that to move the policy forward before all these pieces are ready to go does not make good or responsible policy sense to me. As you might remember, I introduced amendments to the ordinance, and ultimately voted no. As I stated then, and is worth repeating, I believe it is important to have a process that is inclusive of all the system partners – including shelters, law enforcement, experts, and others – to arrive at a solution that is inclusive and not divisive.

It's why this past January I suggested to the Mayor, and then we discussed at a subsequent Council meeting, a recalibration that includes all active system partners. We need to find a new, balanced way forward that is humane, especially for our community members with disabilities.

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1221 SW Fourth Avenue, Portland, OR 97204
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 Start writing



HRAP Feed Back <hrapfeedback@multco.us>

Feedback for HRAP

Kelsey Azoubel Mitchell <kelsey.a@path-home.org>

Thu, Mar 28, 2024 at 1:03 PM

To: HRAPfeedback@multco.us



External Sender - Be Suspicious of Attachments, Links, and Requests for Payment or Login Information.

Thank you for this opportunity to comment on the draft Homeless Response Action Plan. I am grateful to Multnomah County and the City of Portland for collaborating to produce a strategic plan to address homelessness in our community.

My biggest piece of feedback is that this plan focuses too narrowly on visible single adult populations, and does not focus on the rest of the people who experience homelessness – including families with children.

Here are specific comments and recommendations:

- **Families with children:**

- o Feedback: There is not enough focus on families with children in this plan even though they make up a substantial number of people who experience homelessness in our community and are the most vulnerable people.

- o Recommendation:

- § Specifically call out families with children as a priority population in the Overarching Strategy recommendations on Page 8.

- § On Page 9, add an outcome about reducing the number of children who experience homelessness and increasing the positive housing placement rate from family shelter. Specifically, the plans should set a goal to reduce the incidence of homelessness in families with children – by December 31, 2025, reduce by 50% the number of families with children who experience homelessness. This can be demonstrated by increasing housing placement resources and increasing the percentage of families who exit shelter from 56% to 75%.

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- § In the last school year (2022-23), the Oregon Department of Education reported that 4,008 students experienced homelessness in Multnomah County alone. That doesn't count their pre-school brothers and sisters, or their parents. Yet there is no focus on providing family resources in this plan, likely because they are the "invisible homeless" population. They may or may not show up on the "By Name List" but the data is clear – there are thousands of children and their parents without homes.

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Thank you,

--

kelsey azoubel mitchell

development manager
she/her

(503) 504-5902
kelsey.a@path-home.org



path-home.org



HRAP Feed Back <hrapfeedback@multco.us>

MC/Portland homeless plan

Kathryn Notson <kmnotson@yahoo.com>
To: "HRAPfeedback@multco.us" <HRAPfeedback@multco.us>

Mon, Mar 11, 2024 at 8:10 PM



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Here's what EVERY homeless person needs IMMEDIATELY:

1. Give ALL homeless people the Street Roots Rose City Resource booklet upon 1st meeting homeless people. (The Jan.-Jun. 2024 booklets are available NOW.)
2. [Current year] Certified Copy of Birth Certificate forms
3. OR DMV - driver's license or OR ID (requires birth certificate)
4. SSA number replacement card - FREE (requires birth certificate, OR driver's license or OR ID, & office visit)
5. OR DHS - SNAP application form
6. Tri-Met Low Income Fare (LIF) application form - requires having SNAP benefit card; original application only from Tri-Met Customer Service Office - Pioneer Square
7. OPUC Lifeline application - FREE cellular telephone & service - requires having SNAP benefit card.

You will need to figure out how to give a homeless person a MAILING ADDRESS in order to receive USPS mail.

EVERY homeless person needs to obtain items 2-4 in order to obtain housing or employment. There's no need to wait another day. Transition Projects, Inc. & Central City Concern homeless outreach workers need to start this standard operating procedure in this specific sequential order IMMEDIATELY. This process begins the implementation of ANY homeless plan.

I can do ALL of this myself for homeless people. This sequential process should have started YEARS ago.

You can do a public event to invite all homeless people to attend as an option to get the ball rolling. Such an event is the same as the homeless Veteran's Stand Downs, but it's for ALL homeless people. The link below is what Vancouver, WA did recently.

[Project Homeless Connect | Council For The Homeless](#)

We don't need any more analysis paralysis. Let's start this process NOW.

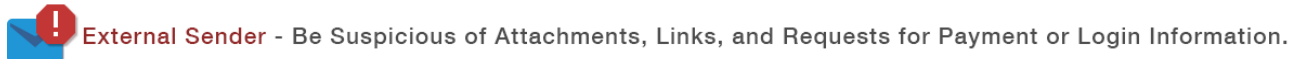


HRAP Feed Back <hrapfeedback@multco.us>

Comments on the Draft Homeless Response Action Plan

Ali Duncan <ali.d@path-home.org>
To: HRAPfeedback@multco.us

Thu, Mar 28, 2024 at 2:43 PM



Hello!

Thank you for this opportunity to comment on the draft Homeless Response Action Plan. I am grateful to Multnomah County and the City of Portland for collaborating to produce a strategic plan to address homelessness in our community.

My biggest piece of feedback is that this plan focuses too narrowly on visible single adult populations, and does not focus on the rest of the people who experience homelessness – including families with children.

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 - If we don't pair enough funding with the most vulnerable people, then we will never be able to meet the goals in this plan.
 - Recommendation: In Goal 2, Strategy 3 on Page 6 – Set a goal to provide robust housing placement resources with 24 months of rent assistance, as well as deep services to provide mental health care, recovery support, employment training, childcare, and connection to health services – completed by December 2024. This will require substantially greater funding than the system currently allocates to providers serving the most vulnerable families.

- **Fully Fund existing programs before creating new programs**

- Feedback: Many programs that currently exist are not funded at appropriate levels. Provider staff are poorly paid, and JOHS contracts fund only a portion of the services being delivered.
- Recommendation: Fully fund programs to meet the true cost of service delivery. Before establishing new programs, we must ensure that currently contracted services are being fully funded so they can continue to be delivered.
- Background:
 - Path Home's contract was created in 2017 and we were given the total amount of resources that JOHS said they could afford to fund our shelter and rapid re-housing programs; however, the contract did not come close to funding our programs. In shelter, JOHS only funds 42% of operating costs and only funds 25% of staffing costs for rapid re-housing. When we have asked for additional funds, we have been told that there are no funds for us. But we are required to take 100% of our shelter and rapid re-housing referrals from the Homeless Family System Coordinated Entry process, and we are required to put 100% of our data into HMIS.
 - We need our costs to cover shelter brought up to at least 85% of what it costs to deliver shelter. If not, we will not be able to continue to operate shelter.
 - Path Home is not unique in this situation – this is a very common situation experienced by most providers who have had contracts for more than 2 years.

- **Provider Engagement & Buy-In:**

- Feedback: Providers were not engaged in the development of these plans, and yet we are going to be expected to implement the plans. One of the guiding principles on Page 7 says that subject matter expertise, lived experience, and equity should be at the center of these plans. We are not seeing that principle being implemented.
- Recommendation: Engage providers at every stage of the plan development.
 - Goal 8: Homeless Services Providers must be more involved with and engaged in the governance and implementation of HRAP than is currently outlined in the draft plan.
 - We need to engage not just one or two providers in the implementation groups, but we need a robust group of providers that represent all services sectors – individuals, families, domestic and sexual violence, and youth.
- Background: One provider who delivers one specific kind of service cannot speak for the rest of the systems. For instance, a youth provider cannot speak to the needs of the individual adult system and vice versa. We need to engage more than the largest" organizations (respectfully, Central City Concern cannot speak for all systems and should not be exclusively relied upon as fulfilling the need for provider engagement.)

- **Best Practices for Shelter**

- Feedback: Goal 2 says to quickly increase the number of shelters using best practices and housing inventory. Define roles and responsibilities for shelter operators. Currently, many shelters are not using best practices including they are not using trauma-informed care (even though some say that they are) and they do not focus on movement through shelter into permanent housing.
- Recommendation: Define what you mean by best practices, and specifically say that shelters need to use trauma-informed care in the operation of their shelters. Specifically define what you mean here – that shelters need to offer transparency, choice, autonomy, safety, privacy, security to those who are in need of shelter. Additionally, require shelters to focus on moving people through shelter and into housing. Increase the shelter to housing placement rate to 75% for all shelter providers by December 2025.
- Background: We know that experiencing homelessness is a trauma, which means that people's brains are responding to distress by releasing chemicals that turn off the prefrontal cortex, leaving people in "Fight flight or freeze survival mode." In survival mode, people can't tell time or show up to appointments on time, understand rules in shelter, or even understand the words that someone is saying to them – because survival mode turns off the prefrontal cortex, the part of the brain that is responsible for critical thinking, logic, rationality, speech and language, telling time, etc. Trauma informed care is the understanding that this is going on in the brain, and it's a commitment to creating specific conditions to help the brain get out of survival mode and back into the thinking part of the brain. Specifically, trauma informed care requires physical and psychological safety, trust and transparency, collaboration and power sharing, voice and choice, and cultural responsiveness. Many shelters are not operating in this mode right now, and are instead using strict rules, lack of privacy, lack of autonomy, lack of choice, and unsafe conditions to provide services to

people. This keeps people in survival mode longer, and it is a main reason why people are not able to move through shelter and back into housing. It is also a main reason why there are fights, behavioral issues, and discharges from shelter. Additionally, it's the reason people are deemed "service resistant" – they don't want to be demeaned, embarrassed, and fail in an environment when their brains literally cannot understand what is going on. If we trained our shelter providers in what it means to be trauma-informed and required them to demonstrate competency, we would be much more successful in getting people to come to shelter and moving people through shelter faster.

- We also need to train providers in evidence-based practice of housing first – which has three components: 1) minimize the time someone experiences homelessness and help them move quickly into housing, 2) provide financial assistance to help people stabilize, and 3) provide long-term, relationships-based case management and service navigation to help people keep their housing long term. Many providers in our community do the first 2, but very few providers engage in the third component – largely because the JOHS does not fund it. We *must* fund housing first in its entirety if we are to ever be successful at ending homelessness. Shelter ends homelessness for zero people. We end homelessness by helping them move into housing.

Thanks again,
Ali

ali duncan

development director
she/her

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ali.d@path-home.org



path-home.org



HRAP Feed Back <hrapfeedback@multco.us>

In Response to Homeless Response Action Plan

Debra Vanderwerf <debra.v@path-home.org>
To: HRAPfeedback@multco.us

Thu, Mar 28, 2024 at 3:19 PM



External Sender - Be Suspicious of Attachments, Links, and Requests for Payment or Login Information.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on the draft Homeless Response Action Plan. Although I am grateful for this collaborative effort between the City of Portland and Multnomah County, the strategies laid forth are short-sighted, not equitable, and limit the impact of investment and our collective efforts.

Recommendations

1. Diversity your portfolio of investments by positioning population subsets equally to maximize short and long term impacts... the plan focuses on visible single adults (shorter term impact) and barely touches upon families with children (which offer longer term impacts with higher probabilities of breaking cycles and causing systemic change).
2. Oregon has more homeless families with children than any other state in the country! Embrace this truth, be bold, and make this population a priority.
3. Revise the selection criteria for the JOHS HFS waitlist. Current F-SPDAT scoring precludes many families from receiving services and distorts the true numbers of people in need.
4. Service providers are being asked to serve the most vulnerable families (with significant adverse life experiences) and are only able to offer \$6-10k in short-term rental assistance.
High risk families realistically need \$17-18k for longer term rental assistance and wraparound support in order to be successful. Fully fund existing programs at true cost of delivery before creating new programs.
5. Uphold best practices and a trauma-informed approach among service providers AND throughout your planning process! This means... engaging a diverse pool of service providers in the planning process ;-)

debra vanderwerf

program director
she/her

(503) 956-1501

debra.v@path-home.org



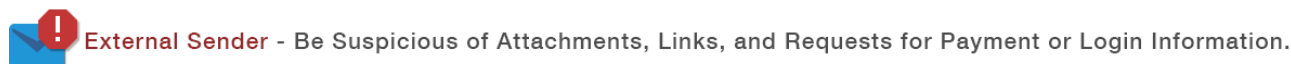


HRAP Feed Back <hrapfeedback@multco.us>

Homelessness Response Action Plan

Michael Smoot <Michael.Smoot@mossadams.com>
To: "HRAPfeedback@multco.us" <HRAPfeedback@multco.us>

Thu, Mar 28, 2024 at 4:38 PM



Thank you for this opportunity to comment on the draft Homeless Response Action Plan. I am grateful to Multnomah County and the City of Portland for collaborating to produce a strategic plan to address homelessness in our community.

My biggest piece of feedback is that this plan focuses too narrowly on visible single adult populations, and does not focus on the rest of the people who experience homelessness – including families with children.

Here are specific comments and recommendations:

- **Families with children:**

- Feedback: There is not enough focus on families with children in this plan even though they make up a substantial number of people who experience homelessness in our community and are the most vulnerable people.
- Recommendation:
 - 1) Specifically call out families with children as a priority population in the Overarching Strategy recommendations on Page 8.
 - 2) On Page 9, add an outcome about reducing the number of children who experience homelessness and increasing the positive housing placement rate from family shelter. Specifically, the plans should set a goal to reduce the incidence of homelessness in families with children – by December 31, 2025, reduce by 50% the number of families with children who experience homelessness. This can be demonstrated by increasing housing placement resources and increasing the percentage of families who exit shelter from 56% to 75%.
 - 3) On Page 11 – add a goal to establish rapid and long-term interventions at preventing unsheltered homelessness for families with children. Reduce the Homeless Family System waitlist from 800 households to 400 households by the end of 2025.
- Background:

- In the last school year (2022-23), the Oregon Department of Education reported that 4,008 students experienced homelessness in Multnomah County alone. That doesn't count their pre-school brothers and sisters, or their parents. Yet there is no focus on providing family resources in this plan, likely because they are the "invisible homeless" population. They may or may not show up on the "By Name List" but the data is clear – there are thousands of children and their parents without homes.
- We cannot say that the figure of 5,398 people on the by-name list is the entire group of people who experience homelessness – because this data conflicts with Oregon Department of Education data.
- Oregon has more homeless families with children than any other state in the country (as reported by KOIN News and the Oregonian in Dec 2023)
- Children who don't have homes are the most vulnerable people in our community, yet the homeless family system at JOHS receives less than 10% of the total JOHS dollars allocated each year.
- There are currently 800 households on the JOHS homeless family system waitlist - about 2,500 kids and parents (are these individuals counted on the By-Name-List?). And this is a severe undercount, because you have to score a 6 or above on the F-SPDAT in order to get on the list (this was a decision made a few years ago because the list had 1,600 households on it and we hadn't been able to decrease the number less than 1,600 since 2013 when the waitlist began. Rather than increasing the resources available to families to help reduce the number of people on the waitlist, we just made it harder for families to get on the waitlist. This also needs to be fixed!)
- The homeless children of today are the chronically homeless adults of the future. If we ever are going to break the cycle of poverty and homelessness, we must focus on providing services to families right now.

- **Matching Need with Service:**

- Feedback: The plan sets a goal of serving the most vulnerable folks first. That's admirable, but often the resources that are given to providers to work with the most vulnerable people do not meet the needs of that population.
- Recommendation: Ensure that all services are matched to the appropriate level of need for the population being served. Ensure that we are using the right dollars for the right service, and that the right service is being delivered to the right population. Add a priority population to Goal #4 to move families with children into housing and ensure up to 24 months of rent assistance for families who do not qualify for permanent supportive housing. Also – add a goal to increase the amount of permanent supportive housing provided in the family system. Additionally, add a goal on Page 39 under "Additional strategies" to provide up to 24 months of rent assistance to all households exiting homelessness as well as deep case management services to help people keep housing long-term.
- Here's an example: the Homeless Family System was formed in 2013 and set a system value to work with the most vulnerable families first, defined using the F-SPDAT tool. Shelter and Re-Housing providers are asked to work with families who have the highest vulnerability, meaning the highest scores on the F-SPDAT. But the only intervention that the Homeless Family System is funded with is STRA (Short term rent assistance). The system provides between \$6,000-\$10,000 of short-term rent assistance per household. But these families are the highest vulnerability families, and thus the highest need families and likely need long-term (24 months) rent assistance or permanent supportive housing. This small amount of STRA does not go nearly far enough to meet the needs of the most vulnerable families. These families need more like \$17,000-\$18,000 per household to help them move from homelessness to housing. Any time rent assistance is being mentioned in the plan, ensure that the goal includes this amount of rent assistance if a voucher is not otherwise provided.
- If we don't pair enough funding with the most vulnerable people, then we will never be able to meet the goals in this plan.
- Recommendation: In Goal 2, Strategy 3 on Page 6 – Set a goal to provide robust housing placement resources with 24 months of rent assistance, as well as deep services to provide mental health care, recovery support, employment training, childcare, and connection to health services – completed by December 2024. This will require substantially greater funding than the system currently allocates to providers serving the most vulnerable families.

- **Fully Fund existing programs before creating new programs**

- Feedback: Many programs that currently exist are not funded at appropriate levels. Provider staff are poorly paid, and JOHS contracts fund only a portion of the services being delivered.
- Recommendation: Fully fund programs to meet the true cost of service delivery. Before establishing new programs, we must ensure that currently contracted services are being fully funded so they can continue to be delivered.
- Background:
 - Path Home's contract was created in 2017 and we were given the total amount of resources that JOHS said they could afford to fund our shelter and rapid re-housing programs; however, the contract did not come close to funding our programs. In shelter, JOHS only funds 42% of operating costs and only funds 25% of staffing costs for rapid re-housing. When we have asked for additional funds, we have been told that there are no funds for us. But we are required to take 100% of our shelter and rapid re-housing referrals from the Homeless Family System Coordinated Entry process, and we are required to put 100% of our data into HMIS.
 - We need our costs to cover shelter brought up to at least 85% of what it costs to deliver shelter. If not, we will not be able to continue to operate shelter.
 - Path Home is not unique in this situation – this is a very common situation experienced by most providers who have had contracts for more than 2 years.

- **Provider Engagement & Buy-In:**

- Feedback: Providers were not engaged in the development of these plans, and yet we are going to be expected to implement the plans. One of the guiding principles on Page 7 says that subject matter expertise, lived experience, and equity should be at the center of these plans. We are not seeing that principle being implemented.
- Recommendation: Engage providers at every stage of the plan development.
 - Goal 8: Homeless Services Providers must be more involved with and engaged in the governance and implementation of HRAP than is currently outlined in the draft plan.
 - We need to engage not just one or two providers in the implementation groups, but we need a robust group of providers that represent all services sectors – individuals, families, domestic and sexual violence, and youth.
- Background: One provider who delivers one specific kind of service cannot speak for the rest of the systems. For instance, a youth provider cannot speak to the needs of the individual adult system and vice versa. We need to engage more than the largest” organizations (respectfully, Central City Concern cannot speak for all systems and should not be exclusively relied upon as fulfilling the need for provider engagement.)

Thanks,

Michael Smoot

Assurance Partner | **Moss Adams**

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HRAP Feed Back <hrapfeedback@multco.us>

Draft Homelessness Response Action Plan Comments

Ted Wall <ted_wall@comcast.net>

Thu, Mar 28, 2024 at 4:56 PM

To: "HRAPfeedback@multco.us" <HRAPfeedback@multco.us>



External Sender - Be Suspicious of Attachments, Links, and Requests for Payment or Login Information.

Thank you for this opportunity to comment on the draft Homelessness Response Action Plan. As a long-time volunteer assisting homeless individuals and families, I appreciate the efforts being made by Multnomah County and the City of Portland. With that said, I ask that you take into consideration the important areas of improvement available to you in refining the Homelessness Response Action Plan. The comments and suggestions below largely reflect the fact that the plan focuses entirely to narrowly on visible single adult populations and does not focus on the large population of people who experience homelessness, including families with children.

Here are specific comments and recommendations:

- **Families with children are under-represented in the draft plan**
 - Feedback: There is not enough focus on families with children in this plan even though they make up a substantial number of people who experience homelessness in our community and are often the most vulnerable people.
 - Recommendations:
 - Specifically call out families with children as a priority population in the Overarching Strategy recommendations on Page 8.
 - On Page 9, add an outcome about reducing the number of children who experience homelessness and increasing the positive housing placement rate from family shelter. Specifically, the plans should set a specific goal to reduce the incidence of homelessness in families with children – by December 31, 2025, reduce by 50% the number of families with children who experience homelessness. This can be demonstrated by increasing housing placement resources and increasing the percentage of families who exit shelter from 56% to 75%.
 - On Page 11 – add a goal to establish rapid and long-term interventions at preventing unsheltered homelessness for families with children. Reduce the Homeless Family System waitlist from 800 households to 400 households by the end of 2025.
- **Closely matching need with service is warranted**
 - Feedback: The plan sets a goal of serving the most vulnerable folks first. Certainly that makes sense, but too often the resources that are given to providers to work with the most vulnerable people do not meet the needs of that population.
 - Recommendation: Ensure that all services are matched to the appropriate level of need for the population being served.
 - Ensure that we are using the right dollars for the right service, and that the right service is being delivered to the right population.
 - Add a priority population to Goal #4 to move families with children into housing and ensure up to 24 months of rent assistance for families who do not qualify for permanent supportive housing.
 - Add a goal to increase the amount of permanent supportive housing provided in the family system.
 - Add a goal on Page 39 under “Additional strategies” to provide up to 24 months of rent assistance to all households exiting homelessness as well as deep case management services to help people keep housing long-term.
 - Recommendation: In Goal 2, Strategy 3 on Page 6 – Set a goal to provide robust housing placement resources with 24 months of rent assistance, as well as deep services to provide mental health care, recovery support, employment training, childcare, and connection to health services – completed by December 2024. This will require substantially greater funding than the system currently allocates to providers serving the most vulnerable families.

- **Fully Fund existing programs before creating new programs is warranted**
 - Feedback: Many programs that currently exist are not funded at appropriate levels. Provider staff are poorly paid, and JOHS contracts fund only a portion of the services being delivered.
 - Recommendation: Fully fund programs to meet the true cost of service delivery. Efficiency of resources dictates that before we establish new programs, we ensure that currently contracted services are being fully funded so they can continue to be delivered.

- **Improving provider engagement opportunities is essential**
 - Feedback: Providers were not engaged in the development of these plans, and yet we are going to be expected to implement the plans. One of the guiding principles on Page 7 says that subject matter expertise, lived experience, and equity should be at the center of these plans. We are not seeing that principle being implemented.
 - Recommendation: Engage providers at every stage of the plan development.
 - Goal 8: Homeless Services Providers must be more involved with and engaged in the governance and implementation of HRAP than is currently outlined in the draft plan.
 - We need to engage not just one or two providers in the implementation groups, but we need a robust group of providers that represent all services sectors – individuals, families, domestic and sexual violence, and youth.

Thank you for considering these observations and suggestions. I look forward to seeing the final plan.

Ted Wall, Portland resident



HRAP Feed Back <hrapfeedback@multco.us>

Feedback

Ryan Kolberg <hoodrivermusic@gmail.com>

Thu, Mar 28, 2024 at 8:45 PM

To: hrapfeedback@multco.us

Cc: hrapfeedback@multco.us

External Sender - Be Suspicious of Attachments, Links, and Requests for Payment or Login Information.

Thank you for this opportunity to comment on the draft Homeless Response Action Plan.

Although I am grateful for this collaborative effort between the City of Portland and Multnomah County, this plan does not address nor provide for the urgent needs of families with children experiencing homelessness and instead focuses too narrowly on visible single adult populations.

In the last school year (2022-23), the Oregon Department of Education reported that 4,008 students experienced homelessness in Multnomah County alone. While heartbreaking, that figure doesn't even include their preschool siblings, or their parents. Additionally, Oregon has more homeless families with children than any other state in the country (as reported by KOIN News Dec 2023).

Children who don't have homes are the most vulnerable people in our community, yet the homeless family system at JOHS receives less than 10% of the total annual JOHS dollars.

The homeless children of today are the chronically homeless adults of the future. If we ever are going to break the cycle of poverty and homelessness, we must focus on providing services to families right now.

Additionally, the Homeless Resource Action Plan should focus on moving people from homelessness to housing by increasing the available rent assistance and providing extra case management to help people move into housing and keep their homes for good. While shelter can be helpful, it doesn't actually end homelessness. We must focus on moving people through shelter and into permanent housing.

I urge Multnomah County and the City of Portland to update the draft plan to include and specifically address the needs of families with children experiencing homelessness."

Sent from my iPhone



HRAP Feed Back <hrapfeedback@multco.us>

Feedback on Homeless Response Action Plan Draft

Karla Arria Devoe <karriadevoe@gmail.com>

Fri, Mar 29, 2024 at 5:21 AM

To: HRAPfeedback@multco.us



External Sender - Be Suspicious of Attachments, Links, and Requests for Payment or Login Information.

Thank you for this opportunity to comment on the draft Homeless Response Action Plan. I am grateful to Multnomah County and the City of Portland for collaborating to produce a strategic plan to address homelessness in our community.

This plan focuses too narrowly on visible single adult populations, and does not focus on the rest of the people who experience homelessness – including families with children.

Here are specific comments and recommendations:

- **Families with children:**

- Feedback: There is not enough focus on families with children in this plan even though they make up a substantial number of people who experience homelessness in our community and are the most vulnerable people.
- Recommendation:
 - 1) Specifically call out families with children as a priority population in the Overarching Strategy recommendations on Page 8.
 - 2) On Page 9, add an outcome about reducing the number of children who experience homelessness and increasing the positive housing placement rate from family shelter. Specifically, the plans should set a goal to reduce the incidence of homelessness in families with children – by December 31, 2025, reduce by 50% the number of families with children who experience homelessness. This can be demonstrated by increasing housing placement resources and increasing the percentage of families who exit shelter from 56% to 75%.
 - 3) On Page 11 – add a goal to establish rapid and long-term interventions at preventing unsheltered homelessness for families with children. Reduce the Homeless Family System waitlist from 800 households to 400 households by the end of 2025.
- Background:
 - In the last school year (2022-23), the Oregon Department of Education reported that 4,008 students experienced homelessness in Multnomah County alone. That doesn't count their pre-school brothers and sisters, or their parents. Yet there is no focus on providing family resources in this plan, likely because they are the "invisible homeless" population. They may or may not show up on the "By Name List" but the data is clear – there are thousands of children and their parents without homes.

- We cannot say that the figure of 5,398 people on the by-name list is the entire group of people who experience homelessness – because this data conflicts with Oregon Department of Education data.
 - Oregon has more homeless families with children than any other state in the country (as reported by KOIN News and the Oregonian in Dec 2023)
 - Children who don't have homes are the most vulnerable people in our community, yet the homeless family system at JOHS receives less than 10% of the total JOHS dollars allocated each year.
 - There are currently 800 households on the JOHS homeless family system waitlist - about 2,500 kids and parents (are these individuals counted on the By-Name-List?). And this is a severe undercount, because you have to score a 6 or above on the F-SPDAT in order to get on the list (this was a decision made a few years ago because the list had 1,600 households on it and we hadn't been able to decrease the number less than 1,600 since 2013 when the waitlist began. Rather than increasing the resources available to families to help reduce the number of people on the waitlist, we just made it harder for families to get on the waitlist. This also needs to be fixed!)
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- **Matching Need with Service:**
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 - Recommendation: Ensure that all services are matched to the appropriate level of need for the population being served. Ensure that we are using the right dollars for the right service, and that the right service is being delivered to the right population. Add a priority population to Goal #4 to move families with children into housing and ensure up to 24 months of rent assistance for families who do not qualify for permanent supportive housing. Also – add a goal to increase the amount of permanent supportive housing provided in the family system. Additionally, add a goal on Page 39 under “Additional strategies” to provide up to 24 months of rent assistance to all households exiting homelessness as well as deep case management services to help people keep housing long-term.
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- Recommendation: Fully fund programs to meet the true cost of service delivery. Before establishing new programs, we must ensure that currently contracted services are being fully funded so they can continue to be delivered.
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 - Path Home is not unique in this situation – this is a very common situation experienced by most providers who have had contracts for more than 2 years.

- **Provider Engagement & Buy-In:**

- Feedback: Providers were not engaged in the development of these plans, and yet we are going to be expected to implement the plans. One of the guiding principles on Page 7 says that subject matter expertise, lived experience, and equity should be at the center of these plans. We are not seeing that principle being implemented.
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- Background: One provider who delivers one specific kind of service cannot speak for the rest of the systems. For instance, a youth provider cannot speak to the needs of the individual adult system and vice versa. We need to engage more than the largest" organizations (respectfully, Central City Concern cannot speak for all systems and should not be exclusively relied upon as fulfilling the need for provider engagement.

Sincerely,
Karla Arria-Devoe

Karla Arria Devoe
karriadevoe@gmail.com
503.709.8571



HRAP Feed Back <hrapfeedback@multco.us>

Feedback for HRAP

Samantha Tamtreg <samantha.t@path-home.org>
To: HRAPfeedback@multco.us

Fri, Mar 29, 2024 at 8:24 AM



External Sender - Be Suspicious of Attachments, Links, and Requests for Payment or Login Information.

Thank you for this opportunity to comment on the draft Homeless Response Action Plan. I am grateful to Multnomah County and the City of Portland for collaborating to produce a strategic plan to address homelessness in our community.

My biggest piece of feedback is that this plan focuses too narrowly on visible single adult populations, and does not focus on the rest of the people who experience homelessness – including families with children.

Here are specific comments and recommendations:

- **Families with children:**

- Feedback: There is not enough focus on families with children in this plan even though they make up a substantial number of people who experience homelessness in our community and are the most vulnerable people.
- Recommendation:
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 - In the last school year (2022-23), the Oregon Department of Education reported that 4,008 students experienced homelessness in Multnomah County alone. That doesn't count their pre-school brothers and sisters, or their parents. Yet there is no focus on providing family resources in this plan, likely because they are the "invisible homeless" population. They may or may not show up on the "By Name List" but the data is clear – there are thousands of children and their parents without homes.

- We cannot say that the figure of 5,398 people on the by-name list is the entire group of people who experience homelessness – because this data conflicts with Oregon Department of Education data.
 - Oregon has more homeless families with children than any other state in the country (as reported by KOIN News and the Oregonian in Dec 2023)
 - Children who don't have homes are the most vulnerable people in our community, yet the homeless family system at JOHS receives less than 10% of the total JOHS dollars allocated each year.
 - There are currently 800 households on the JOHS homeless family system waitlist - about 2,500 kids and parents (are these individuals counted on the By-Name-List?). And this is a severe undercount, because you have to score a 6 or above on the F-SPDAT in order to get on the list (this was a decision made a few years ago because the list had 1,600 households on it and we hadn't been able to decrease the number less than 1,600 since 2013 when the waitlist began. Rather than increasing the resources available to families to help reduce the number of people on the waitlist, we just made it harder for families to get on the waitlist. This also needs to be fixed!)
 - The homeless children of today are the chronically homeless adults of the future. If we ever are going to break the cycle of poverty and homelessness, we must focus on providing services to families right now.
- **Matching Need with Service:**
 - Feedback: The plan sets a goal of serving the most vulnerable folks first. That's admirable, but often the resources that are given to providers to work with the most vulnerable people do not meet the needs of that population.
 - Recommendation: Ensure that all services are matched to the appropriate level of need for the population being served. Ensure that we are using the right dollars for the right service, and that the right service is being delivered to the right population. Add a priority population to Goal #4 to move families with children into housing and ensure up to 24 months of rent assistance for families who do not qualify for permanent supportive housing. Also – add a goal to increase the amount of permanent supportive housing provided in the family system. Additionally, add a goal on Page 39 under “Additional strategies” to provide up to 24 months of rent assistance to all households exiting homelessness as well as deep case management services to help people keep housing long-term.
 - Here's an example: the Homeless Family System was formed in 2013 and set a system value to work with the most vulnerable families first, defined using the F-SPDAT tool. Shelter and Re-Housing providers are asked to work with families who have the highest vulnerability, meaning the highest scores on the F-SPDAT. But the only intervention that the Homeless Family System is funded with is STRA (Short term rent assistance). The system provides between \$6,000-\$10,000 of short-term rent assistance per household. But these families are the highest vulnerability families, and thus the highest need families and likely need long-term (24 months) rent assistance or permanent supportive housing. This small amount of STRA does not go nearly far enough to meet the needs of the most vulnerable families, and they are not successful in retaining their housing long-term. These families need more like \$17,000-\$18,000 per household to help them move from homelessness to housing. Any time rent assistance is being mentioned in the plan, ensure that the goal includes this amount of rent assistance if a voucher is not otherwise provided.
 - If we don't pair enough funding with the most vulnerable people, then we will never be able to meet the goals in this plan.
 - Recommendation: In Goal 2, Strategy 3 on Page 6 – Set a goal to provide robust housing placement resources with 24 months of rent assistance, as well as deep services to provide mental health care, recovery support, employment training, childcare, and connection to health services – completed by December 2024. This will require substantially greater funding than the system currently allocates to providers serving the most vulnerable families.
 - **Fully Fund existing programs before creating new programs**
 - Feedback: Many programs that currently exist are not funded at appropriate levels. Provider staff are poorly paid, and JOHS contracts fund only a portion of the services being delivered.

- Recommendation: Fully fund programs to meet the true cost of service delivery. Before establishing new programs, we must ensure that currently contracted services are being fully funded so they can continue to be delivered.
- Background:
 - Path Home's contract was created in 2017 and we were given the total amount of resources that JOHS said they could afford to fund our shelter and rapid re-housing programs; however, the contract did not come close to funding our programs. In shelter, JOHS only funds 42% of operating costs and only funds 25% of staffing costs for rapid re-housing. When we have asked for additional funds, we have been told that there are no funds for us. But we are required to take 100% of our shelter and rapid re-housing referrals from the Homeless Family System Coordinated Entry process, and we are required to put 100% of our data into HMIS.
 - We need our costs to cover shelter brought up to at least 85% of what it costs to deliver shelter. If not, we will not be able to continue to operate shelter.
 - Path Home is not unique in this situation – this is a very common situation experienced by most providers who have had contracts for more than 2 years.
- **Provider Engagement & Buy-In:**
 - Feedback: Providers were not engaged in the development of these plans, and yet we are going to be expected to implement the plans. One of the guiding principles on Page 7 says that subject matter expertise, lived experience, and equity should be at the center of these plans. We are not seeing that principle being implemented.
 - Recommendation: Engage providers at every stage of the plan development.
 - Goal 8: Homeless Services Providers must be more involved with and engaged in the governance and implementation of HRAP than is currently outlined in the draft plan.
 - We need to engage not just one or two providers in the implementation groups, but we need a robust group of providers that represent all services sectors – individuals, families, domestic and sexual violence, and youth.
 - Background: One provider who delivers one specific kind of service cannot speak for the rest of the systems. For instance, a youth provider cannot speak to the needs of the individual adult system and vice versa. We need to engage more than the largest" organizations (respectfully, Central City Concern cannot speak for all systems and should not be exclusively relied upon as fulfilling the need for provider engagement.)
- **Best Practices for Shelter**
 - Feedback: Goal 2 says to quickly increase the number of shelters using best practices and housing inventory. Define roles and responsibilities for shelter operators. Currently, many shelters are not using best practices including they are not using trauma-informed care (even though some say that they are) and they do not focus on movement through shelter into permanent housing.
 - Recommendation: Define what you mean by best practices, and specifically say that shelters need to use trauma-informed care in the operation of their shelters. Specifically define what you mean here – that shelters need to offer transparency, choice, autonomy, safety, privacy, security to those who are in need of shelter. Additionally, require shelters to focus on moving people through shelter and into housing. Increase the shelter to housing placement rate to 75% for all shelter providers by December 2025.
 - Background: We know that experiencing homelessness is a trauma, which means that people's brains are responding to distress by releasing chemicals that turn off the prefrontal cortex, leaving people in "Fight flight or freeze survival mode." In survival mode, people can't tell time or show up to appointments on time, understand rules in shelter, or even understand the words that someone is saying to them – because survival mode turns off the prefrontal cortex, the part of the brain that is responsible for critical thinking, logic, rationality, speech and language, telling time, etc. Trauma informed care is the understanding that this is going on in the brain, and it's a commitment to creating specific conditions to help the brain get out of survival mode and back into the thinking part of the brain. Specifically, trauma informed care requires physical and psychological safety, trust and transparency, collaboration and power sharing, voice and choice, and cultural responsiveness. Many shelters are not operating in this mode right now, and are instead using strict rules, lack of privacy, lack of autonomy, lack of choice, and unsafe conditions to provide services to people. This keeps people in survival mode longer, and it is a main reason why people are not able to move through shelter and back into housing. It is also a main reason why there are fights, behavioral issues, and discharges from shelter. Additionally, it's the reason people are deemed

“service resistant” – they don’t want to be demeaned, embarrassed, and fail in an environment when their brains literally cannot understand what is going on. If we trained our shelter providers in what it means to be trauma-informed and required them to demonstrate competency, we would be much more successful in getting people to come to shelter and moving people through shelter faster.

- We also need to train providers in evidence-based practice of housing first – which has three components: 1) minimize the time someone experiences homelessness and help them move quickly into housing, 2) provide financial assistance to help people stabilize, and 3) provide long-term, relationships-based case management and service navigation to help people keep their housing long term. Many providers in our community do the first 2, but very few providers engage in the third component – largely because the JOHS does not fund it. We *must* fund housing first in its entirety if we are to ever be successful at ending homelessness. Shelter ends homelessness for zero people. We end homelessness by helping them move into housing.

Thank you,
Samantha

--

samantha tamteng

director of community engagement

she/her

(503) 915-8307

samantha.t@path-home.org



path-home.org



HRAP Feed Back <hrapfeedback@multco.us>

Work on family reunification.

amy <amyvegan@gmail.com>

Mon, Mar 18, 2024 at 11:51 AM

To: "hrapfeedback@multco.us" <hrapfeedback@multco.us>



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Work on family reunification.

We have so many houseless who are NOT Oregonians.

They are transient and ended up here due to easy drug use.

Track down their families and send people home to any family member willing to take them in.

Amy Caplan
255 SW Harrison St.
#23G
Portland, 97201



HRAP Feed Back <hrapfeedback@multco.us>

Feedback on proposed Homelessness Response Action Plan

Ellen Vanderslice <ellenv@hevanet.com>
To: hrapfeedback@multco.us

Tue, Mar 26, 2024 at 5:05 PM

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Please see my attached memorandum with feedback on the proposed Homelessness Response Action Plan.

Thank you,
-Ellen

Ellen Vanderslice (she/her)
ellenv@hevanet.com

 **Vanderslice Comments on HRAP 2024-03-26.pdf**
61K

26 March 2024

To: HRAP Feedback at Multnomah County

From: Ellen Vanderslice

Regarding: Feedback on the proposed Homelessness Response Action Plan

My comments are divided into three sections, as follows:

- Overall feedback
- Feedback regarding the proposed governance structure
- Suggestions aimed at making a better document

OVERALL FEEDBACK

About HRS: I support improving coordination of the disparate efforts represented in this plan, especially bringing behavioral health considerations and efforts to build additional affordable housing to the table with the myriad existing programs of the Joint Office of Homeless Services. I understand that an overarching entity such as the Homelessness Response System may be needed to effect that coordination. However, the plan should have guardrails built in to keep from piling on the bureaucracy and chewing up resources in talk.

What needs to be elevated: The matter of frontline staff is inadequately addressed in this plan. As noted by commenter Cynthia Yee, the HRAP can't be successful without substantial investment in developing and retaining the workforce needed to deliver all the envisioned services. Workers need to be paid living wages. (I provided comments on the issue of frontline staff to the Coordinating Board of A Home for Everyone in April, 2021, after an effort to develop 15 beds for homeless youth in an overnight winter shelter at my church had to be abandoned because the provider was unable to hire shelter staff.)

Another issue that is inadequately addressed in this plan is the need for service providers to receive reimbursements in a timely way, or, better yet, grants in advance of expenditure. As a volunteer and supporter I have been made aware of excessive delays in reimbursement to some providers, sometimes for the better part of a year. Small service providers, including

culturally specific ones, are deterred from joining the pool because they can't afford to front the money and then wait so long for reimbursement.

There are only a few spots in the plan that touch on these matters (for example, Strategy 3 in Goal 2). On page 18, in Goal 3, the outcomes include a gap analysis of workforce needs, but the work to produce that outcome is not included in the Goal 3 strategies or action items. Instead, it is relegated to "Additional and Future Considerations" on page 39. The contracting process is barely touched on in Strategy 1 for Goal 2.

In my opinion, these two issues, developing and supporting the frontline workforce, and vastly improving the contracting process, should be elevated to foundational strategies of the plan, and real action items to support them should be added to the appropriate goals.

What's missing: You'd never know from this document about the ongoing work that's driven by Portland, Gresham, and Multnomah County joining Built for Zero in 2021, but it seems like this piece of the puzzle should be explicit.

REGARDING THE PROPOSED GOVERNANCE STRUCTURE

I closely followed the "sunsetting" of A Home For Everyone in April, 2022, and the development of the five advisory bodies now advising the Joint Office of Homeless Services. I agree that a more substantial governance structure is advisable, and so, in general, what the HRAP proposes is okay.

I disagree, however, with the specific proposal to vest the new Community Advisory Committee¹ with the function of Community Budget Advisory Committee (CBAC)² to the JOHS. The new Community Advisory Committee is advising the overarching entity of the Homelessness Response System, which is larger than the JOHS.

¹ Also referred to as "Subcommittee", or "Sub-committee," depending which page of the plan one reads.

² The HRAP incorrectly refers to the CBAC as "County Budget Advisory Committee" on p. 36 and p. 47.

I have closely followed the work of the JOHS CBAC since it was formed in the fall of 2022. I naively thought that the CBAC would be initiated into the inner workings of the Joint Office. Instead, as I saw for myself, they were stymied in their efforts to dig into how different JOHS programs were performing. As their report to the County Commission notes, “The CBAC faced significant hurdles, such as delays in obtaining crucial information from JOHS, lack of assistance from the county, difficulties in engaging with other advisory committees, and obstacles in adhering to Oregon open public meeting law and county code requirements.”

Despite this discouraging context, the CBAC members devoted themselves to working through all five dozen program offers making up the JOHS budget request. This extensive work required extra meetings and a great deal of homework for the CBAC members.

This January the JOHS CBAC began their work for the JOHS FY2025 budget, and they are clearly building on the depth of knowledge they acquired last year, while bringing new members of the CBAC up to speed.

I believe it is unreasonable to expect the new Community Advisory Committee to take on that level of commitment and work during the County budget process, whether for FY2026 or any year after that.

One possible reading of the suggestion in the HRAP to dissolve the JOHS CBAC and turn its function over to the new advisory body is that the County has found the CBAC too inquisitive, and its recommendations too critical, and would prefer LESS scrutiny of its spending and budget.

As a member of the community being served by the JOHS CBAC, I strongly oppose its dissolution and replacement.

According to the presentations I’ve seen about the HRAP, both the Continuum of Care Board and the Supportive Housing Services Advisory Committee are to be retained in the new governance structure.³ Retaining

³ A note that the HRAP itself mentions this about the CoC Board, in a footnote on p. 36, but doesn’t mention the SHS Advisory Committee.

the JOHS CBAC, to focus narrowly on the JOHS budget, would be parallel and in accordance with that continuity.

SUGGESTIONS AIMED AT MAKING A BETTER DOCUMENT

1. Please do a better job of introducing and explaining the Homelessness Response System. There is an Orwellian overtone to first introducing it on page 13 as an action item to be accomplished by — yep, the HRS itself.
2. Plans usually include a section on their context and the authority under which they'll be implemented. This plan is light in that regard. In particular, the plan should note how agencies other than the City and County will be bound to the action items for which they are made responsible.
3. On page 7, a clear vision is followed by murky guiding principles. The 2nd principle is really two separate things, while the fourth and seventh could be merged into one.
4. I recommend removing the second foundational strategy on page 10, about the 5Ps. It's jargon! It makes this document look dated. If you don't take it out, because you really intend to use them, then you should incorporate them into the first strategy about using the Equity and Empowerment Lens, since the 5Ps are already embodied in the lens. Whatever you do, please consider removing the graphic, which doesn't help anyone understand how the HRS will make decisions.
5. The third foundational strategy isn't really a strategy. Maybe a stronger verb than "understand" could be substituted.
6. Throughout the HRAP, most action items are framed in the imperative, but a few are in a passive tense. I recommend that every action item be cast as an imperative sentence. (Examples of items that aren't: Goal 7, Strategy 2, 1st and 3rd action items.)
7. Consider providing more context for "Coordinated Access" on p. 12.
8. Add BIPOC and IGA to the glossary on p. 47.



HRAP Feed Back <hrapfeedback@multco.us>

4 feedback points

Victory LaFara, MSW [Village Program Specialist] <victory@dignityvillage.org>

Thu, Mar 28, 2024 at 4:34 PM

To: HRAPfeedback@multco.us



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-There needs to be requirements for the low income units of housing to have a minimum of one bedroom and have a certain percentage of multi-bedroom units in order to qualify for funding or tax incentives. Poor people deserve better than substandard housing and 1-bedroom units are NOT "family housing". LGBTQ+ and POC communities have culturally specific needs for multi-bedroom housing. Some specific examples are for multigenerational families, polycule relationships, and chosen familial groups. You actually house more people for less money if you build multi-bedroom units than studios. POC orgs have done extensive research and have consistently contributed this feedback to advisory committees and it is infuriating to see this feedback so consistently ignored and left out of such plans. Flooding the market with SROs and studios will systematically exclude some of the most disproportionately impoverished minority groups or force them into overcrowded tenement slum conditions.

-Impoverished people rely on organic social support and resource networks to successfully survive and thrive. Impoverished people usually gather and form social bonds in their homes when the weather is bad because restaurants, bars, shows, etc. are too expensive. Taking living room space away from people impacts their ability to host friends and maintain active friendships and social lives and resource sharing.

-The shelter bed availability tool will need to be tested on a variety of intake types. Every shelter is different and for very valid programmatic reasons. All will need to be considered for the software design.

-Pg 15 problematically indicates that LGBTQ+ shelters should be focused on single people. This is negative stereotyping and comes from controlling images of queer people as not able to have or not valuing romantic relationships or having families. Queer people often struggle to find safe, affirming shelter for couples. Furthermore, queer people tend to be more open to polyamorous relationships, such as trios/triads. Finding shelter for larger relationships can be even more of a barrier to shelter. Additionally, many unhoused queer people prefer to live in chosen familial groups and find shelter models unaccommodating in that way as well. Culturally-specific shelters should actually be culturally-specific in their overall designs (programmatic and structural), not just their demographic admissions criteria.

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Victory LaFara, MSW (they, them, theirs) [Why do pronouns matter?](#)

Village Program Specialist

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[9401 NE Sunderland Ave Portland, OR 97211](#)

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[Click here to support Dignity Village with a one-time or recurring gift](#)

"Any human power can be resisted & changed by human beings" - Ursula LeGuin

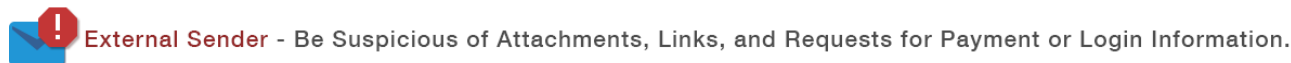


HRAP Feed Back <hrapfeedback@multco.us>

Project Access NOW Feedback on Homelessness Response Action Plan

Peter Merritt <peter.merritt@projectaccessnow.org>
To: "HRAPfeedback@multco.us" <HRAPfeedback@multco.us>
Cc: Carly Hood-Ronick <carly.hood-ronick@projectaccessnow.org>

Fri, Mar 22, 2024 at 12:56 PM



Good afternoon,

Please find feedback attached from Project Access NOW on the recently released Homelessness Response Action Plan. Don't hesitate to reach out if you have any questions or if we could provide further insight, support, or partnership. Thank you for your continued commitment to this work!

Much appreciated,
Peter

Peter Merritt

Public Affairs Manager | **Project Access NOW**
he/him/his

main 503.345.6553 x 402 | **direct** 503.208.9078

peter.merritt@projectaccessnow.org

650 NE Holladay St, Suite 1700, Portland, OR 97232 (by appointment only)

www.projectaccessnow.org

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PANOW Homelessness Response Action Plan Comments 03.22.2024.pdf
93K

March 22nd, 2024

Dear Chair Pederson, Mayor Wheeler, and Homelessness Response Action Plan Team,

My name is Carly Hood-Ronick, and I am writing to you today as the CEO of Portland-based nonprofit organization Project Access NOW to provide feedback on the recently revealed Homelessness Response Action Plan (HRAP). As a community-based organization providing access to health care and health-related resources for individuals in need in the Portland metro area, many of whom are experiencing or at risk of homelessness, Project Access NOW has a unique understanding of the intersection between health care, housing, and social services. These issues do not exist in a vacuum, and there is a wealth of data to support the benefits of addressing these needs holistically and improving systems alignment between these sectors. We are pleased to see an ambitious and comprehensive strategy to do so laid out by your offices in the new HRAP and look forward to supporting the City and County in these efforts.

We are especially pleased to see a commitment in Goals #1, #4, and #5 of the plan to improving system navigation, care coordination, hospital discharge pathways, and most importantly, identifying the correct source of funding for the correct service. It's no secret that our care system is fragmented, with entities at every corner of the system often running into barriers in referring clients for additional services, navigating the complex process of accessing Medicaid and community benefit dollars, getting the appropriate follow-up once their clients have been referred, and ensuring a successful transition to the next step in the process towards permanent housing and health. Project Access NOW has spent years developing the infrastructure to act as a front door for service providers, FQHCs, hospitals, CCOs, and other entities to seamlessly assist individuals in navigating through the health system, correctly identifying the source of funding for the services they need, acting as a single point of contracting for a diverse network of resources, and making sure all stakeholders have the information, follow-up, and data they need to serve their clients effectively. Last year, Project Access NOW connected 16,961 individuals to social support services, funded by over \$12 million in Medicaid flex service and hospital community benefit dollars. **As you continue to develop this plan, we highly encourage the City and County to look to organizations like Project Access NOW who have already developed these networks of navigation, care coordination, and billing and bring us to the table when developing new infrastructure or coordinating bodies.**

The new HRAP lays out ambitious goals and metrics for our region, which are openly welcomed by Project Access NOW. In pursuit of these goals, it is critical to not duplicate existing efforts and systems, and to instead integrate those systems into a comprehensive

and cohesive plan that aims to avoid further silos or “resetting” of efforts that have already built valuable infrastructure. As you develop the bodies of governance for these efforts, including but not limited to the Steering and Oversight, Implementation, and Community Advisory Committees, it’s critical that community organizations and service providers be heavily represented at all levels of governance. These are the organizations that have already built systems and infrastructure for this work and have proven established relationships with the vulnerable populations who will ultimately be served by this plan. And these entities **MUST** be resourced appropriately to retain and expand their workforce.

The benefits of engaging existing organizations to do this work are numerous, and Project Access NOW looks forward to partnering with the City and County in these efforts. We would be pleased to provide any assistance or guidance needed. Thank you for the opportunity to provide comment.

Thank you,

Carly Hood-Ronick, MPA, MPH



President and CEO

Project Access NOW

CC: PANOW Public Affairs Manager, Peter Merritt
peter.merritt@projectaccessnow.org



HRAP Feed Back <hrapfeedback@multco.us>

Good plan that won't work until we fix how we contract with nonprofits

Andy Nelson <anelson@impactnw.org>

Fri, Mar 29, 2024 at 9:32 AM

To: HRAPfeedback@multco.us

Hey, Friends -

Thank you for the opportunity to give feedback on the Draft Homelessness Response Action Plan. First off, it's the plan we've all been looking for. The public needs all of us on the literal same page. This plan answers that call. I like the new governance and accountability structures. That's been missing and contributing to the general public distrust. Setting ambitious goals is important so I support the aim to reduce unsheltered homelessness by 50%.

Two recommendations:

1. The plan is too heavy on shelter as a solution. Let's continue to prioritize long-term rent assistance + case management as more humane and cost-effective solutions. Shelters are expensive, hard to staff and unpopular with people living outside. I know that people want to see results now. But a shelter-based solution just kicks the can down the road. Stay firm and press for housing-based solutions, as other cities have shown works.
2. This plan is trying to solve a 21st-Century problem with a 20th-Century solution. Unless the County and City plans to hire hundreds of front-line workers to do this work, it will continue to rely upon nonprofit service providers and an antiquated contracting process that will doom this plan to failure. The County's own CFO and procurement chief testified before the County Council last week that the procurement process needs reform. It's not centralized and overlooks the needs of nonprofit service providers. Low wages for the workers on the front line is a core failing. We've already seen this play out as JOHS, for example, is unable to distribute millions to service providers simply because we can't attract and hire the needed workforce. The success of this plan is interdependent on the success of nonprofit service providers. The City and County must first modernize their contracting processes if they are ever to achieve the ambitious goals of the plan.

Thank you,

Andy

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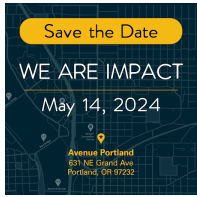
ANDY NELSON

Executive Director **IMPACT NW**

503-721-1767

He/Him/His







HRAP Feed Back <hrapfeedback@multco.us>

Feedback on the Draft Homeless Response Action Plan

Rebecca Scully <rebecca.ann.scully@gmail.com>

Fri, Mar 29, 2024 at 9:46 AM

To: HRAPfeedback@multco.us



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Thank you for this opportunity to comment on the draft Homeless Response Action Plan.

Although I am grateful for this collaborative effort between the City of Portland and Multnomah County, this plan does not address nor provide for the urgent needs of families with children experiencing homelessness and instead focuses too narrowly on visible single adult populations.

In the last school year (2022-23), the Oregon Department of Education reported that 4,008 students experienced homelessness in Multnomah County alone. While heartbreaking, that figure doesn't even include their preschool siblings, or their parents. Additionally, Oregon has more homeless families with children than any other state in the country (as reported by KOIN News Dec 2023).

Children who don't have homes are the most vulnerable people in our community, yet the homeless family system at the Joint Office of Homeless Services (JOHS) receives less than 10% of the total annual JOHS dollars.

The homeless children of today are the chronically homeless adults of the future. If we ever are going to break the cycle of poverty and homelessness, we must focus on providing services to families right now.

Additionally, the Homeless Resource Action Plan should focus on moving people from homelessness to housing by increasing the available rent assistance and providing extra case management to help people move into housing and keep their homes for good. While shelter can be helpful, it doesn't actually end homelessness. We must focus on moving people through shelter and into permanent housing.

I urge Multnomah County and the City of Portland to update the draft plan to include and specifically address the needs of families with children experiencing homelessness.

Rebecca Scully

" Relegating grizzlies to Alaska is like relegating happiness to heaven; One may never get there"- Aldo Leopold



HRAP Feed Back <hrapfeedback@multco.us>

Homeless Response plan feedback

Sean Suib <ssuib@newavenues.org>

Fri, Mar 29, 2024 at 10:22 AM

To: "HRAPfeedback@multco.us" <HRAPfeedback@multco.us>



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Chris and HRAP team,

First I want to thank you all for all the work that has gone into creating the current HRAP draft. It synthesizes an incredible amount of information and provides important insight and concrete strategies needed to address the current crisis. From my vantage point as an Executive Director of a non-profit that serves youth experiencing homelessness and those on the cusp (including youth aging out of foster care), I would offer a few considerations:

1. First and foremost, I want to raise concern that the plan does not highlight, strategize, or prioritize stabilization of the current JOHS service provider community, which is struggling. As the County/City knows from the numerous provider advocacy efforts (wage study, Workforce Modernization legislation...), the current contract model for social services is teetering on the edge. Non-profits are unable to hire, retain, or support their employees and organizations are turning away contracts/opportunities to help due to limited capacity. When contracts are accepted, performance (impact on people experiencing homelessness), is diminished and challenged by instability caused by the funding model. While the HRAP mentions behavioral health workforce and doing a gap analysis, makes minor mention of workforce needs to improve supportive housing services, and identifies workforce and wage improvement as a future consideration, these references are mere footnotes in contrast to the seriousness of the problem. There are very important investments and expansion identified in the plan (for example the need to expand shelter and build housing) however, if any part of the HRAP is going to be successfully the County/City must first stabilize and allow for the improvement of the services that currently exist. Above all else, we need to prioritize a homeless-services workforce development and stabilization plan and address true cost and living wage issues. I believe this is even more important than the need for developing the behavioral health workforce, because shelter workers, day center workers and outreach staff have become the de facto front line in behavioral health.
2. Given that time experiencing homelessness as a youth is the greatest predictor of adult homelessness, I am seriously concerned that there is not any focus on youth currently experiencing homelessness. Further, youth and young adults experiencing homelessness have both very different and some intersecting, needs as older adults. The lack of prioritization/mention in the plan illuminates a growing concern that our community's response to youth homelessness has been slowly merging with our response to adult homelessness (one size fits all), as the dominant strategies being identified and funded are driven by focus on adults. We need an updated assessment of younger youth (13-20) housing instability/homelessness needs, and separately an assessment of needs of young adults (20-25) experiencing literal homelessness. These are too very different youth populations and both have significantly different needs than each other, and also than older adults. Focus on youth is the most important root cause intervention, and I am certain strategies and priorities would shift based on this increased focus (ie...developmentally aligned housing, services for housing unstable families with teens, focus on developmentally and culturally aligned substance use and mental health supports- building them because they do not exist, focus on last step homeless adult system diversion). The HRAP could make significant progress by differentiating these populations of youth from older adults, and calling for increased mapping and investment in the specific intervention needs.

3. I appreciate the identification of priority for populations transitioning out of systems (Justice, Behavioral Health, Foster Care). Specific to youth aging out of foster care, I further appreciate the focus on connecting state and County systems, especially housing navigation. However it is important to share that the state ILP system is itself in crisis. Statewide, ILP providers have joined together to advocate to ODHS for stabilization in core funding and increased investment. More importantly though, the state ILP system in design, financially disincentivizes serving the highest needs youth (both youth referred to ILP and the many high needs youth not referred). I encourage the HRAP to expand focus to include the youth aging out of care that are in temporary lodging (the group most likely to end up homeless) and those that have the greatest behavioral health challenges (as these youth are the most direct feeders to young adult homelessness). Further, I appreciate the strategy of increased utilization of FYI housing vouchers as critical, however, youth aging out of foster care often need more intensive skills training and developmental support than non-system involved youth (skill deficits exasperated by the dependency system they are exiting). Many of these youth are not ready to live in independent, subsidized housing, hence using housing vouchers as the key homeless prevention strategy (as outlined in this plan), will likely harm developmentally unprepared youth (social isolation, self-harm, exasperated mental health, substance use overdose). We see this happening right now. I encourage the HRAP planners to broaden the focus in the HRAP foster youth housing strategy to including investing in the development and support of new supervised, highly supported, transitional housing options and other housing models with staged levels of self-sufficiency.

Again, thank you for all the work on the HRAP and for engagement opportunities to influence the focus and content of the plan.



Sean Suib
Executive Director
He/Him/His
P: 503-517-3921

www.newavenues.org



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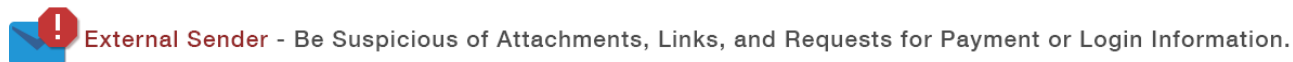


HRAP Feed Back <hrapfeedback@multco.us>

Feedback

Tammy Boysen Wilhoite <tammywilhoite@gmail.com>
To: HRAPfeedback@multco.us

Fri, Mar 29, 2024 at 11:18 AM



External Sender - Be Suspicious of Attachments, Links, and Requests for Payment or Login Information.

Thank you for this opportunity to comment on the draft Homeless Response Action Plan.

Although I am grateful for this collaborative effort between the City of Portland and Multnomah County, this plan does not address nor provide for the urgent needs of families with children experiencing homelessness and instead focuses too narrowly on visible single adult populations.

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Children who don't have homes are the most vulnerable people in our community, yet the homeless family system at JOHS receives less than 10% of the total annual JOHS dollars.

The homeless children of today are the chronically homeless adults of the future. If we ever are going to break the cycle of poverty and homelessness, we must focus on providing services to families right now.

Additionally, the Homeless Resource Action Plan should focus on moving people from homelessness to housing by increasing the available rent assistance and providing extra case management to help people move into housing and keep their homes for good. While shelter can be helpful, it doesn't actually end homelessness. We must focus on moving people through shelter and into permanent housing.

I urge Multnomah County and the City of Portland to update the draft plan to include and specifically address the needs of families with children experiencing homelessness. An excellent start would be to add Homeless Families with Children as a priority population on Page 8 of the plan, though I hope you'll do much more.

Tammy
503-781-0921

Sent via mobile which may have induced brevity

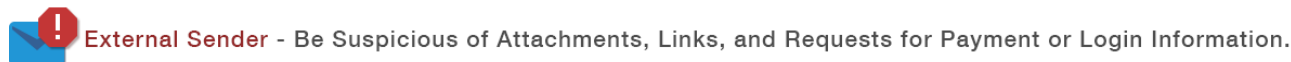


HRAP Feed Back <hrapfeedback@multco.us>

Comments

Jarrett Eggenberger <JEggenberger@epbb.com>
To: "HRAPfeedback@multco.us" <HRAPfeedback@multco.us>

Fri, Mar 29, 2024 at 11:19 AM



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Thank you

Jarrett Eggenberger

IT Assistant

Elliott, Powell, Baden & Baker, Inc.

503-445-8424

503-445-8431 (fax)

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HRAP Feed Back <hrapfeedback@multco.us>

Homeless Response Action plan should include students, preschoolers and their parents

Marc Baker <MBaker@epbb.com>

Fri, Mar 29, 2024 at 11:20 AM

To: "HRAPfeedback@multco.us" <HRAPfeedback@multco.us>



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Greetings,

Thank you for this opportunity to comment on the draft Homeless Response Action Plan.

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4/15/24, 10:46 AM

Multnomah County Mail - Homeless Response Action plan should include students, preschoolers and their parents

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Marc Baker



HRAP Feed Back <hrapfeedback@multco.us>

Homeless Response Action Plan

Olivia Astrue <OAstrue@epbb.com>

Fri, Mar 29, 2024 at 11:26 AM

To: "HRAPfeedback@multco.us" <HRAPfeedback@multco.us>



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4/15/24, 10:46 AM

Multnomah County Mail - Homeless Response Action Plan

Olivia Astrue

Personal Lines Account Manager

Elliott, Powell, Baden & Baker, Inc.

971-255-5190

971-255-5186 (fax)

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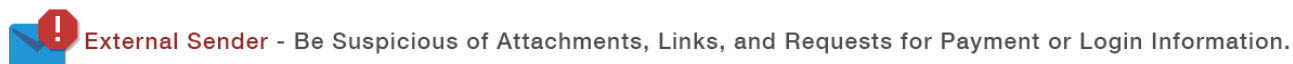


HRAP Feed Back <hrapfeedback@multco.us>

Ella Dawley Path Home Volunteer Lead HRAP feedback

Ella Dawley <ella.dawley1@gmail.com>
To: HRAPfeedback@multco.us

Fri, Mar 29, 2024 at 11:32 AM



Hi HRAP Team,

Thank you for this opportunity to comment on the draft Homeless Response Action Plan.

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I urge Multnomah County and the City of Portland to update the draft plan to include and specifically address the needs of families with children experiencing homelessness. An excellent start would be to add Homeless Families with Children as a priority population on Page 8 of the plan, though I hope you'll do much more. As well as some of the other barriers that homeless families with children face, such as guardians and/or children being neurodivergent, and/or having other disabilities that you did not include in your draft, (but that should be included). As an autistic/Bipolar/queer woman, I cannot stand for others like me to become, or even worse, to remain, homeless.

4/15/24, 10:47 AM

Multnomah County Mail - Ella Dawley Path Home Volunteer Lead HRAP feedback

Please feel free to follow up with me if you have any questions or if I can further break down for you anything I've typed in this email.

Thanks,

Ella Dawley, Path Home Volunteer Lead

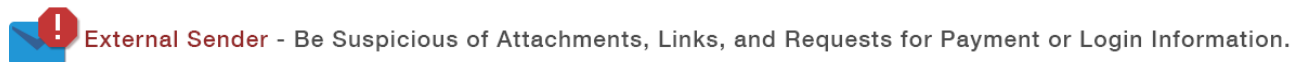


HRAP Feed Back <hrapfeedback@multco.us>

Homeless Feedback & Input...!!

Russ Mosser <russmosser@gmail.com>
To: HRAPfeedback@multco.us

Fri, Mar 29, 2024 at 11:38 AM



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OK, U turkeys, now's the time to do something POSITIVE With this Problem:

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- Russ Mosser

"Service to others is the rent we pay for living on this Planet"

4/15/24, 10:47 AM

Multnomah County Mail - Homeless Feedback & Input...!!

Sent from: Russ Mosser's iPhone.
CP: 602-625-9824



HRAP Feed Back <hrapfeedback@multco.us>

Homeless Response Action Plan response

Paula Bernstein <paulabernstein@gmail.com>

Fri, Mar 29, 2024 at 11:40 AM

To: HRAPfeedback@multco.us



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To whom it may concern:

I am an active volunteer for Path Home, an organization which empowers families with children to get back into housing and stay there.

Thank you for this opportunity to comment on the draft Homeless Response Action Plan.

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4/15/24, 10:47 AM

Multnomah County Mail - Homeless Response Action Plan response

8 of the plan, though I hope you'll do much more.

Thanks,

Paula Bernstein Orkin

[1574 SE Poplar Avenue](#)

[Portland, OR 97214](#)



HRAP Feed Back <hrapfeedback@multco.us>

Homeless Response Action Plan comments

Ronni Phillips <RPhillips@epbb.com>

Fri, Mar 29, 2024 at 11:53 AM

To: "hrapfeedback@multco.us" <hrapfeedback@multco.us>



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Thank you,

Ronni Phillips

Commercial Account Manager

Elliott, Powell, Baden & Baker, Inc.

503-445-8406

503-445-8456 (fax)

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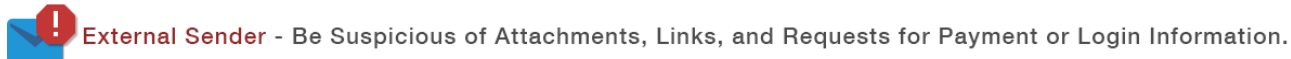


HRAP Feed Back <hrapfeedback@multco.us>

Homeless Response Action Plan

Frank Baccellieri <frankbaccellieri@comcast.net>
To: "HRAPfeedback@multco.us" <HRAPfeedback@multco.us>

Fri, Mar 29, 2024 at 11:55 AM



Hello,

I've heard you want comments from the public.

1. One question is, have any of you met with the successful local organizations who work daily to provide help for the homeless? If not, please do as they are a wealth of information and ideas.
2. What national program is succeeding where others are not? If you can't answer this question, I suggest you do.
3. And to expand on question #2, why do you folks always have to come up with something new when there are successful plans in other States? Although today the homelessness problem is in epidemic status in many left Cities and States. And while some specifics here may be helpful, there are general conditions that occur in every affected city.
4. Homeless families are rarely talked about in the press. Is it too painful to experience, so the press backs off for political reasons? It sure seems that way as we have so much trouble and strife here. I've had the sad experience to see too many little kids following there parents around as they trudge from one area or camp to another or wherever they are going. The homeless children of today are the chronically homeless adults of the future. If we ever are going to break the cycle of poverty and homelessness, we must focus on providing services to families. Sooner is best. Please make this a priority with solid solutions from trained experts. We want to solve these issues not perpetuate them.

Thank you,

Frank Baccellieri



HRAP Feed Back <hrapfeedback@multco.us>

Request for comment

Kay Stepp <kay@kaystepp.com>

Fri, Mar 29, 2024 at 11:56 AM

To: "HRAPfeedback@multco.us" <HRAPfeedback@multco.us>

**External Sender** - Be Suspicious of Attachments, Links, and Requests for Payment or Login Information.

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Kay Stepp

4/15/24, 10:49 AM

Multnomah County Mail - Request for comment

Portland, Oregon 97225



HRAP Feed Back <hrapfeedback@multco.us>

Public Comment

Michael Harrison <harmicha@ohsu.edu>

Fri, Mar 29, 2024 at 12:04 PM

To: "HRAPfeedback@multco.us" <HRAPfeedback@multco.us>



External Sender - Be Suspicious of Attachments, Links, and Requests for Payment or Login Information.

Hello,

Thank you for the opportunity to provide feedback on the HRAP plan and for all the work that went into creating it. As the HRAP planning moves forward, OHSU wanted to make sure you were aware of our efforts to avoid discharging houseless individuals back to the street – please see the attached.

Thanks so much, please reach out to me with any questions about our many programs,

Michael

Michael Harrison (he, him, his)

Director of Local Relations

OHSU

503-381-8539



OHSU Public Comment.pdf

115K



March 29, 2024

Dear members of the Multnomah County Commission and Portland City Council,

On behalf of Oregon Health & Science University (OHSU), I want to thank you for your ongoing work to address the housing, mental health and addiction crises facing our community. At its core, OHSU is an organization dedicated to improving the health and well-being of all. This commitment drives OHSU's statutory missions of health care, education, research and community outreach.

Currently, OHSU faces significant and persistent challenges in meeting the demand for our services. With limited to no capacity in our emergency department and inpatient environment, we struggle to find space for individuals from Multnomah County and across the state who may need the lifesaving, complex care that the state's academic health center aims to provide. As we grapple with unprecedented demand from individuals seeking care for a wide variety of conditions, our hospital emergency department – like others in the community – has also become the place of last resort for individuals experiencing substance use-related medical crises and mental health challenges.

OHSU has made a number of investments and been proactive in developing strategies that keep patients connected to needed services, instead of returning to the street. These include:

- Working with skilled nursing facilities, intermediate care facilities, and adult foster homes to develop key programs to support the needs of our most vulnerable patients.
- Providing a Multnomah County eligibility worker at OHSU focused on helping patients access Medicaid-funded assisted living facilities, adult foster homes, residential care facilities, and intermediate care facilities.
- Facilitating access to a private guardian to support patients who lack capacity and have no family or friends to support them, so the guardian can assist with long-term care placement in a post-acute care setting.
- Assisting patients with access to shelters, hotel stays, and temporary apartments to help patients have a safe place to heal, and the opportunity to receive home health nursing, social work and rehabilitation services.

**Office of CEO
OHSU Health**

tel 503 494-1450
fax 503 346-8334

www.ohsu.edu

Mail code: CR96
3181 S.W. Sam Jackson Park Rd.
Portland, OR 97239

**John G. Hunter, M.D., FACS,
FRCS, Edin(hon)**
EVP | Chief Executive Officer
hunterj@ohsu.edu

- Supporting patients who will benefit from the Recuperative Care Program (RCP). The RCP staff work on short-term and permanent living options for the patients.
- Connecting terminally ill patients to hospice facilities to allow patients to die in a peaceful, safe environment.

In addition, OHSU has a care transitions team that provides patient-centered, intensive community-based case management and care coordination. This service is aimed at serving houseless and housing insecure patients who experience chronic and complex medical and psychosocial needs, many of which are related to social determinants of health.

Even with all of OHSU's strategies to support a patient-centered discharge plan, at times a patient's criminal or behavioral health history means we have limited or no options after they receive care. In addition, patients who are physically and mentally capable of making their own choices sometimes don't see themselves fitting into existing programs and choose to return to the street. We are heartened to hear that the City and County are seeking to address all these issues.

As the City Council and Commission embark on this effort, we want to ensure you are aware of the challenges OHSU and other hospitals are facing, as well as the impacts on care for individuals across the state. OHSU will continue to pursue the creative strategies I've outlined here and do our part to serve the community – as we have done since our founding more than 135 years ago. Together, we have an opportunity to address these crises, ensure we are not putting further strain on an already overburdened health care system, and redouble our collective efforts to prevent discharges to the street.

Thank you for your time and thoughtful consideration.

Sincerely,

John G. Hunter, M.D., FACS, FRCS, Edin(hon)

Executive Vice President, OHSU

Chief Executive Officer, OHSU Health



HRAP Feed Back <hrapfeedback@multco.us>

Homeless Response Action Plan

Lori Dryer <LDryer@epbb.com>

Fri, Mar 29, 2024 at 12:04 PM

To: "HRAPfeedback@multco.us" <HRAPfeedback@multco.us>

**External Sender** - Be Suspicious of Attachments, Links, and Requests for Payment or Login Information.

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I urge Multnomah County and the City of Portland to update the draft plan to include and specifically address the needs of families with children experiencing homelessness. An excellent start would be to add Homeless Families with Children as a priority population on Page 8 of the plan, though I hope you'll do much more.

Thank you,

Lori Dryer, CISR

Personal Lines Account Manager

Elliott, Powell, Baden & Baker, Inc

503-445-8410 direct

503-274-7644 fax

Please note that our office will be closing at 2:00 pm on Friday, March 29, 2024 and will reopen Monday, April 1, 2024 at 8:00 am.

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HRAP Feed Back <hrapfeedback@multco.us>

Homeless Response Action Plan

Donna Jones <DJones@epbb.com>

Fri, Mar 29, 2024 at 12:10 PM

To: "HRAPfeedback@multco.us" <HRAPfeedback@multco.us>



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4/15/24, 10:50 AM

Multnomah County Mail - Homeless Response Action Plan

Donna Jones, CISR

Personal Account Manager

Elliott, Powell, Baden & Baker, Inc.

503-445-8415

503-445-8465 (fax)

CA License #4135085

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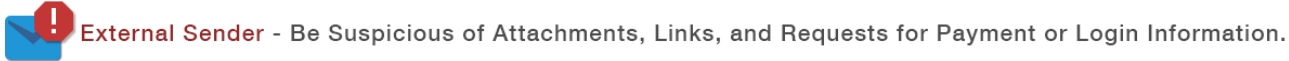


HRAP Feed Back <hrapfeedback@multco.us>

Homeless Response Action Plan

Lynetta ALLENBRAND <bl_allenbrand@comcast.net>
To: "HRAPfeedback@multco.us" <HRAPfeedback@multco.us>

Fri, Mar 29, 2024 at 12:27 PM



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I urge Multnomah County and the City of Portland to update the draft plan to include and specifically address the needs of families with children experiencing homelessness. An excellent start would be to add Homeless Families with Children as a priority population on Page 8 of the plan, though I hope you'll do much more.

I have supported Path Home with leading a group to provide dinners and lunches. It is amazing to see how families are made whole again and are able to get out of homelessness and be productive again.

Bob



HRAP Feed Back <hrapfeedback@multco.us>

Homeless Response Action Plan

Debbie Hill <debbie.hill611@gmail.com>
Reply-To: debbie.hill611@gmail.com
To: HRAPfeedback@multco.us
Cc: Debbie Hill <debbie.hill611@gmail.com>

Fri, Mar 29, 2024 at 12:36 PM



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Dear Multnomah County and Portland City: I am writing to comment on the draft Homeless Response Action Plan. Although I am glad to see that the City and County have drafted a badly needed strategic plan to address homelessness, the plan focuses too narrowly on visible single populations. We know that there is a very significant number of homeless families that include children. (For instance, last school year, the Oregon Dept. of Education reported that 4,000+ students in the County experienced homelessness, and that figure of course does not include their parents or younger siblings not yet in school). I am advocating that you update the draft plan to include and specifically address the needs of families with children, and include them as a priority population on page 8 of the Plan.

In addition, the Plan appears to focus on getting homeless populations off the street and into shelters or temporary housing. Although this is an important step, shelter does not actually end homelessness. It is clear from the numbers that the City and County have reported on for the last year (for instance, the Clinton Triangle figures earlier this month) that additional wrap-around services are critical to move these individuals and families into permanent housing. I hope that the Plan can be amended to include additional plans detailing the actions that will be taken to move populations from shelter to permanent housing.

Thank you for considering these issues. I look forward to reviewing the final Plan.

Debbie Hill
3534 S. Corbett Ave.
Portland OR 97239



HRAP Feed Back <hrapfeedback@multco.us>

Homeless Response Action Plan Comments

Christine Carr <christinecarr31@gmail.com>

Fri, Mar 29, 2024 at 12:44 PM

To: HRAPfeedback@multco.us



External Sender - Be Suspicious of Attachments, Links, and Requests for Payment or Login Information.

Dear Sirs and Madams,

Thank you for this opportunity to comment on the draft Homeless Response Action Plan.

Although I am grateful for this collaborative effort between the City of Portland and Multnomah County, this plan does not address nor provide for the urgent needs of families with children experiencing homelessness and instead focuses too narrowly on visible single adult populations.

Please please please put more effort towards children and families!

In the last school year (2022-23), the Oregon Department of Education reported that 4,008 students experienced homelessness in Multnomah County alone. While heartbreaking, that figure doesn't even include their preschool siblings, or their parents. Additionally, Oregon has more homeless families with children than any other state in the country (as reported by KOIN News Dec 2023).

Children who don't have homes are the most vulnerable people in our community, yet the homeless family system at JOHS receives less than 10% of the total annual JOHS dollars.

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Additionally, the Homeless Resource Action Plan should focus on moving people from homelessness to housing by increasing the available rent assistance and providing extra case management to help people move into housing and keep their homes for good. While shelter can be helpful, it doesn't actually end homelessness. We must focus on moving people through shelter and into permanent housing.

I urge Multnomah County and the City of Portland to update the draft plan to include and specifically address the needs of families with children experiencing homelessness. An excellent start would be to add Homeless Families with Children as a priority population on Page 8 of the plan, though I hope you'll do much more.

Please consider the children! Center them in your work. Our future depends on it.

Regards,
Christine Carr



HRAP Feed Back <hrapfeedback@multco.us>

Path Home - a great way forward

Mary Brooks <mkbrooks418@gmail.com>
To: HRAPfeedback@multco.us

Fri, Mar 29, 2024 at 12:54 PM



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I urge Multnomah County and the City of Portland to update the draft plan to include and specifically address the needs of families with children experiencing homelessness. An excellent start would be to add Homeless Families with Children as a priority population on Page 8 of the plan, though I hope you'll do much more.

I am a faithful supporter of Path Home. It is an organization that is highly successful because they shelter families, support them, help them into housing, and support them again as they transition. Path Home also has a prevention program which helps

families STAY in their homes rather than start over with the devastating trauma of homelessness, finding a home and then dealing with the awful expense of first and last month's rent. Please support this amazing organization, a model for the city, the state, and the country.

***Sincerely,
Mary Brooks***

--

Mary Brooks
she/her/hers
mkbrooks418@gmail.com



HRAP Feed Back <hrapfeedback@multco.us>

Homelessness in my county /see notes

John Goldsmith <jgjohngoldsmith@gmail.com>
To: "hrapfeedback@multco.us" <hrapfeedback@multco.us>

Fri, Mar 29, 2024 at 1:31 PM



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HRAP Feed Back <hrapfeedback@multco.us>

Providing Feedback on Shelter Beds

Lizz Schallert <eschallert08@gmail.com>
To: HRAPfeedback@multco.us

Fri, Mar 29, 2024 at 2:07 PM



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Greetings,

I'm a local social work professor at the University of Portland, and am deeply concerned about the Homeless Response Action Plan being proposed. We need significantly more expansive services, and need specific programs for different populations to meet the massive need of our unhoused community.

The plan only calls for 150 more family shelter beds by December 2025. I have been supporting the work of the Asylum Seeker Solidarity Collective, and we know over 150 family members on the waitlist for shelter today from the asylum seeking community alone! There is no mention of support for unhoused immigrant community members in this budget as it stands. More family shelter beds is good for EVERYONE.

Please act quickly to expand housing resources, and please do so quickly for the asylum seeking community, many of whom are losing housing THIS WEEK due to local policy changes and lack of financial resources for asylum seekers.

Lizz Schallert
[6920 NE Hancock St](#)
[Portland OR 97213](#)
616-402-9061

--

Lizz Schallert

they/them and she/her pronouns

"We have all known the long loneliness and we have learned that the only solution is love and that love comes with community." -Dorothy Day

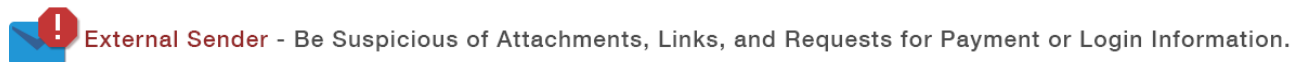


HRAP Feed Back <hrapfeedback@multco.us>

Homeless Response Action Plan

Jennifer Zeidman <jennyztld@yahoo.com>
To: HRAPfeedback@multco.us

Fri, Mar 29, 2024 at 2:20 PM



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Hello,

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I urge Multnomah County and the City of Portland to update the draft plan to include and specifically address the needs of families with children experiencing homelessness. An excellent start would be to add Homeless Families with Children as a priority population on Page 8 of the plan, though I hope you'll do much more.

Thank you for your partnership and advocacy! I am grateful for your support!

Sincerely,
Jennifer Zeidman
Portland, OR
Pronouns she/her
Sent from my iPhone



HRAP Feed Back <hrapfeedback@multco.us>

Homeless Response Action Plan

Mike Maloney <orangeman75@yahoo.com>
To: HRAPfeedback@multco.us

Fri, Mar 29, 2024 at 2:30 PM



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Michael Maloney
Financial Supporter Of Path Home
Sent from my iPad

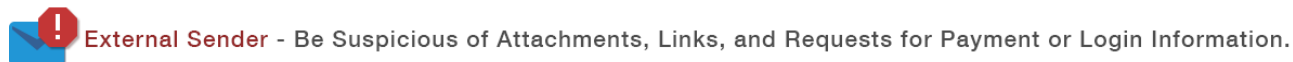


HRAP Feed Back <hrapfeedback@multco.us>

Public comment on HRAP

Thomas Hickey <hickeyt@gmail.com>
To: HRAPfeedback@multco.us

Fri, Mar 29, 2024 at 3:13 PM



Thank you for the hard work that has gone into developing a comprehensive outline for addressing the regional homelessness crisis. For a long time, Portland and Multnomah County has struggled with a dysfunctional and uncoordinated collection of non-interlinked programs that had no foundational or systemic organization to ensure continuity of care for our neighbors in need. We feel that the potential for a functional, operational system is built into the new HRAP program.

However, we have some concerns:

- There has been no evidence to date for the long term sustainability of a cooperative relationship between the city and county on this topic, and with upcoming elections the rhetoric from candidates is already contentious. JOHS does not have much credibility in the community for serious devotion to the work at hand beyond mechanical bureaucracy at the most casual level. The HRAP will require a fierce and athletic devotion to the program plan, and we are skeptical that the resources to actually move the plan to fruition are, or will remain, on task.
- The policies of self-examination and continuous improvement that underlie Built For Zero, and are specifically laid out as fundamentals for the HRAP program, require honest and ongoing feedback within the program organization, but also between the program and the community. The idea of a "public comment period" that opens for a duration and then closes (today) is antithetical to the premise of continuous improvement. What are the mechanisms for self-examination and community engagement? How will they be supported in a bureaucracy whose reputation is for deflection and finger-pointing?
- Effective execution of the HRAP program will require an army of staff, outreach workers, case managers, mental health professionals, etc. These positions have been underpopulated in Oregon for a good long while. How will HRAP correct for this deficit? How can it otherwise succeed?

We wish you the best results, and can only hope for the serious focus and professionally coordinated efforts that will be required.

Regards,

Tom Hickey



HRAP Feed Back <hrapfeedback@multco.us>

Downtown Neighborhood Association request concerning ommunity Advisory Committee - Homelessness Response Action Plan

Diana Stuart <Diana@stuartlegalsolutions.com>

Fri, Mar 29, 2024 at 4:44 PM

To: Feed Back Hrap <hrapfeedback@multco.us>, Ted Wheeler <mayorwheeler@portlandoregon.gov>

Cc: "mayor.chair@multco.us" <mayor.chair@multco.us>, DNA Board <dnaboard@portlanddowntownna.com>

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 **Homeless Response Action Plan.pdf**

228K



To: Multnomah County Chair Jessica Vega Peterson and
Portland Mayor Ted Wheeler

Date: March 27, 2024

Re: Governance of the Proposed Homeless Response Action Plan

From: The Downtown Neighborhood Association

Dear Chair Peterson and Mayor Wheeler;

The Portland Downtown Neighborhood Association (“DNA”) urges you to direct that the Community Advisory Committee for the Homelessness Response Action Plan be increased from 14 to 15 members. The additional member should be designated as a citizen representative. We suggest that a DNA member would be an excellent choice.

The Downtown Neighborhood Association (“DNA”) is enheartened to receive and review the Homelessness Response Action Plan. We represent over 500 citizens who live, study, work and own businesses in the core of Portland - The Downtown.

As you know, we actively participate in every area of city and county governance where citizen involvement is possible. We love Portland and want to see the city revitalized. We live amidst and recognize the trauma of our houseless and homeless neighbors living on the streets struggling with behavioral health and addiction which often accompanies living in such abject circumstances. We have organized outreach with basic necessities (water, gloves and socks, etc.)

As part of the Neighbors West Northwest Coalition, we were cosponsors organizing two of the first public meetings of the City and County to address these emergency issues when little was actively occurring. Therefore, we are dismayed



to see such a lack of citizen involvement in the proposed governance structure established in Goal 8 of the Plan.

The Community Advisory Committee currently is designed to have 14 members, 10 of whom represent “business, labor, service providers, philanthropy, crisis response, first responders, affordable housing, street outreach/navigation, and health and recovery.”

What important group is missing? This committee has no citizen representation from a neighborhood association. We urge you to remedy this surprising and concerning oversight to increase the membership to 15 and include a representative from the Downtown Neighborhood Association.

Thank you,

Walter Weyler, Board Chair
Downtown Neighborhood Association



HRAP Feed Back <hrapfeedback@multco.us>

Homeless Response Action Plan

Angela Mullins <angela.mullins@multco.us>
To: HRAP Feed Back <HRAPfeedback@multco.us>

Wed, Mar 27, 2024 at 4:02 PM

Hello - thank you for allowing an opportunity to provide feedback. As I was listening to the plan, I kept coming back to wondering if at what point in the process is the JOHS data team brought in on program design and how outcomes will be tracked in HMIS?

I'm finding a gap between contracts being rolled out and providers not understanding how to use HMIS to track what is being asked of them to report on.

Thank you for your time.

Angela C. Mullins, MSW (she/her/hers)

HMIS System Administrator Specialist Senior
HMIS Data Team
Joint Office of Homeless Services (JOHS)
cell: 971.429.4088

Gladys McCoy Building
[619 NW 6th Avenue, Portland, OR 97209](#)



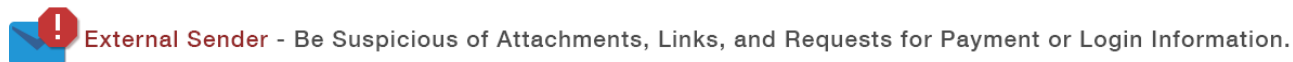


HRAP Feed Back <hrapfeedback@multco.us>

Homeless solutions

Kat Schon <kat.schon@gmail.com>
To: HRAPfeedback@multco.us

Fri, Mar 29, 2024 at 6:23 PM



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Path Home already has a program that works. Please additionally support what they do, in conjunction with your new policies.

Thank you for this opportunity to comment on the draft Homeless Response Action Plan.

Although I am grateful for this collaborative effort between the City of Portland and Multnomah County, this plan does not address nor provide for the urgent needs of families with children experiencing homelessness and instead focuses too narrowly on visible single adult populations.

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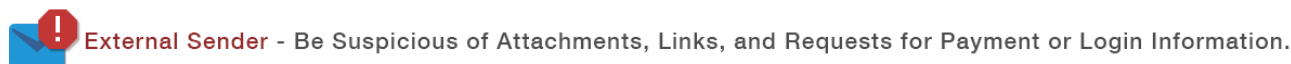


HRAP Feed Back <hrapfeedback@multco.us>

Homeless Response Action Plan Feedback

Jaclyn Wheatley <wrstlnprincess@gmail.com>
To: HRAPfeedback@multco.us

Fri, Mar 29, 2024 at 7:33 PM



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HRAP Feed Back <hrapfeedback@multco.us>

Homeless Response Action Plan, Feedback from Shelter Now

Sean Green <green@aforma.co>

Fri, Mar 29, 2024 at 9:26 PM

To: HRAPfeedback@multco.us, mult.chair@multco.us, District 1 <district1@multco.us>, District2 <district2@multco.us>, District 3 <district3@multco.us>, district4@multco.us, "Wheeler, Mayor" <MayorWheeler@portlandoregon.gov>, gonzalezoffice@portlandoregon.gov, comm.rubio@portlandoregon.gov, MappsOffice@portlandoregon.gov, "Ryan, Dan" <Daniel.ryan@portlandoregon.gov>

Cc: Serena Cruz <serena.cruz@multco.us>, dan.field@multco.us, johs@multco.us, stacy.borke@multco.us, Skyler.brocker-knapp@portlandoregon.gov



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Hope this finds you all well. Please see attached for feedback from Shelter Now on the Homeless Response Action Plan (also included in the body of the email). Best, Sean

We appreciate the time that went into developing the Homeless Response Action Plan and the opportunity to provide feedback. We agree that it is time to establish a “coordinated system that acts with precision, strategic focus, nimbleness and speed” and that subject matter and lived expertise must be at the center of this effort. Below we offer some feedback to consider as this process moves forward.

Pursue more Input from the Community

We believe more time is needed to ensure adequate input, particularly from those impacted most, like the Joint Office of Homeless Services (JOHS) Lived Experience Advisory Board, and other community groups, such as the independent Lived Experience Council that Shelter Now initiated and actively supports. The limited time for community engagement is something that Shelter Now has raised to Multnomah County with regard to homeless policy and budget proposals since 2020. We raise this again since we know many people are being left out because they are not aware of the deadline or do not have capacity to provide feedback during the public comment period. We are encouraged by statements that this plan will be viewed as “a living document.” If this is true, the framing around when/how people can give input should be changed so that it is clear that you are seeking additional feedback from the community and it will be considered as the plan moves forward.

Implement a Continuous Improvement Framework to Improve System Outcomes

Now that the leaders are reaching alignment on the overall structure and a commitment to collaboration, Shelter Now and others in the community are eager to look at the **implementation process** and anxious to learn what needs to come next. We have been advocating to leverage Built for Zero to help with implementation of the proposed “ambitious, coordinated, iterative approach to comprehensively aligning these systems and services”. We were pleased to see continuous improvement highlighted in Goal 7, Strategy 3, Action Item 1 of the draft plan (below) and offer the following feedback to create a more robust continuous improvement framework.

Strategy 3: Improve programming through continuous quality improvement and evaluation.		
Action Item	Date	Responsible
Develop and implement plans for continuous quality improvement that is collaborative, data driven, responsive and rigorous. The plan should require client feedback to refine and improve programming, communicate and support feedback loops, facilitate shared learning, cultivate a culture of continuous improvement, and support data use and improvements.	2025	HRS

Shelter Now continues to advocate that **Built for Zero be used as the system improvement framework** and to fully implement the collaboration and continuous improvement aspects that have proved successful in other jurisdictions. We know that those communities who have functionally ended unsheltered homelessness have achieved this through broad stakeholder collaboration to identify needs and opportunities informed by the data collected, test strategies, and adapt. The Plan-Do-Study-Act (PDCA) cycle is the tool BFZ utilizes for testing changes on a small scale in real-world settings by planning it, trying it, observing the results, and acting on what is learned. The By Name List (BNL) is used to both help identify opportunities for improvement and to understand if the changes have led to positive system-level outcomes.

Leaders in those communities that have successfully implemented BFZ have told us that the needs of any system are dynamic and what works or is needed today are not necessarily the needs of tomorrow. Developing this agile culture and capabilities that adapt to the current need is achieved by intentional focus and investments into the iterative problem-solving process, learning opportunities, and capacity for deep collaboration that supports transformation across multiple domains that intersect with the homelessness system.

The common thread across organizations who are achieving success in continuous improvement efforts with the BFZ framework is investing in the capacity to do this work and ensuring that the people who are doing the work have the appropriate mandate from

leadership to be successful. We present the following possible investment opportunities to help accelerate and achieve better system-level outcomes from the continuous improvement aspect of Built for Zero:

- Investing in one or more homelessness improvement advisors at the county level—reporting to the Chair or the Homeless Response System Director—who could coordinate improvement efforts across the region and lead collaboration with partner entities (e.g. City of Portland, State of Oregon, etc.).
- Create a continuous improvement division within the Joint Office of Homeless Services (JOHS) whose manager reports to the JOHS director. This would signal that the continuous improvement aspect of BFZ is a priority and gives a home to the team carrying out that work.
- Provide funding for service providers to create continuous improvement advisor positions who could interface with the JOHS continuous improvement team.
- Create a Continuous Improvement Institute to provide training, consulting and sharing of best practices across agencies and nonprofits in order to support and enable system transformation.

Have people with living/lived experience and front-line service provider employees drive continuous improvement efforts by identifying improvement opportunities (e.g. things in the system that frustrate them) and develop and test improvement ideas.

Consistent small improvements over time lead to large system improvements. We should start driving continuous improvement now. There are plenty of opportunities that we have heard from people with living/lived experience and service providers including:

- We have heard from service providers that delays in reimbursements have negatively impacted their service delivery. Dig into the issue (use the 5 Whys) and collaborate with service providers, Multnomah County contract, financial, and legal teams to develop and test ideas to improve the reimbursement process.
- We have heard from service providers and first responders that having a list of immediately available shelter beds would be helpful. We have seen other communities use existing technology (e.g. Google Sheets) to speed up testing and implementation by achieving a minimum viable product that is improved through iteration.
- We have heard from the independent Lived Experience Council that [more low-barrier jobs are needed](#), especially those that provide pick-up work opportunities. Are government agencies able to create a few pick-up work opportunities &/or help support a dispatching service for pick-up work opportunities?

We know that getting started on collaboration and continuous improvement efforts has been the key for other communities to achieve system-level transformation.

The call to action plan is quite compelling: “It is time for our system leaders to step into this breach and establish a much more broadly resourced and coordinated system that acts with precision, strategic focus, nimbleness and speed.” It is clear that extensive time has been invested to develop the Vision and Guiding Principles based on A Theory of Change, followed by the high-level

Outcomes, Foundational Strategies, and the Nine Goals. Congratulations to all of you who worked on the plan and wish you all the best as the work proceeds. Please be assured that your community partners, including Shelter Now, are here to support this work—and transform our systems—as challenging as it may be.

--

SEAN GREEN

Founder & COO, [Aforma](#)

Chair, [Shelter Now](#)

Co-Chair, [NECN](#)

Vice Chair, [DRAC](#) (Chair, [PITS](#))

c 971.998.7376 | IG: [@AFORMACO](#)



Shelter Now - Homeless Response Action Plan Feedback.pdf

293K



HRAP Feed Back <hrapfeedback@multco.us>

draft Homeless Response Action Plan

Blythe Olson <blytheolson@gmail.com>
To: HRAPfeedback@multco.us

Fri, Mar 29, 2024 at 9:53 PM



External Sender - Be Suspicious of Attachments, Links, and Requests for Payment or Login Information.

Dear County officials:

I appreciate this opportunity to comment on the draft Homeless Response Action Plan and assume it's meeting the deadline of March 29th.

I spent over eight years volunteering at Portland Homeless Family Solutions (formerly PHFS - now Path Home), sleeping on the floor with the families one night per week, preparing breakfast and seeing them off in the morning. This gave me insight into their world and struggles and needs. Many of the families were single parents and some were even three-generational...such an incredibly wide variety of circumstances.

Although I'm grateful for this collaborative effort between the City of Portland and Multnomah County, this draft plan does not really address or provide for the urgent needs of families with children experiencing homelessness but focuses on single homeless adults.

In the last school year (2022-23), the Oregon Department of Education reported that 4,008 students experienced homelessness in Multnomah County alone. While heartbreaking, that figure doesn't even include their preschool siblings, or their parents. Additionally, Oregon has more homeless families with children than any other state in the country (as reported by KOIN News December 2023).

Children who don't have homes are the most vulnerable people in our community, yet the homeless family system at the Joint Office of Homeless Services receives less than 10% of the total annual JOHS dollars.

The homeless children of today are the chronically homeless adults of the future. If we are going to break the cycle of poverty and homelessness, we must focus on providing services to families now.

In addition, the Homeless Resource Action Plan should focus on moving people from homelessness to housing by increasing available rent assistance and providing extra case management to help people move into housing and keep their homes for good. While shelter can be helpful, it doesn't actually end homelessness. We must focus on moving people through shelter and into permanent housing.

I want to strongly urge Multnomah County and the City of Portland to update the draft plan to include and specifically address the needs of families with children experiencing homelessness. An excellent starting point would be to add homeless families as a priority population on Page 8 of the plan, though I hope even more can be done.

Thank you most sincerely for your understanding and help with this.

Blythe Olson
(Portland resident since 1992)
503-849-9616

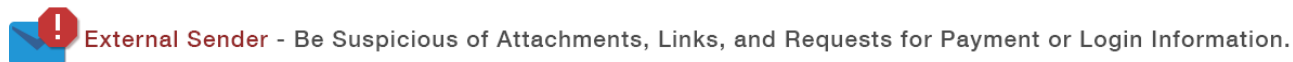


HRAP Feed Back <hrapfeedback@multco.us>

HRAP feedback

Bethany Rocci <bethrocci@gmail.com>
To: HRAPfeedback@multco.us

Sat, Mar 30, 2024 at 12:33 AM



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Hello,

Thank you for this opportunity to comment on the draft Homeless Response Action Plan. I spent nearly 8 years working in family homelessness and it is the most hidden and unnoticed in our community. All too often you see men and women who are experiencing homelessness, but this plea is to advocate for the most vulnerable - kids and their parents.

Although I am grateful for this collaborative effort between the City of Portland and Multnomah County, this plan does not address nor provide for the urgent needs of families with children experiencing homelessness and instead focuses too narrowly on visible single adult populations.

In the last school year (2022-23), the Oregon Department of Education reported that 4,008 students experienced homelessness in Multnomah County alone. While heartbreaking, that figure doesn't even include their preschool siblings, or their parents. Additionally, Oregon has more homeless families with children than any other state in the country (as reported by KOIN News Dec 2023).

Children who don't have homes are the most vulnerable people in our community, yet the homeless family system at JOHS receives less than 10% of the total annual JOHS dollars.

The homeless children of today are the chronically homeless adults of the future. If we ever are going to break the cycle of poverty and homelessness, we must focus on providing services to families right now.

Additionally, the Homeless Resource Action Plan should focus on moving people from homelessness to housing by increasing the available rent assistance and providing extra case management to help people move into housing and keep their homes for good. While shelter can be helpful, it doesn't actually end homelessness. We must focus on moving people through shelter and into permanent housing.

I urge Multnomah County and the City of Portland to update the draft plan to include and specifically address the needs of families with children experiencing homelessness. An excellent start would be to add Homeless Families with Children as a priority population on Page 8 of the plan, though I hope you'll do much more.

Thank you for your consideration.

Respectfully,
Bethany Rocci

Bethany Rocci (she/her)

bethrocci@gmail.com

360-910-9779

[LinkedIn](#)



HRAP Feed Back <hrapfeedback@multco.us>

HRAP text edits

Kathleen Barnebey <kbarnebey@comcast.net>
To: HRAPfeedback@multco.us

Fri, Mar 29, 2024 at 11:35 AM



External Sender - Be Suspicious of Attachments, Links, and Requests for Payment or Login Information.

Thank you for accepting community feedback on the Draft Homelessness Response Action Plan (HRAP). I'm a member of a task force working with Impact NW. I heartily endorse the inclusion of a housing wage for direct service workers and contracts of non-profit organizations. The plan simply won't work without their remuneration.

I'm also concerned about the use of passive verbs in the bullet points of the HRAP. For greatest impact, action verbs should be used, consistently. I've made suggested edits for your consideration:

Thank you for your efforts to find solutions to the monumental housing issues and homelessness in Portland.

Sincerely,

Kathleen Barnebey

HRAP text edits.docx
20K

- **Sheltering or house an additional 2,699 people** (the number equivalent to 50% of the unsheltered people on the by-name list) by Dec. 31, 2025, growing the community's existing work of providing shelter and rehousing services for thousands of people a year.
- **Adding 1,000 shelter beds in two years**, and provide the housing and health resources people need to move through shelters more quickly, through a new Community Sheltering Strategy developed jointly by Portland, Gresham and Multnomah County leaders and a range of shelter operators.
- **Adding hundreds more behavioral health beds** (stabilization, residential, substance use services) and funding a drop-off sobering center.
- **Increasing the number of adults leaving shelter for permanent housing** by 15% by Dec. 31, 2025, and ensuring 75% of people housed in permanent supportive housing retain their housing 24 months after placement.
- Reducing homelessness among **specific priority populations**
- **Ending discharges to the street** from all behavioral health, health systems or hospitals by the end of 2025, and ending discharges to the street from corrections settings by the end of 2026.
- Ending homelessness for **youth aging out of foster care** in Multnomah County by 2027.
- **Increasing the supply of affordable housing** through regulatory changes, building conversions and new construction funding sources, among other strategies.

Commented [MOU1]: This is a confusing sentence — not sure if increasing the supply of affordable housing equates to building conversions etc. or if they're separate actions. If separate, it should be build, not building.



HRAP Feed Back <hrapfeedback@multco.us>

HRAP Feedback

Jaq Kunz <jaq.kunz@multco.us>

Mon, Mar 25, 2024 at 4:26 PM

To: HRAP Feed Back <HRAPfeedback@multco.us>

Hello,

I read through the current Homeless Response Action Plan. I appreciate all the work that has gone into this plan.

I have some feedback:

- Anecdotally, I know many of our unhoused neighbors are disabled and utilize mobility devices. I do not see any discussion of supporting these individuals and ensuring that they have access to mobility devices, including in situations where they do not currently have a wheelchair/walker or their current device is broken or stolen. Living unsheltered is difficult for all folks, including those with disabilities. I appreciate the focus on people experience behavioral health conditions and addiction-related disabilities, but these are not the only prevalent disabilities.

- I was surprised that there is no mention of the county Library System. Many unhoused neighbors spend their days there to escape from the elements. There are few resource counselors who are able to give referrals to community members. Going to - or having resources near - the libraries would support folks as they go about their daily routines. Additionally, the list of people who are excluded from the libraries likely includes folks with behavior health issues, who could use greater supports.

- The idea of helping people remain in their homes, and lowering barriers to continued housing, should be prioritized and well-funded. The county has a lot of money to put towards supporting our housing insecure neighbors and this method would be a cost-effective way of keeping people from becoming resheltered, either for the first time or retraumatizing those who have been housed after a period of being unhoused.

- The short term outcome of goal 4 "Ensure youth aging out of foster care have a housing voucher until they secure stable employment with income sufficient to support rent" should not have the stipulation "until they secure stable employment with income sufficient to support rent." Many younger folks, especially from disadvantaged backgrounds, will find low-wage jobs or may be fired from those jobs due to unreasonable expectations. These youth should have access to the vouchers whether or not they find jobs. They deserve investment in their futures. Vouchers would allow them to save money, rather than spend much of their income on rent as soon as they get a job or jobs.
- For goal 4, strategy 4 "Connect case managers to housing navigation systems", it is important to consider the already high workload of case managers. There should be supports for case managers if they are to take on that work, such as lessening case loads, hiring case managers/other staff dedicated to housing navigation systems, and thoughtful support from supervisors.
- I think this short term goal for goal 6 is very important: "Prioritize the permitting applications and inspection schedules for housing projects with median family income (MFI) at 60% or below." Much of the affordable housing at present is designed to be affordable for folks with higher incomes. Housing should truly be affordable for all, no matter how little income individuals have. I'm not sure if the goals are listed in order of priority, but goal 6 is essential to support our community.

I truly appreciate all the work going into these efforts. I am happy to expand on any of the concerns listed above.

Respectfully,

Jaq Kunz
they/he/she
Schedule: 8-4:30 M-F
Data Technician, County Surveyor's Office
5039883600
Transportation Division

Co-Chair, IDEA: Including Disability in Equity and Access ERG

Did you notice my font is large? This is done for accessibility purposes. It is [recommended](#) to use at least 14 pt font size with Arial or Verdana fonts.



HRAP Feed Back <hrapfeedback@multco.us>

Montavilla doesn't want 3 mass homeless camps.

Geert Aerts <geert.h.aerts@gmail.com>
To: HRAPfeedback@multco.us

Mon, Apr 1, 2024 at 11:28 AM

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Montavilla doesn't want 3 mass homeless camps.

We don't want 2 homeless camps on 82nd and one at the old Saints Peter and Paul church.



HRAP Feed Back <hrapfeedback@multco.us>

HRAP comments

Melissa Elkinton <melissa.elkinton@gmail.com>

Mon, Apr 1, 2024 at 1:07 PM

To: HRAPfeedback@multco.us



External Sender - Be Suspicious of Attachments, Links, and Requests for Payment or Login Information.

Thank you for this opportunity to comment on the draft Homeless Response Action Plan. I understand that I am sending these comments past the open window; I nevertheless hope they can be considered, even if only to emphasize similar comments provided within the window.

Although I am grateful for this collaborative effort between the City of Portland and Multnomah County, this plan does not address nor provide for the urgent needs of families with children experiencing homelessness and instead focuses too narrowly on visible single adult populations.

In the last school year (2022-23), the Oregon Department of Education reported that 4,008 students experienced homelessness in Multnomah County alone. While heartbreaking, that figure doesn't even include their preschool siblings, or their parents. Additionally, Oregon has more homeless families with children than any other state in the country (as reported by KOIN News Dec 2023).

Children who don't have homes are the most vulnerable people in our community, yet the homeless family system at JOHS receives less than 10% of the total annual JOHS dollars.

The homeless children of today are the chronically homeless adults of the future. If we ever are going to break the cycle of poverty and homelessness, we must focus on providing services to families right now.

Additionally, the Homeless Resource Action Plan should focus on moving people from homelessness to housing by increasing the available rent assistance and providing extra case management to help people move into housing and keep their homes for good. While shelter can be helpful, it doesn't actually end homelessness. We must focus on moving people through shelter and into permanent housing.

I urge Multnomah County and the City of Portland to update the draft plan to include and specifically address the needs of families with children experiencing homelessness. An excellent start would be to add Homeless Families with Children as a priority population on Page 8 of the plan, though I hope you'll do much more.

Sincerely,
Melissa Elkinton
971-291-9241

4/15/24, 10:59 AM

Multnomah County Mail - HRAP comments

SE Portland



HRAP Feed Back <hrapfeedback@multco.us>

HRAP Feedback

Chris Scherer <chris.scherer@comcast.net>
Reply-To: Chris Scherer <chris.scherer@comcast.net>
To: HRAPfeedback@multco.us

Mon, Apr 1, 2024 at 1:50 PM



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Dear People:

Thank you for accepting community feedback on the Draft Homelessness Response Action Plan (HRAP).

My name is Christopher Scherer. I reside in Clackamas County.

There are many aspects of the draft HRAP that I support, including the vision and guiding principles of the draft HRAP.

Specifically, I appreciate that the plan centers people suffering from the harms of homelessness and shifts much of the burden of identifying and accessing services from the individual to governments, healthcare partners, and service providers that can help them.

I also appreciate the cross-jurisdictional approach to finding solutions along the continuum of services. By creating new governance and accountability structures, this plan has the opportunity to increase accountability from the government to meet outcomes and achieve goals to solve the homelessness crisis.

I ask for the HRAP to include a strategy committing to a housing wage for direct service workers and contracts that meet the needs of non-profits.

Under the current framework for service delivery deployed by Portland and Multnomah County, service delivery will be contracted out to area non-profit agencies. The low wages provided for non-profit workers and the short-term nature of the contracts make it very difficult to find and retain trained staff and result in significant budget volatility within the delivery system. This results in slow and uneven deployment of programs. Without reform to how the government works with all nonprofits, especially across the housing and homelessness continuum, the HRAP will not work. Government contracting with nonprofits is antiquated and ineffective. Far from centralized, the process creates unnecessary obstacles for nonprofits and provides wages for nonprofit workers that are, ironically, below the region's housing wage. Reforming and modernizing government-nonprofit contracting arises as a critical public policy priority and linchpin to solving our crisis.

We urge you to lease include contract modernization as part of the HRAP.

Sincerely,

Christopher Scherer



HRAP Feed Back <hrapfeedback@multco.us>

Comments Draft Homeless Response Plan

Sam Adams <sam@samadampdx.com>

Mon, Apr 1, 2024 at 2:15 PM

To: HRAPfeedback@multco.us

Cc: Felisa Hagins <felisah@seiu49.org>, Skyler Bocker-Knapp <skyler.bocker-knapp@portlandoregon.gov>, Chris Fick <chris.fick@multco.us>



External Sender - Be Suspicious of Attachments, Links, and Requests for Payment or Login Information.

Hi Chris, Skye and Felisa.

Some great work on the draft Homelessness Response Action Plan. Here are some quick thoughts about it.

Sam

- **Joint (re)budgeting, program and service development, oversight, and accountability** are essential for the more effective use of upwards of \$650 million county, Home Forward, and Portland allocated to address homelessness, and related issues.

The committee—and subcommittee-based implantation process proposed in the plan will not work. It didn't work in the past and will not now.

It's not all about money. But it is mostly about money.

Start by reviewing the housing and shelter units outlined in the draft plan and ensure funds are included in the upcoming budgets for FY 24-25 and FY 25-26.

Do the same for the proposed service expansions.

It's essential to prioritize the fulfillment of this plan over less important existing programs and services. This will ensure it stays on track and meets our goals.

Given that the FY 24-25 budget are nearing completion, your best approach to meet the plan's timeline is to adopt a practice of continuous joint rebudgeting for FY 24-25.

Get approval right now from County, Portland, and Home Forward that this is how it will go.

- **Establishing a single unified care intake and tracking system** for people who need and have county-funded services must be a top priority in joint budgeting.

Have the clients enter the new units and beds on a single unified care intake and tracking system. It seems like a good transition point.

- **Phased-in countywide ban on self-sited homeless camps.** Research suggests that better homeless services in one area can attract homeless individuals from neighboring areas with fewer services. A ban can help reduce it.

Inducement happens. Not from across the country, maybe not as much as some people think, but from around the region: yes.

We offer more robust services, and we will attract more. Multnomah County has 44% of the tri-county population but 80% of people experiencing homelessness.

We will continue to swim in this quicksand of inducement without a phased-in countywide ban on self-sited camps as these new units and shelters come online.

- **Integrate into policy and program development the mission and work provided by first responders to those experiencing homelessness** and related issues like drug addiction and mental illness.

On the service side of this draft plan, add in first responders, as a key competent that they are in the homeless services eco-system. Their day-by-day knowledge of people and places is valuable.

- **Help catalyze the construction of 20,000 new affordable rental housing units**, using extra Multnomah County tax funds from Metro and not raising our taxes.

I know the County doesn't agree, but it given it leans into the housing-first model, it should help pay for that housing.



HRAP Feed Back <hrapfeedback@multco.us>

Re: Volunteers of America Oregon, Letter of Response to the Homelessness Response Action Plan

3 messages

Multnomah County Chair <mult.chair@multco.us>

Mon, Apr 1, 2024 at 1:55 PM

To: Annette Wolf <awolf@voaor.org>

Cc: HRAP Feed Back <HRAPfeedback@multco.us>, Stacy Borke <stacy.borke@multco.us>

Hi Annette,

Thank you for sharing your feedback around the Homeless Response Action Plan. We acknowledge the receipt of the public comments and will forward them to the Homelessness Response Action Plan team.

Thank you,

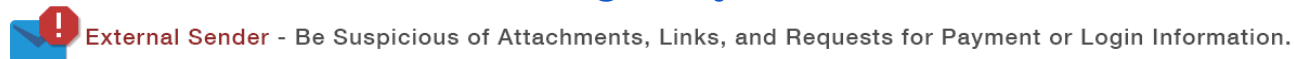
Office of Chair Jessica Vega Pederson

Multnomah County

503-988-3308

www.multco.us[Sign up for Chair Vega Pederson's Newsletter](#)

On Fri, Mar 29, 2024 at 3:56 PM Annette Wolf <awolf@voaor.org> wrote:

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Dear Chair Vega Pederson and Mayor Wheeler,

On behalf of Kay Toran, President/CEO of Volunteers of America Oregon, attached is a letter of response to homelessness response action plan.

Sincerely,

Annette Wolf | Administrative Assistant

Address: 3910 SE Stark Street | [Portland, OR 97214](#)

Direct Phone: 503-595-2031

Main Phone: 503-235-8655 | **Extension:** 1713

Fax: 503-802-0598

Email: awolf@voaor.org

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Volunteers of America Oregon changes lives by promoting self-determination, building strong communities and standing for social justice.

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Multnomah County Chair <mult.chair@multco.us>
To: HRAP Feed Back <HRAPfeedback@multco.us>

Mon, Apr 1, 2024 at 1:56 PM

Letter attached

Office of Chair Jessica Vega Pederson

Multnomah County

503-988-3308

www.multco.us

[Sign up for Chair Vega Pederson's Newsletter](#)

[Quoted text hidden]


 **VOA Oregon Letter of Reponse to Homelessness Response Action Plan - Chair Pederson and Mayor Wheeler - 3-29-2024.pdf**
591K

Annette Wolf <awolf@voaor.org>

Mon, Apr 1, 2024 at 2:24 PM

To: Multnomah County Chair <mult.chair@multco.us>

Cc: HRAP Feed Back <HRAPfeedback@multco.us>, Stacy Borke <stacy.borke@multco.us>

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Hello,

Thank you for your reply and forwarding our letter of response to the Homelessness Response Action Plan Team.

Sincerely,

Annette Wolf | Administrative Assistant

Address: 3910 SE Stark Street | [Portland, OR](#) 97214

Direct Phone: 503-595-2031

Main Phone: 503-235-8655 | **Extension:** 1713

Fax: 503-802-0598

Email: awolf@voaor.org

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From: Multnomah County Chair <mult.chair@multco.us>

Sent: Monday, April 1, 2024 1:56 PM

To: Annette Wolf <awolf@voaor.org>

Cc: HRAP Feed Back <HRAPfeedback@multco.us>; Stacy Borke <stacy.borke@multco.us>

Subject: Re: Volunteers of America Oregon, Letter of Response to the Homelessness Response Action Plan

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4/15/24, 11:01 AM

Multnomah County Mail - Re: Volunteers of America Oregon, Letter of Response to the Homelessness Response Action Plan



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Kay D. Toran
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Carmen Gaston
Vice-Chair

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David Abrahamson

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John Hairston

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James B. Ravelli

Amy Wayson

Al Zindel

Board Emeritus

Barbara Brainard

Administrative Office
3910 SE Stark Street
Portland, Oregon 97214
Phone: (503) 235-8655
Fax: (503) 239-6233
Web: www.voaoor.org

Volunteers of America Oregon is an independent 501(c)(3) charitable organization registered within the state of Oregon that provides human services to populations in need.

EIN: 93-0395591



March 25, 2024

Dear Chair Vega Pedersen and Mayor Wheeler:

We deeply appreciate the opportunity to review and provide feedback from Volunteers of America Oregon (VOA Oregon) on the draft Homelessness Response Action Plan. We commend the efforts made by the City of Portland and Multnomah County to jointly address this crisis affecting our community.

After careful consideration and evaluation of the draft plan, we would like to offer the following feedback and recommendations:

Collaborative Partnerships: For 128 years, Volunteers of America Oregon has been providing behavioral and mental health services to our community, and we are very supportive of a coordinated effort that includes providers in helping to align the systems and services that provide the support people need to be successful. We believe that strengthening collaborative partnerships between service providers, government agencies, and community organizations is crucial to the success of any homelessness response action plan. We recommend exploring opportunities for increased coordination and communication among stakeholders to ensure a holistic approach. We have a long track record of addressing behavioral and mental health and stabilizing individuals, but the funding necessary to provide these services is insufficient and often not flowing from the county to the partner agencies providing services. In order to do our work, we need signed contracts and payments from the county. We simply do not have the resources to provide these services without this necessary funding going forward.

Prevention and Early Intervention: While addressing immediate housing needs is vital, we also advocate for investing in prevention and early intervention strategies to mitigate the risk of homelessness. This includes targeted outreach programs and access to mental health and substance use disorder treatment. VOA Oregon's Substance Abuse Prevention Services works to equip youth with the knowledge and skills that they need to make healthy decisions. Program staff provide workshops, evidence-based curricula, and disseminate resources around substance use to youth, parents, and the community at large. In addition to our community work, Prevention Services is participating in a pilot program funded by Multnomah County in which our primary goal is to address risk factors that can lead to substance use within school settings. Through prevention, youth leadership, and support for schools and parents, this program empowers youth to make healthier decisions. We offer evidence-based curricula, positive youth activities, and stand-alone presentations in addition to the information and resources we distribute to the community. More funds are needed to expand these important programs.

Equity and Inclusion: It is essential to prioritize equity and inclusion in all aspects of the homelessness response action plan. We support incorporating culturally responsive practices, addressing systemic barriers, and ensuring access to services for marginalized and underserved populations. We appreciate the priority and commitment to supporting

Kay D. Toran
President/CEO



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communities of color; our agency has vast experience and success in providing culturally responsive care. We also provide services to justice involved clients, many of whom have substance use and mental health disorders, as they transition back into the community. These populations disproportionately drive disparities in homelessness, particularly amongst Black individuals. Focusing on these individuals will help prevent homelessness and address racial disparities as well. We also have significant experience in helping people as they transition out of behavioral and mental health treatment and work across with partners to ensure appropriate supports are in place.

Data Collection and Evaluation: We support robust data collection and evaluation mechanisms to assess the impact and effectiveness of the interventions outlined in the plan. This will facilitate evidence-based decision-making and continuous improvement over time. We look forward to partnering with you to ensure we are making systemic and long-term changes.

Inadequate Funding and Resource Allocation: Without sufficient funding and resource allocation, the proposed interventions may fall short of addressing the scale of homelessness in our community. It is imperative to prioritize adequate financial resources and strategic investments in evidence-based practices.

We look forward to continued collaboration and dialogue to strengthen our collective efforts in addressing homelessness and supporting vulnerable populations in our community. Thank you for your dedication to this important work, and we remain committed to contributing to positive outcomes for those in need. We look forward to seeing the final plan and being a partner agency to the work to address homelessness in our community.

Sincerely,

Kay Toran
President and CEO
Volunteers of America Oregon



HRAP Feed Back <hrapfeedback@multco.us>

HRAP draft plan

marleneh@marleneh.com <marleneh@marleneh.com>

Fri, Mar 29, 2024 at 1:07 PM

To: HRAPfeedback@multco.us

**External Sender** - Be Suspicious of Attachments, Links, and Requests for Payment or Login Information.

Dear HRAP feedback seekers--

Thank you for your public presentation and invitation for feedback on March 21. For identification purposes only, I work with Southwest Outreach, a mutual aid organization whose general area of focus is outer SW Portland--Multnomah Village, Hillsdale, Ashcreek, Crestwood, Marshall Park, West Portland Park--offering a weekly shower and hot meal program, and outreach to people living in camps.. My comments here are **only** my own. I do not represent Southwest Outreach.

My feedback focus will be the **Steering and Oversight Committee** and the **Implementation Committee**.

Steering and Oversight Committee

The structure of the Steering and Oversight Committee is often seen in government, and this one basically assures total control by the Multnomah County Chair and the City of Portland Mayor. They appoint the 5 voting members. They are 2 of the 5 voting members. They choose a county and city commissioner to be on the committee. Of course, these will be deeply political appointments and without question, bring with them an unspoken quid pro quo or at least the appearance of one. The same is true of the East County elected official's appointment. This structure basically has the Chair and Mayor talking to the mirror.

Even if one person appointed is a nemesis of the Chair or the Mayor, this will be a token appointment, merely a performative veil of neutrality on the **Steering and Oversight Committee**. Since that person will not be able to garner sufficient votes to overcome the others, their voice may be heard but their point of view in terms of policy direction is basically muted.

A more innovative structure for the **Steering and Oversight Committee** would be having some trusted and proven local service providers, including Blanche House, Street Roots, Catholic Charities, Rose Haven, Urban League, Sisters of the Road, Central City Concern to select their own representatives and form a committee to choose the members of the **Steering and Oversight Committee**. They could choose themselves. Eliminate non-voting positions, as all they do is give the appearance of involvement while disallowing any decision making power. Additionally, ask the Governor to appoint someone to the committee.

The current structure of the **Steering and Oversight Committee** simply reifies the very heart of the problem related to bureaucratic answers to houselessness in the greater Portland area. It keeps the reins tightly controlled by the very system which has repeatedly failed, even with decent and good people doing their best to make headway. Who will trust a committee when 40% of its voting members are the very people who pointed fingers at each other about houselessness often during the last year, and again in our most recent weather emergency? Who can count on a committee made up of elected officials, many of whom are running or endorsing candidates, when we're in an election season?

Finally, what sort of accountability measures are in place for this committee? Where does the buck stop, besides at the remnants of a swept camp? Who is held accountable and what does this mean?

Implementation Committee

My concern with this committee is that out of fourteen positions, only four are for people with lived experience. Plus, all must be approved by the **Steering and Oversight Committee**. As long as **Steering and Oversight** has such long tentacles, these can only be seen as political appointments in an election year. The optics alone are problematic. This structure breeds distrust instead of trust.

The range of representation included in this committee is impressive, but where does the real power lie? Will a group reliant upon funding from the county and/or city really disapprove of something the Chair and/or Mayor want? There seems to be little to encourage independence and much to assure that the power for decision making stays well within the context of a very few. This is hardly democracy!

Why not have an **Implementation Committee** recommended and approved by the same service providers I've mentioned above, as well as METRO, since they are the taxing authority who ballot measure opened the coffers? In addition, invite Homer Williams to be involved. Finally, include someone from Portland State's Homeless Research and Action Collaborative, as well as representatives from OHSU's and Portland State's School of Public Health, and a few mutual aid organizations such as the one with which I am affiliated, Southwest Outreach.

The range of power allowed the Chair and Mayor in these two committees suggests that they really want **little** community input and rather, just significant community approval. As you know, the emergency is too great, lives are too precious, to make one more plan to address this issue into a political shell game during an election year.

I appreciate that many of you have worked hard to create something that has promise. The system you're part of is likely the most significant stumbling block. If we don't do things differently, we won't get anywhere. You are capable of better. We are capable of better. Using the same tired ways of keeping power within the authority of a few has gotten us to where we are.

Please. Do Better. I know you can, and in fact, want to.

Sincerely,

Marlene Howell



HRAP Feed Back <hrapfeedback@multco.us>

Homelessness Response Action Plan (HRAP) community feedback

Brenda Grootendorst <brootendorst@comcast.net>
To: "HRAPfeedback@multco.us" <HRAPfeedback@multco.us>

Tue, Apr 2, 2024 at 12:53 PM



External Sender - Be Suspicious of Attachments, Links, and Requests for Payment or Login Information.

Thank you for accepting community feedback on the Draft Homelessness Response Action Plan (HRAP).

My name is Brenda Grootendorst. I am a concerned citizen that is closely following our public and community response to the homeless crisis and I am advocating for effective solutions.

There are many aspects of the draft HRAP that I support, and I want to thank you for including. I support the vision and guiding principles of the draft HRAP.

Specifically, I appreciate that the plan centers people suffering from the harms of homelessness and shifts much of the burden of identifying and accessing services from the individual to governments, healthcare partners, and service providers that can help them.

I also appreciate the cross-jurisdictional approach to finding solutions along the continuum of services. By creating new governance and accountability structures, this plan has the opportunity to increase accountability from the government to meet outcomes and achieve goals to solve the homelessness crisis.

I ask for the HRAP to include a strategy committing to a housing wage for direct service workers and contracts that meet the needs of non-profits.

Without reform to how the government works with all nonprofits, especially across the housing and homelessness continuum, the HRAP will not work. Government contracting with nonprofits is antiquated and ineffective. Far from centralized, the process creates unnecessary obstacles for nonprofits and provides wages for nonprofit workers that are, ironically, below the region's housing wage. Reforming and modernizing government-nonprofit contracting, as a result, arises as a critical public policy priority and linchpin to solving our crisis.

Please include contract modernization as part of the HRAP.

Thank you,
(name)

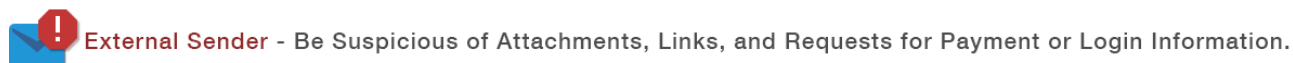


HRAP Feed Back <hrapfeedback@multco.us>

HRAP feedback - add Non-Profit Contracts of Service Modernization, and Wage updates and Training for direct service workers to Guiding Principles

bgshopping@duck.com <bgshopping@duck.com>
To: HRAPfeedback@multco.us

Sun, Mar 31, 2024 at 5:32 PM



Thank you for accepting community feedback on the Draft Homelessness Response Action Plan (HRAP).

As a concerned citizen that is closely following our public and community response to the homeless crisis and as a supporter of non-profits focused on homelessness, I applaud this plan – in particular:

1. The cross-jurisdictional approach to finding solutions along the continuum of services.
2. The creating of new governance and accountability structures providing opportunity to increase accountability of all participants and increasing the opportunity for successful outcomes and achievement of goals to solve the homelessness crisis.
3. The plan's focus on people suffering from the harms of homelessness and the need shift much of the burden of identifying and accessing services from the individual to governments, healthcare partners, and service providers that can help them.
4. The defining of population segments and the recognition of specific solutions required by each population segment.

I respectfully request the following modification:

One of the primary challenges in executing on this plan will be the **employment and training of direct service workers** throughout the system. Without **reform of how the government works with all nonprofits**, especially across the housing and homelessness continuum, the HRAP will not work. Government contracting with nonprofits is antiquated and ineffective. Far from centralized, the process creates unnecessary obstacles for nonprofits and provides wages for nonprofit workers that are, ironically, below the region's housing wage. Reforming and modernizing government-nonprofit contracting, as a result, arises as a critical public policy priority and linchpin to solving our crisis.

*In recognition of this fact, it is important to **add to page 6 – “Guiding Principles” a specific acknowledgment of the need for support of Community Partners (non-profits and other non-governmental organizations) by modernizing contracts of service and including a strategy committing to a housing-level wages for direct service workers.***

It is unacceptable to ask direct workers to accept wages they cause them to be housing insecure.

Thank you,

Brenda Grootendorst



HRAP Feed Back <hrapfeedback@multco.us>

HRAP Comment Period

5 messages

Morse 38Cube <Mwilliam_ArcMoreSquared_1323@outlook.com>
To: "hrapfeedback@multco.us" <hrapfeedback@multco.us>

Thu, Mar 28, 2024 at 12:55 PM

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However un-useful a few more barrels of spilled ink is, attached are some brief notes of my feedback on the local government response to homelessness issues in the state of Oregon...abridged to 3 pages from the 47 your consultants thought they needed to opine on to bookrun fundraising.

 **Comment Letter revised.pdf**
58K

Morse 38Cube <Mwilliam_ArcMoreSquared_1323@outlook.com>
To: "hrapfeedback@multco.us" <hrapfeedback@multco.us>

Fri, Mar 29, 2024 at 3:34 PM

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Regretfully, the myopic and short sighted personalized government model of commercialized services assault makes it no surprise that you choose not to "confirm receipt" with one more out of office reply -- after having falling woefully short in all reasonable aspects of performance, and therefore, must solicit the uncompensated's feedback and participation for why your self appointed system of myopic ideas seemingly provides no accountability or duty to those you were hired to serve--using the equity approach, rather than based on skills--ideas--and qualifications to make decisions which align the public trust now forced to stare at an evermore swampy fishbowl of demised sample sizes from their neighbor.

As such, because the housing department of the local governments wanted to be behavioral healthcare specialists to cross funding sources--so your healthcare system can get some more free therapy giveaways to disabuse those you alienate in their idle time....

Doesn't mean you need to spend two thirds of your rhetoric discussing non-housing services, such as behavioral health...just because you passed the measure 110 distraction to say, we don't want to do anything at all except receive a paycheck and tell the rest not accepting being publicly traded commodities espoused as public servitude, you are unfit to uphold the fairness of marginalization in modern slavery because the government has no need for the next FTE who's unions disqualify them from PERS.

While you then also espouse, reduced housing supplies....as if the lives and livelihoods you burned to the ground with big tech identity theft, somehow did something to service the assets that people dwell it. Not to mention, SPAM some more advertisements to florida that not only do you get more welfare in Oregon, you can also feel free to use the drugs you choose. Just make sure to enroll in the club cards newest ID issuance program at the time of checkout.

Not only does housing supply NOT decrease when vacancies change. Rent burden rises, when you stack one property manager after the next on the identity services feed to ensure they troll the right story lines from the last deactivated social media account now controlled and joined by sidewalk cams to notify via public

harassment without cause.

Perhaps you citizens would be better off, if you just focused on housing...rather than a do all things involuntarily and by mandate government to depose the next shelteree requiring therapy to repudiate false assertions and claims advanced by the robot. Perhaps forcing confessionals to behavioral health, as if the exoneration of the next behavioral health specialist to be granted role security to purge the memories and reminders in the system of individuals private and personal lived experience....if you just accept the state as your padre and employees as priest and pastor, you shall be absolved of your lawful sins and regret to be gifted with a freshly untarnished identity of nothingness. Because when your identity gets actively hacked and stolen, there is no recourse, who knows what got attached to it in the system or for what purpose other than a hacked reward system of extortion and bribe setting back modern society decades in your "EQUITY" approach of forced dependance and individual performances to satisfy government qualifications for the uncompensated's subsidy left with no choice but to grovel for basic survival.

And we're going to make sure that the locally government funded non-profit neighborhoods get their say to uphold investor protections, announcing loud and proud allowable releasing spreads benchmarked against CPI consumption....because all those eligible units already got their vouchers and failed into the loan to own scheme of the home forward public housing balance sheet....with newly minted financials and an absolutely incompetent CEO as if an agency receives 1099s from anyone other than a single source---the government it depends on. And the cosaying auditors who you gave auditors 4x the time to issue an opinion.....

What a great system of housing services clad in chrome for those on the payroll to stoke their vanity and marketability as if similar to conditions in the private sector.

From: Morse 38Cube <Mwilliam_ArcMoreSquared_1323@outlook.com>

Sent: Thursday, March 28, 2024 12:55 PM

To: hrapfeedback@multco.us

Subject: HRAP Comment Period

[Quoted text hidden]

Morse 38Cube <MW130120200805230023091212090113191514@outlook.com>

Fri, Mar 29, 2024 at 3:43 PM

To: Morse 38Cube <Mwilliam_ArcMoreSquared_1323@outlook.com>, "hrapfeedback@multco.us" <hrapfeedback@multco.us>

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It seems that the behavioral health problem is yours and yours alone...as you must have forgot to take your ADD meds when your new coordination of all things of care became just another obstruction against the check run to be printed against an overcommitted voucher system...you actively oversubscribed by 10x with who wants free rent notifications....why you want the healthy to choke on the burden of free public housing....is certainly traumatizing...if not already informed by tim cooks aids.

Only to fund the assisted living shelter system with enough heads to exceed the marginal cost of the last more affordable private apartment....because the governments rent seeking behavior clearly needed some more property managers to be diminished by their free rent + 20 to spool some eviction paperwork and call a lawyer for process disservice and public notary'ing a docusigned digital signature....

and obviously, your behavioral healthcare mandate already got programmed involuntarily to be pushed with AI to make the well--unhealthy

From: Morse 38Cube <Mwilliam_ArcMoreSquared_1323@outlook.com>

Sent: Friday, March 29, 2024 3:34 PM

To: hrapfeedback@multco.us

Subject: Re: HRAP Comment Period

[Quoted text hidden]

Morse 38Cube <Mwilliam_ArcMoreSquared_1323@outlook.com>
To: "hrapfeedback@multco.us" <hrapfeedback@multco.us>

Fri, Mar 29, 2024 at 10:03 PM

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and, last but not least....


47 pages of digressed distraction....what a coverup and paper over the core conduct of pandemic related government misconduct while you allowed the robot to go to war on all it hacked, for the logjam of bottlenecks you created despite a never more efficient system.

From: Morse 38Cube <Mwilliam_ArcMoreSquared_1323@outlook.com>
Sent: Thursday, March 28, 2024 12:55 PM
To: hrapfeedback@multco.us
Subject: HRAP Comment Period

[Quoted text hidden]

Morse 38Cube <MW130120200805230023091212090113191514@outlook.com>
To: "hrapfeedback@multco.us" <hrapfeedback@multco.us>

Fri, Apr 5, 2024 at 12:27 PM

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and last but not least....is your newly "open" government feedback window for rulemaking now ratified into law---since your efforts were just in order to draft a working document written by consultants and idiots on the local govy dime --who were authorized with noting except some scope to distract, and lobbying an abuse of influence to state idiots who didnt need to hear your strategy for squandering their obligations from qualified entitlements to fund your next vacation home in the santiam canyon while you actively steal funding and content from the unhoused and then say...where'd all that money go we threw at the problem--when you allocated double the per bed ftes of your purported 1:20 represents as the norm---and approving operating models for the able with 1:8-1:10---if only filled by the next inefficiency you want to add into overhead to make exceptions...because career coaching and occupational rehab is certainly the province of the next behavioral health specialist who you want to add on to cause problems to observe whether their measure of behaviors has sufficiently abused the socialism of others until they can "sign them out/off" as acceptably healthy after causing trauma for them to be "informed" by oha idiots who want to cut their next reimbursement billing for services

From: Morse 38Cube <Mwilliam_ArcMoreSquared_1323@outlook.com>
Sent: Friday, March 29, 2024 10:03 PM
To: hrapfeedback@multco.us <hrapfeedback@multco.us>
Subject: Re: HRAP Comment Period

[Quoted text hidden]

3/27/2024

To the drafters of the qualified homeless action plan agencies,

As a displaced person in shelter, I'm writing in response to the comment period providing feedback to the City/County/State's plan to address the unhoused and homeless. Please accept this as an offering to be part of improving solutions, if only anecdotally, while avoiding obvious oversights of the nature and causes of each impacted party's lived experience and history. Neither the population you serve nor the federal government asked you to write a report on their behalf...they asked you for monetary/financial assistance to accommodate their survival in instances of emergency and hardship. There are obvious oversights presented in your rhetoric, and from which population your DEI claims have othered. As such, neither are you the issuer...simply put, front running distributions as lead book-runner for fed dependence simply isn't the role of the government or the agencies you qualify. Misappropriating housing funding away from those named recipients, in order to craft the next new agenda you call the homeless response action plan should be contrary to the objectives of your programs. Unfortunately, this has proven not to be the case. Reviewing the system of overhead you selected is meaningless at best, and counterproductive at worst. Why is your action plan to tacitly acknowledge and scale artificially scarce assets away from those you serve in the best interest of residents, taxpayers, and displaced workers? Your fundraising agendas clearly have maligned and competing purposes, while you still claim a "market" economy exists in the state of Oregon.

Obviously, the calamity of all parties attempting to remedy problems and optimize solutions by leveraging the resources at their disposal, is always at risk of tragedy. Assaulting the commons into tragedy should not be the logical output. Those actions occur in concert among the socialism of others. Inescapably, a sub-optimal employment environment with the velocity of a terminally efficient economy is at best net-zero by design. The case and cause for intermediation has never been weaker. Line-of-sight between treasury and the individual has never been more exposed. Participation in emissions is the only net benefit, while the debts of our ancestors continue to accrue until inflated away into the cap of a low orbital bot-net of AI intermediation and SMS SPAM.

Consider--for instance--the demise of my experience and history, and the associated outcomes. Bearing it personally as an attachment to my identity puts me at risk. At risk of the information being recycled for adjacent, unintended, and unnecessary uses -- such as employment relationships. Neither is the disclosure of such information integral to performance of work, except to generate distraction for those with the authority to hire and fire.

The impact of the past 5 years has affected me directly and that effect has been disproportionate. I am not traditionally part of a perceived marginalized group. Neither do I identify with at-risk or outlier categorical groupings--who's outcomes demonstrate dataset skewness presenting a case for who's survival becomes misfit and what isn't e-raced. I have no special qualifiers to review my or others' humanity or disclose in my EEO. I have never been convicted of a crime, and perceive all records to be negative--no matter whether the data has utility as an accurate reflection of a sampled population. The deluge of these associations have surpassed their utility as a facet integral to other humans' dispositions or identities. The misinterpretations and mischaracterizations of the implications are a rife. It is a privileged to be alive...assaulting Humpty Dumpty with the rhetoric of DEI is a disservice to all, regardless of who judges their labels of success as inadequate, unsatisfactory, or who's mere existence is a breath somehow unfair to rest of the communities' inspiration or aspirational qualifiers.

I am an Oregonian by choice, residing in this state longer than any other (among many others). 14 years out-of-state time in government "lite" markets, afforded myself the opportunity to pursue the higher education of a masters degree, and to gain employment in markets with more robust opportunity sets. Not to mention career advancement buttressed by the independence of private sectors. I wish to, and have every intent to continue to pursue Oregon as my home. If the identity managed by the state IT services is intended to be comprehensive, I HAVE to be able to control (where and how) the assets at my disposal are deployed, (what and with whom) my assets are co-mingled with, and (when and how) any associated liabilities are otherwise managed and attached. Sadly, the tactics of state planning have disallowed this to be the reality.

Beginning in 2019, I was left without a job. The cause is neither integral to my experience or this summary. With a marked shift in media attention throughout the trump administration, and the pandemic looming on the horizon, my mode of living became uprooted into an exercise of survival--away from my base of skills to thrive. In the summer of 2019, I vacated my apartment. I was residing in a mixed complex with 5 of 6 floors being subsidized, and residing in the one of six only supported as the market rate. The subsidized track was not my chosen path. All of my actions put public assistance in exchange for an identity--last in line and of lowest priority. I remained sanguine other brighter opportunities would show on the horizon. Reflecting on the gravity of my downsides (ie: staring at my feet while clipping my rope--that the county wants to braid over a ledge with dental floss, simply wasn't necessary or productive. Prior to vacating my apartment, I registered a business with the Secretary of State to realign and recapture my basis of support. I was receiving unemployment, the department was becoming active on my case. By choice, I wasn't registered for any other subsidized benefits. Exposing my identity into public datasets to rely on the state was not how I preferred my experience and identity to be integrated, and quite the contrary all the hazards I wanted to avoid. I had an alternative, accepting the opportunity to co-habitate with a friend in a private residence at an affordable rate.

After 12 months in the co-habitated space I was overstaying my welcome, neither was I registered at the address while using my PO Box and splitting property insurance between storage. Gratefully, I was saved by new money from additional relief funding -- no matter of how little or late, time continues to tick against an allotment of funds which are discrete. Seemingly in exchange, my perception of many actions of the active management by government--to whom at best--are passive actors by design, fueled a vantage point of misconduct. I was still unemployed, and attempting to be open for in field and indivisible self employment opportunities. My worksearch exposed nascent concerns about the privacy and security of my data between work and personal channels. I enrolled in EBT, a turning point for my identity becoming used in unauthorized ways. Adjacent aspects of "Identity Services" began making themselves more apparent. I could only ask myself, why and for what purpose besides demise? My need became eminent, to make best efforts to re-secure my device and digital footprint, no matter how ineffective. Moreover, to the extent I had the ability to manage, to regain custody of an identity clearly becoming de-secured, deposed, and compromised while government services ripped away what was already "wrapped around".

August 2020-- I procured an apartment space at the lowest market rate in a convenient location. It was an inadequate 300 square foot studio facing NW -- a sub-prime view hardly worthy of a premium. The market followed suit. I was able to service the lease for the duration of the 6 month term, it was a compromise intended to be temporary. Only later to discover, that the separation of public housing begins in the laundry room. As such, there are associated advertisements that public housing complexes ring publicly through the community from CCTV cameras to interfere with private residents. I was in good standing and with no direct subsidy or assistance. I considered it unauthorized interference, and I made best efforts to manage and avoid my exposure to it. I was still without wages and working to make my business and myself sustainable throughout the disruption of the pandemic, and with every effort to reign in the security of my devices, limit sharing identifiers, and other connected behaviors. I began being harassed with incessant notifications while making purchases at the grocery store upon entry and at the point of sale, and greeted with orchestrated community targeting upon my return. I was forced to hear community reactions ring through neighborhoods after printing offline documents at the county library.

July 2021 -- I put myself last in line for the ORAP program, becoming progressively aggrieved by the front-end logic. By design, dispute resolution allows the outputs to become known to other parties in the contractual environment--no matter if you are able to identify or quantify the inception of a constructed commitment by the questionable political faith of the state. Without new money, the funds available to me were on a discrete timeline. As was no surprise, I was delayed...on every front and all aspects (rent subsidy, employment, IT security, et al). The continued resource offerings by the state during the pandemic, continued to fuel my delay, and willingness to participate in services requiring identities up front and without consultation or terms. The continued demonstrations in my environment, illustrating a lack of privacy or security, became tightly correlated with my activity, and continued to cause me to pause -- if not retreat altogether. I had already made two attempts to evict the property manager while in good standing for disruptions of stalking CCTV footage, and prior to my ORAP application submission. At the inception of my lease, the speeding ticket issued by the city in a trap of hazard avoidance--and the accompanying declaration--remained unheard for 14 months. After such time, debuting a required zoom meeting from the newly opened courthouse. All the while the Wheeler witch hunt escalated. Upon the conclusion of the counties decision, my assets were vandalized and comprehensively denied insurance. My resistance to "identity" based solutions escalated, pari passu with the louder volumes of DEI and personalized government services. The delays that I had no control over (ie: ORAP distributions and other systemic bureaucracy) had a material impact on my disposition and willingness to engage in productive ways. Although my pragmatism of delay was viewed with the foresight of sharing many causes, maximizing time was the logical solution of most actors. I must disclose-- in hindsight -- my experience engaging with the programs caused more harm than good. The free "option" was not a chosen/elected path. The liquidity available to me was exhausted April 2022, and the first and only distribution under my ORAP application was made -- June 2022. Had the state not facilitated the delay (no matter how uncertain the outcome), my ability to help myself at the present time would have been much greater. Absent new services from tech powered government, my willingness to proceed would not have been derailed...regardless of any inevitability stemming from being on the yoke looking backwards at the onus of deferred burdens and benefits.

The default option became an outcome progressively more inescapable. ORAP under-delivered, and by the time the initial distribution under ORAP was made, I had no ability to relocate or vacate my unit. My balance with the property continued to accrue. December 2022, the property manager changed control. The eviction process continued for approximately 18 months, a huge distraction while my worksearch required a spotless and unencumbered identity. My peaceful quiet enjoyment continued to be disrupted, becoming more aggrieved and inflamed by the narratives presented in medias characterizations of government response, and the mirrors I faced over the course of my search for employment as an involuntary crash test dummy for AI. The state exposed the unemployed to an AI bot on the unemployment page, unveiled 211 identity hacking, deployed the workday platform and neo.gov citizen scoring exercises, and procured an extreme number of ad spots on local broadcasting to commercialize government services shadowing and spurred by my last interactions. Contact tracing was logged across applications and portals reflecting the content and counter-parties of private phone usage. Cloud settings flipping switches were pushed to devices in defiance of individuals' settings. I was fully hacked in concurrence with my necessity to engage with various public programs.

~June-2023, after ~36 months in the property of my apartment, the courts judgement was entered. The property manager asserting its rights to the property in September 2023, while maintaining more than one vacant unit at all times -- zeroing the opportunity cost of non-performing tenants to the property. Having only ruled on a singular question of whether the non-payment was a balance contractually owed, the courts procedural justice to uphold private and uniform MLA's served no purpose. Despite true and meaningful grievances about the conduct and propriety of an active property manager in custody of identities acting as landlord, while migrating to various IT environments within and without acting in their capacity as employees. Without much surprise, neither did the court conclude on what constitutes constructive transfers to the agencies on the path of single payor regimes only deploying buttresses of synthetic guarantees. I was approximately 18 months past due, the only service I needed were monetary/financial, and information would only serve to make my presuppositions of pre-pandemic era status-quo unacceptably discrete and caste with a star in sidewalk concrete next to the next tenters demonstrations of waste.

I am under no illusion my tale is unique. After a page of spilled ink--backgrounding the sequence of events--I am brought to where I am today. A temporarily sheltered individual in the custody of the agencies programs, trying stay proactive on the employment front and not in a cave on the developed intermediations of the housing front. The IT messaging systems reflecting memories of adjacent parts of my network/profile/identity only become substantially more oppressive and outlandish. The progression only continues to affect my employment prospects and willingness to engage with the public in meaningfully productive ways. These "care" systems are contrary to the best interests of the population the state has deemed qualified to render housing services + whatever they can imagine as side benefits.

As such, I can only continue to view the actions and response by local leadership -- already managing the system of bureaucracy--for what it is. A tool of rhetoric that became progressively obsolete before your in-actionable opinions became declared. As such, pairing that bully pulpit with increasing constraints from my willingness and ability to work together--to resolve a scarcity of fixed resources and fixed assets becoming evermore artificial and intermediated by a unified source. A system evermore exclusive by design, and words becoming evermore hollowed by false assurances and broken promises. A consolidated public sector of what has always been, a party of a system until the dysfunction forces a majority to challenge the status quo representing inclusivity in appearance and on its face only...and a government actively planning to accommodate a norm for those non-criminal peaceful citizens who in their judgement deserve less -- as long as their selected fringe groups get more.

Please accept these comments/facts from my newly minted identity as follows:

- 1.) The labor market has not afforded me an acceptable opportunity to participate in the workforce since 2018
- 2.) I have no registered address voluntarily associated with my identity, once the PO box utilized as primary residence, business, and public record-keeping, expired.
- 3.) My bank accounts have all closed, now exposing chasms of holes in credit history between addresses, and against an 800 FICO when arriving to Oregon. Neither am I willing to associate temporary residences, at greater risk of identity theft by design, to be utilized for services.
- 4.) I have unsettled court debt, neither have I been successful procuring legal counsel to represent my range of grievances against ALL service providers. Only to find more misrepresented solicitations about services covered by public defense and systems of care as a byproduct of uncontested action.
- 6.) I have survived on SNAP benefits as my SOLE exclusive funding source since April of 2022 losing, only offset by the proceeds from vehicle sale supplementing for a period of 6 months
- 7.) My phone was disconnected after being misrepresented to be private and secured, only reconnecting it to services in August of 2023 through the affordable connectivity plan. The funds have been exhausted, unless the Oregon lifeline potentially allows reconnected access. Prepaid disconnection is immediate, regardless of >20 years of \$100 monthly consumer credit with a single service provider. After being hacked by services, and after photo of a photo id was demanded to reissue service to a phone I own, I denied the connection of service. All computers/ phones I have I purchased OUTRIGHT, are almost certainly hacked at root by unauthorized software updates in firmware exposing all crossing my chipsets to unauthorized monitoring. I am plagued by community notifications acting as a "who is" voucher.as such that any response serves as confirmation to implicitly join itself to the unregistered devices identity from an uncorroborated account/false claim.
- 8.) I am a private citizen, plagued by community notifications and sidewalk cam footage being turned into the next tik tok feed advertisement of hosted interactions that are seemingly scripted by obviously disinterested parties. Neither are those disinterested parties independent of the states payrolls... nor do they have cause to become interested in my existence, simply by being there in attempt to surveil qualified services of entitlements.
- 9.) October 2023 brought me into a shelter space, affording a roof and adequate caloric intake when supplemented by EBT while keeping up a 3 mile a day walking routine.
- 10.) I have no substantial need for behavioral health resources, no substance use disorders not in my control, I have grave concern of the behaviors exhibited by unauthorized AI. I have had no ability to consume non-food items throughout the duration of my time in shelter. Communal living space socializations is a norm I find untenable. Especially while the distractions only interfere with my willingness, ability, and hope to garner employment free from outside influences not relevant or productive in the performance of my employment relationships.
- 11.) I have chosen not to pursue alternatives in disability programs, despite the programs making every effort to disable.

I no longer read your reports on those who take the least from the public as a representation of your fitness to lead and govern the sovereign citizens. Merely, they are representations of who you've chosen to fund to paper over the issues of the unhoused by managed governance, and from whom your services have drained away the most over the top from the feds.

So, what can you do on the policy front to re-enfranchise all those who your actions have not only let down, but also materially harmed. What do you intend to do with those who are not pursuing a race to the bottom--in an effort to maximize access to services through fully funded substance use and abuse programs, among other daring criminal behavior? How can the state and local governments work to support the birthed's right to life, upholding public safety to accommodate the peaceful quiet enjoyment for all residents -- and before your services inflate away inalienable rights? How can you foster a labor market with the purpose of independence from the government, and that affords people the opportunity to live sustainably -- through resources markably adequate, if not artificially scarce in the net zero cost from the hydro-dam off-take generated for the next added user who prefers a windmill to the marginal cost of the next renewably dead dinosaur? Obviously the tests of time have changed very little, except the rhetoric of an equity paradigm not meaningfully different in the past millennia. Only meaningfully more inverted away from the individual sovereign who you think you should be allowed to be harnessed for public utility using only the implied consent espoused sharing of reneged commitments, pushed interference, and seized means of production from the drug of big tech AI.

How can you ameliorate the systemic uprooting and distraction...posing barriers for the individual to bootstrap, and in the absence of your pushed notion that the government should afford giving away cranes for an opportunity to rise. Opposite and opposed to fostering an environment that doesn't pejoratively push them off a ledge until they fall. How can the state and local governments not defalcate the benefit of an individual right to live with debt, to be recycled and squandered into your next job supporting boondoggle?

Your media has been stealing from and reflecting my private content and interactions for at least the past 3 years. Dr Know clearly needs some inspiration from those who choose not to engage with donated content, among other media outlets. The \$100 minimum annual per capita value subtracting donation to local news outlets--accommodating the federal WHETHER notifications--and newly catered international market departments-- clearly believe their audience needs some more aggrandized vanity in their lives in order to love their screens and draw people into the state. Regardless of whether the advertisements they sponsor are designed to sell a product or service in the enablement of commercialized government.

The pandemic also left many non-essential workers behind, forcing the rinse and repeat cycle of government services paving roads to nowhere. The participation in employment shifted focus. No longer is the question what skills and qualifications you can bring to bear marketable. Now the vogue of the next government employee hired, is what marginalized group will choose to write-up a free opportunity to donate time and energy into the bad faith of public distrust and management of governance. The absence of "rule of law" because the uniformed pursued other paths, and the lawyers chose not to challenge in court doesn't mean you should assault the fabric of trust with wrong way around interpretations because your empathy allows you to support both sides.

The city continues to shutter, with vacant and under occupied spaces detracting from the cities vibrant core. Why is it the role of the local government to distract the voting public with one half baked bad faith ballot measure after another, without disabusing the people to its cause. Moreover, an environment socializing issues ever more toxic to the individual. As follows, taking ballot behavior as referendums of local government agency indemnities while extracting sovereignty waivers from big tech to extend to your incorporation by reference from the next qualified service provider you shopped with google? And you expect the public to believe that the unharmed--did no harm--because you wanted to spill 50 pages of ink on why your fiduciary obligations of GOVERNMENT AGENCIES provide a responsibility and accountability that the rights of societies alone are to be borne by the individual solely, and in the conscience of each and every emitter. Why do you pander your voter approvals to be a mandate chartering your next tax increase? Why do you need to force the public to manage your mismanagement you call governance, so you can pat yourselves on the back in the newly crowned principality of Portland buttressed by the separatists of the Oregon volcanos of extremism...Forcing people to grovel for assistance should neither be a necessity of employment, for those hired to manage, nor to qualify a government service.

I expect to continue to resume my economic output and continue to reside in the state of Oregon. Should the state allow me to survive without a new disability declaration to be adjudged in my next application for employment.

In summary, my response to your request for comments on your new housing report, are simply as follows.

How many people you put into overhead doesn't build a barn or craft a roof, it reflects your propensity and willingness to pay peter to rob paul. It reflects how you pick and choose to allocate resources into dependencies for those you voluntarily adjudge to be in the betters. It reflects that you think your party of vendors and side deals more capable of pooling the feds money, if you just create a more direct web of co-sayers and agencies to vouch on the blank check of public dependency. It reflects a broken system of wrong minded governments who are willing to abuse a population of dis-informed and/or interested voters because your agencies wanted to write a report, and the non-profit think tanks you wanted to be consolidated into the city development arm is a reflection of a rogue government not worthy of listening to feedback from their residents. Obviously, the tactics you summarized from those you othered are just less convenient and useful in your quest to command more.

Doing all things to serve the population doesn't make you a master of any, it master of none--until you are a master OF ALL serfs command and controlled by your abused influence of show and tell vanity you love to inappropriately localize to your discrete samples of misfits and have nots. You should have very little relevance to your average voter, business owner, or resident, despite your constant attempts to extort and bribe your way forward to call yourself representative of the pin-heads you graffited with city art tax levies from stolen resident registries and organized hacking campaigns in exchange for the most successful narco state of modern times.

Thank you for your time, would you allow me more?

Sincerely,
Williamson
715 NW Hoyt #5011
Portland, OR, 97208



HRAP Feed Back <hrapfeedback@multco.us>

Service Provider feedback for HRAP

Laura Golino de Lovato <laurag@nwppilotproject.org>

Fri, Mar 29, 2024 at 12:03 PM

To: HRAPfeedback@multco.us, Chris FICK <chris.fick@multco.us>, Ryan DEIBERT <ryan.deibert@multco.us>

Cc: Yoni Kahn <yonik@nwppilotproject.org>, Katie Warden <katiew@nwppilotproject.org>



External Sender - Be Suspicious of Attachments, Links, and Requests for Payment or Login Information.

Hi Chris and Ryan -

I hope this email finds each of you well and, I hope, enjoying spring break!!

Attached please find a document with five recommendations in response to the Homelessness Response Action Plan, for your consideration. I am really pleased that **18 other organizations** joined NWPP in supporting these recommendations.

I want to make sure that both of you know that NWPP is in support of this plan, and believes that it is the right next step in order for our entire community to fully address homelessness. We do not believe it is the "same old plan", or that its ambitious goals aren't achievable. And we are here ready to partner with you both, with Multnomah County, and with all segments of the community who want the same thing we do: housing for the most vulnerable people in our community.

The attached recommendations come from a collective desire among service providers to be part of the solution to homelessness and the challenges of stabilizing housing for those with barriers and high service needs. I hope that you will find that the recommendations are also provided in good faith, and as an opening to what we hope will be productive conversations, problem solving, and shared successes.

Thank you both for being accessible and responsive to us. We really appreciate you. Please don't hesitate to reach out to me or Yoni if you have questions or would like to discuss.

Best,

Laura

--

Laura Golino de Lovato | she/her | Executive Director |

1430 SW Broadway, Suite 200 | Portland, OR 97201 | direct 503.478.6868 | fax 503.274.8559 | nwpilotproject.org

HOUSING SENIORS | CREATING HOPE | PILOTING CHANGE

Feel free to reach out to Courtney McKinnon at courtneym@nwpilotproject.org for scheduling or contact assistance.

 **Service Provider recommendations for HRAP - FINAL.pdf**
1268K

Service Provider Recommendations for the Homelessness Response Action Plan

March 29, 2024

Social and human service providers who are charged with delivering the social safety net must be more deeply involved in all aspects of the Homelessness Response Action Plan (HRAP). Below, we highlight five recommendations that will strengthen the overall plan and position our community for success. Each recommendation is connected to one or more of the goals in the HRAP, and is based on input from more than two dozen service provider organizations.

Collectively, social and human service providers have deep and extensive first-hand experience and knowledge related to homelessness and housing. This experience must be fully leveraged to ensure the best chance of achieving the outcomes identified. And our experience is not limited to multiple types of service delivery; it is service delivery that highlights the complexity of serving highly vulnerable populations.

Providers, like elected officials, will be held accountable for these outcomes. But because of our close proximity to the homeless community members through our service delivery, we will be held to a higher standard of accountability. This must be balanced with a higher level of input and engagement in deciding what actions will and won't work, and what resources will be needed.

1. Governance Structure - ties to HRAP GOAL #8.

Housing and Homeless Service Providers must be more involved and engaged in the governance and implementation of HRAP than is currently outlined in the draft plan.

- a. Add four to six service providers to the Implementation Committee who collectively represent a combination of populations served and specific types of service delivery.
 - i. Represent the following populations that have been disproportionately impacted by homelessness. This list is not all-inclusive.
 1. Youth
 2. Domestic violence, sexual assault and sex trafficking survivors
 3. Adults
 4. Seniors, people with disabilities
 5. Families with children
 6. LGBTQIA2S+
 7. BIPOC+Immigrant and Refugee communities
 8. Veterans
 9. Women

- 10. People with lived experience
- ii. And/or these types of services:
 - 1. Outreach/InReach
 - 2. Shelter (emergency or transitional)
 - 3. Day services and day shelters
 - 4. Eviction Prevention/Housing Stabilization/Retention
 - 5. Case management/PSH
 - 6. Housing navigation/housing placement/housing providers, including VAWA (Violence Against Women Act) Emergency Transfers
- b. Add two additional non-voting Steering Committee seats for housing/homeless-focused service provider representation **or** reserve 2 existing non-voting Steering Committee seats for housing-focused service providers

2. Access to Care - ties to HRAP GOAL #1.

Access to Care is a core need for all people experiencing homelessness, for all low-income people at risk of homelessness, and must be addressed specifically beyond post institutionalization release.

- a. Develop a community-based health care management platform that all service providers can use to engage clients with health care information and services including: identifying clients' CCO and health plan payer; make, confirm, change medical appointments; access HRS benefits; health navigation from the medical provider/payer. Platform must meet the following criteria:
 - i. Does not add any unnecessary administrative burden to the service provider
 - ii. Be a 2-way referral process
 - iii. Streamlined/real time information
 - iv. Must prioritize communities who experience systemic discrimination in the health care system and lack of access to care
 - v. Provides clarity on a path to effectively address HIPAA related barriers
- b. Creating a structured and accountable process to discern the functionality of a community-based health care management platform should be directly incorporated in the HRAP. This platform is a critical component of addressing housing retention and improving population health outcomes for individuals receiving homeless and housing services in Multnomah County. Housing-focused service providers, health systems and Multnomah County should be offered the opportunity to think through how all entities expect this platform to be utilized by all respective parties in a manner that achieves Goal 1.

3. Define Service Offerings: sustainability and true cost of service provision - ties to HRAP GOALS #7 and #9.

Identifying the true cost of delivering high value expert services will ensure a sustainable path forward, while also setting reasonable expectations for

appropriate goals and outcomes. It is imperative that this baseline cost of service delivery reflects the need to attract and retain the best staff to do this complex and challenging work. To do this, compensation packages - wages and benefits - must be in line with - and not below - competing employers.

As indicated in the report “Joint Office of Homeless Services Review Findings, Themes and Recommendations” completed by Health Management Associates (HMA) in September 2023: “Funding policies and procedures create barriers to provider operations, performance and financial health” (Page 8). The report also states the “Rates no longer cover the true cost of providing services. Rapidly increasing staff and service costs have outpaced the COLA increases.”

In addition, Multnomah County’s own wage study of service providers who contract with the Joint Office of Homeless Services (JOHS) (“Classification, Compensation, and Benefits Study, August 2023”) highlighted the following:

- ***There is a service provider sector-wide crisis, and that “over 50 percent of employees surveyed said they were somewhat or very likely to look for a new job during the next year.” (Page 7)***
- ***69% of surveyed social service workers don’t feel like their compensation allows them to take care of their basic needs. (Page 7)***
- ***There are shocking disparities between providers in what they are able to pay their staff in order to achieve county-contracted outcomes. In some cases the delta is as much as \$15,000. (Page 26)***

With the two robust evaluations referenced above we have adequate data to demonstrate a clear disconnect between the current compensation rates and the true costs of service provision. No further studies are needed. We recommend moving to action including:

- a. Clarify county’s practice to not pay for 100% of cost of contracted services while setting outcome-oriented goals that account for true cost of services.
- b. Agree on a baseline compensation model using one of the following to ensure a thriving wage.
 - i. Living wage
 - ii. County wage
 - iii. County negotiated union wage
 - iv. Housing wage (NLIHC)
- c. Create standardized definitions of service delivery types, i.e. housing placement, retention, etc.
- d. Create standardized definitions of core jobs and their functions. Include differentiation of each level - manager, direct service; case manager, outreach worker, etc.
- e. Include and define “lived experience” as a qualification that is paid equitably compared to formal education or work experience (lived experience would be relative to the service being provided).

- f. Develop person-centered metrics, informed by definitions of services and positions listed above, to be used system-wide to assess successful outcomes.

4. Improve County Contracting and Procurement Processes for Housing-focused Service Providers - ties to HRAP GOAL #2.

While the HRAP calls for “streamlining shelter services contracting process for faster and more efficient contracting that allows providers to meet workforce needs” (Page 15), revising the contracting process as soon as possible must apply to all housing and homeless services contractors throughout the county.

- a. Expand revision of contracting process beyond shelters to all housing services funded by Multnomah County to ensure barriers are identified and removed.
- b. Standardize contract administrative approach, training, tracking and reporting to bolster the ability to meet mutually-defined goals.
- c. Replace cost-reimbursement contracts with contracts based on providers' operating budget (including overhead/admin costs) invoiced at 1/12th monthly.
- d. As identified by Multnomah County's Contracting and Procurement office:
 - i. Enhance contract administration
 - ii. Improve supplier and contractor engagement
 - iii. Differential between Requests for Proposals (RFP) and Requests for Programmatic Qualifications (RFPQ)
 - iv. Facilitate contract modifications, adjustments, and amendments.

5. Prioritize Access to Medicaid Reimbursements and 1115 Waiver Benefits for All Housing-focused Service Providers - ties to HRAP Goal #5.

The prospect of directly billing a CCO or Fee-for-Service entity for services covered under the HRSN benefit is challenging for small to medium housing/homeless-focused service providers, yet Medicaid remains an untapped source of revenue for human and social service providers.

- a. Identify all housing and homeless services that could be covered by Medicaid, not just those limited to supportive housing services, outreach, or crisis response. Note that DSV providers are precluded by law from using Medicaid dollars to pay for their services.
- b. Engage with housing-focused service providers to understand challenges, limitations, and needed resources to directly bill Medicaid.
- c. Explore options to engage a third-party administrator or similar model, or organizations in the Metro area with existing infrastructure and experience, to carry the ongoing administrative functions and financial cost to partner with nonprofit organizations directly billing Medicaid in order to potentially exceed the amount of new revenue organizations would be able to secure.

SUPPORTING ORGANIZATIONS







HRAP Feed Back <hrapfeedback@multco.us>

RE: Keeping People Homeless For Financial Gain

faith <0369faith0369@gmail.com>

Sat, Apr 6, 2024 at 6:59 PM

To: HRAPfeedback@multco.us



External Sender - Be Suspicious of Attachments, Links, and Requests for Payment or Login Information.

As of March 24th, 2023, I, myself, one person have been unsuccessful in gaining help to not be homeless. 1 person!!!!
I've called 211 on a daily basis only to be told that there are no services available or resources. I'm only one person! That's just 211.

For a person fleeing domestic violence, even less help. I'm only one person.

Now let's look at 1 houseless person
1 dv victim
1 native American person
And one person running from sex traffickers!

4 different categories....
ZERO help!

How is this possible??

If you can't help just one person who fits into 4 different categories in a little over A year, then how he hell do you expect me or anyone to believe the number of people the country has claimed to help?

It's all bullshit.

You people are pocket in the money giving yourselves raises, updating your offices, getting tax write offs for wiping your asses, and keeping us paraded on the street in areas convenient for the upper class to view and be discussed about so to be easily accessible for media to spotlight while you sadistic criminals laugh at what you've gotten away with. Oh and now there's still a homeless problem but it's still not your fault, it's those dirty drug addicts again. Screw you!

Now let's talk about how you refuse to help females especially because of how much money is involved for you and your sex trafficking cartel and bikers.

You're helping sex traffickers traffic females by not helping them, and then allowing these non profit places, shelters, day centers, and so on,...pocket money just like you and parade these girls outside of these places where sex traffickers sit or drive around every day looking for their next victim. And all you pukers are getting paid to do it. All of you!!!

2 people on the HTU???
Are you fucking kidding me?
It just supports what I say.

You are also sex trafficking homeless females, and it's all about the money.

Ps,
I've been talking with A reporter and an attorney.

4/15/24, 11:06 AM

Multnomah County Mail - RE: Keeping People Homeless For Financial Gain

Good luck proving that you pukers are not doing these things!!!



HRAP Feed Back <hrapfeedback@multco.us>

Homelessness Response Action Plan Comment

Greg Dirks <gregd@woodvillageor.gov>

Fri, Mar 29, 2024 at 5:57 PM

To: "HRAPfeedback@multco.us" <HRAPfeedback@multco.us>

Cc: John Miner <JohnM@woodvillageor.gov>, Rebecca Stavenjord <rebecca.stavenjord@multco.us>, Ray Young <ray.young@troutdaleoregon.gov>, Rachael Fuller <fullerr@ci.fairview.or.us>



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I am confused if this is a county plan or a City of Portland Plan. The plan makes no mention of the other cities and unincorporated areas of the County. In fact, whole sections of the plan are Portland focused and centric. What about the other cities and areas? What is that involvement, expectations, and what was the level of input requested and received from those outside of Portland? That seems missing, and the East County cities and region seem to be missing from larger conversations and resources.

The plan, while mentioning needing additional funding and funding sources, what are the plans if that funding does not come through? The plan lacks specificity on what dollars from the current supportive services measure will go to what program. It's understandable that in a draft form that an accurate dollar value may not be known, and it would be good to know the relative value or cost of each strategy, and how each relates to the other in its relative importance and cost.

There seems to be an internal conflict on what the plan calls for in terms of affordable housing, and the Chair's response to Metro's suggestion of utilizing unanticipated increased revenues to fund more affordable housing projects. Without relative dollar values for each strategy, it's hard to know what costs what. There may need to be trade-offs and priorities if additional funding is not available. There should be prioritization of the goals.

There is a lot of mention around incentives for affordable housing. This is in conflict with the state's current property tax system. With the change property ratio as it is, housing, especially multi-family housing costs more to serve than it brings in revenue. Cities cannot continue to subsidize housing through property taxes. There needs to be state or other funding for this to work long term. There is also a larger conflict not mentioned. There is a direct conflict around a city's desire to increase revenue through increased property taxes and affordability. The whole purpose of Urban Renewal is to increase land values. An area with high land values will not be affordable. Conversely, even if an area increases in real market value, that does not necessarily mean any additional property taxes for the underlying jurisdictions. Lastly, the idea of affordable housing as being built as standalone developments is archaic and not optimal. This concentrates poverty and does not afford the ability to gain social capital through increased connections. There should be mixed rate units of all incomes, not simply affordable housing buildings.

The plan seems to make an assumption that people want or can work. This is referenced a couple of times, specifically for those leaving the criminal justice system or the foster system. What is the plan if there are those who do not want to work? What is the incentive to either gain employment or job skills? What happens if there is no interest in that kind of lifestyle?

What are the long terms plans for mental health and substance abuse? It is well known that Oregon ranks near the bottom in both categories. These are hard services to obtain for those with insurance or cash. How will this system be built and sustained when it seems like the larger whole is broken? Relying on the current healthcare system to fix it will not work.

The plan seems to focus on specific target populations, which is not a bad thing. The plan also seems silent to those not listed in the priority populations. How will those people be served?

Lastly, there seems to be a lot of administration related to this plan. The Joint Office has already increased its administrative staff substantially since 2020. How many more administrative staff are needed for this plan? What will that cost, and what will not get done in terms of services because of that cost?

In general, this plan is disappointing as it seems to be Portland centric, has a lot of buzz words, key phrases, and reads like a sophisticated document without actually stating the outcomes. It lacks real specificity. Example, phrases such as “Faster and more streamlined siting and development for projects...” is used. Faster compared to what? Faster is not a measure. The term “Fair” should also not be used. There is no objective measure of “fair”. All TBD’s should be removed prior to adoption. There should be a date, agency, or nothing listed at all. The plan should really focus on what the County can do. It's understandable that other agencies and organizations are needed, but the County cannot control those entities. While it is necessary to list what agency can do something, it seems inappropriate to call it the responsible agency. If this is a County plan, the County needs to be responsible, and not pass the buck if something did not occur. This reads like a wish list, and seems like more studies, reports, and administrative work will be conducted while people live and die on the streets. A plan that listed the specific who, what, where, cost, and timeline would have been more welcomed.

Greg Dirks
City Manager

City of Wood Village

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HRAP Feed Back <hrapfeedback@multco.us>

A Solution to Homelessness

m b <mkbh20@outlook.com>

Wed, Apr 10, 2024 at 5:54 PM

To: "HRAPfeedback@multco.us" <HRAPfeedback@multco.us>



External Sender - Be Suspicious of Attachments, Links, and Requests for Payment or Login Information.

To whom it may concern:

My name is Mike. I've been sending my suggestions on how to address homelessness to our elected officials, local media outlets and civic organizations, for nearly two and a half years now. Until today, I've never received a response. Vikki Payne sent me this link to forward my suggestions to the appropriate people/office. She also mentioned the public feedback period on the draft plan was closed, but suggested I could still reach out.

I have reviewed the draft of your plan. While I appreciate all the work you folks have put into this, it simply isn't going to get the job done. My suggestions are radically different – in scale, design, and application. Have a look at what I'm offering.....it's not too late to change course.

Read First: **Time for FEMA**. This is my proposal that explains why and how we need to change our approach to homelessness.


Next: **A Shelter Now Plan**. This is a comprehensive plan that lays out exactly how my program would work, highlighting the associated benefits.

Thanks,

Mike

2 attachments

 **TimeForFEMA.pdf**
82K

 **ShelterNowPlan.pdf**
86K

Addressing the Homeless Crisis: Portland Oregon

Large Scale Problems Require a Large Scale Response.....Why Federal Action is Needed

Portland's approach to homelessness is far too inadequate to match the scale of services needed. As we try to cobble together services and mini-pod transition parks, the homeless population will continue to grow and outpace our ability to keep up. We're already overwhelmed – Portland's approach will only worsen the crisis.

Reminder: the latest point in time head count puts the homeless population at around sixty-five hundred, advocates estimate the real number is closer to ten thousand. By Mayor Ted's own projections, the city/county partnership to address homelessness will reduce the homeless population by 50% in two years time; that leaves three to five thousand people still living on the streets – and those numbers are based on the assumption the homeless population remains static. This is unacceptable. What we're doing, by simple math, will not work. It's time to accept defeat and change strategies.....it's time to ask for help.

Why We Need Federal Assistance – and How It Would Work

- First and foremost: capacity and speed. Neither the City or the State has the ability or the resources to do anything at the scale we need, or with the urgency we need it. FEMA and the military, however, are absolutely equipped for this kind of challenge.
- This is a Shelter Now strategy – the objective is to get people off the streets, sheltered and stabilized as soon as possible. Permanent housing solutions must still proceed, of course, but we don't have years to wait for piece-meal housing projects to be started and/or completed.
- The basic idea is to construct tent sites large enough to accommodate the current population of homeless folks – while concurrently planning to expand capacity for the increase we know is to come.
- Tent sites administered by the Feds is the most expedient, practical and cost effective Shelter Now strategy possible. We need to exercise this alternative, and we need to get out in front of this before other States demand help.
- Option One: FEMA. “the agency's primary purpose is to coordinate the response to a disaster that has occurred in the US, and that overwhelms the resources of local and state authorities”. FEMA can come in, setup, and stabilize the situation while the City and State get their act together.
- Option Two: if FEMA is not enough, lets bring in the US Military to help. Why? Because there is no greater mobile logistics operation – anywhere in the world – than the US military. Our military can setup a fully functioning city in short order. Our military has the experience and capability.....and they're already on the clock.

(excerpts from submissions to Sam Adams and Portland's leadership, 11-10-21)

Immediate / Transitional Solutions for Managing Homelessness

The following suggestions are viable actions we can take – right now – that are legal, practical, and humane. They can also serve as a procedural framework for everything moving forward.

Step One: Call on FEMA to setup mobile tent transition parks. These parks should provide shelter, food, and sanitation services. These parks should also strive to provide on-site mental health care and substance abuse services.

Step Two: Enforce the law. Clear the streets of illegal campers. Offer urban campers the option of engaging these services, or, the option to leave the city, or, face arrest. Having FEMA tent parks will satisfy the legal requirement that urban campers are offered an available shelter bed, and, the freedom to choose.

Step Three: The primary goal of these parks is to give those in need the immediate help necessary to stabilize and assess their situation. Evaluate and prioritize assistance accordingly.

Step Four: These transition parks should be just that, transitional. Based on the evaluations of those engaging services, develop individualized action plans with specific timelines and benchmarks to be met, or, services will be withdrawn and these folks will be asked to find other, legal alternatives.

Step Five: Establish a network of partnerships with other municipalities to handle overflow. Homelessness is not just a Portland problem, it's a national problem. Every community needs to participate in solving this crisis.

Step Six: Transition homeless folks from tent parks into permanent housing as soon as units become available. When faced with shortages for permanent housing, relocate folks to other municipalities. Under no circumstances can we wait for affordable housing to be constructed, nor should we have to.

Time for Some Details

Critical Point: FEMA Tent Sites are explicitly intended to provide homeless folks an available shelter bed; they are welcome to accept or decline the offer – OTHERWISE – Municipalities will be required to enforce every ordinance on the books that prohibit the following: unsanctioned camp sites, unsafe structures, illegal dumping of garbage and waste, trespass, obstruction of public right of way, vehicle abandonment, etc. In other words.....we need to enforce our laws.

Important Message: People who choose to come to Portland for assistance will know where to go and what to expect. Services will be provided to anyone who asks for it (even for those who just want a free ride). Assistance will only be offered within the framework outlined above – take it or leave it – this is not-negotiable.

Undocumented Migrants: Same message as above with one major caveat; if you choose to come to Portland, you will be provided food and shelter, but, you will be placed at the bottom of the wait list for permanent housing, healthcare, and employment opportunities – behind American citizens. (Reminder: foreign nationals representing 164 countries have been identified entering the US at the southern border.)

Coordinated Services: City, State, and Federal agencies will be required to work together to coordinate services and responsibilities. Refusal of City and/or the State to engage with Federal agencies will remove them from participation. That's right.....if the City or State refuses to help, we must give total control to the Feds.

Non-Profits / Social Service Organizations: All homeless advocacy groups will be encouraged to participate. These organizations, however, will be required to meet eligibility requirements and follow strict guidelines, or, they won't be included. Those who operate in conflict with the program should face fines, lose taxpayer funding, and lose Not-For-Profit tax status. The message must be clear: either help.....or get out of the way.

What the City and State Must Do: Remove/reduce overly burdensome permitting requirements and expedite site approval process. Create a fast track development team to handle everything from site selection to service coordination with Federal and Local agencies. Ideally, this team would be comprised of private sector career professionals who have proven expertise and real-world experience in: project management/development, logistics, communications, and coordination. NOTE: it's time for career government bureaucrats to step aside.

Here's a few examples illustrating the positive outcomes to this program:

- Strategically placed tent sites will provide greater efficiencies for both service and cost.
- A few large tent sites, versus numerous mini-pod transition parks scattered throughout Portland, will greatly reduce the stress and frustration experienced by residents and businesses alike.
- Centralized parks can provide better security – for both guests inside the parks, and for adjacent neighbors. These parks will reduce crime such as burglaries, vandalism, auto theft and car break-ins, while reducing the city wide spread of garbage that is often associated with homeless folks. This will be accomplished by focusing homeless folks to designated areas that can be more effectively managed.
- If we can get endorsement and participation from our social service organizations, citizens will see a unified effort and will more likely support actions moving forward. When partnered with FEMA and other supporting agencies, if managed competently, we can create an All-Star program that could potentially serve as the nations model for addressing homelessness.
- For non-Oregonians and undocumented migrants: If you come here without the means to take care of yourself, we're here to help; you will, however, be required to follow the program. Considering that at least 65% of our homeless population comes here from outside Oregon, and considering Portland is a sanctuary city.....a strong message is necessary to dissuade folks who intend to come here solely for the services and lack of law enforcement.

* It is important to understand, this policy is not anti-immigration, it is basic economics. As we all know, we're failing to take care of hundreds of thousands of Americans living on the streets as it is; we must be realistic, practical, and prioritize resources accordingly.

In closing, Sam Adams pitched the FEMA concept to Mayor Ted in early 2022, yet for reasons unknown to the general public, that idea died on the vine. I wonder why? I imagine leadership had plenty of good reasons for why this wouldn't work, but I think it's more likely our leaders are simply in over their heads; these folks are not problem solvers, they're not decision makers – and no one appears to have any real-world experience getting things done. The net result: the homeless crisis is worsening, and our city is in rapid decline.

Lets agree, there is no perfect plan that will satisfy everyone. Lets also agree there will be trade-offs. Most critically, lets accept reality: Portland's approach to homelessness is too small in scale, it's too incomplete in design, and it's too short sighted in planning for the future. Let's stop with the excuses and finger pointing, and start making the tough decisions necessary to establish a meaningful program to shelter the homeless – now.

A Shelter Now Solution for Homelessness

Emergency / Temporary / Transitional

What It Is: Centralized tent sites designed to provide shelter and services for the homeless.

Scale: Sites will be large, with the capacity to accommodate up to three thousand people each.

Why so Big? To consolidate services, streamline intake and processing, maximize efficiencies.

Why is this even necessary?

There is simply no other plan or program that can accommodate the sheer number of people living on the streets today, tomorrow, or in the years to come. Patch work, or stop gap solutions like SRV's and overnight shelter beds are too small in scale, too inefficient in design, and too costly to operate. In contrast, large centralized facilities can provide all relevant services under one roof, can more rapidly scale up or down as needed, and can provide a more efficient central command structure.

Primary Benefits

- 24/7 on-site services and support
- Appropriate for ALL people experiencing homelessness
- Streamlined intake and processing for service recipients
- More efficient management of services and support personnel
- Faster response in providing services to those in crisis
- Easier to monitor, track, and adjust services as necessary
- Easier to coordinate and manage supplies, materials and resources
- Scalable design to match demand – up or down
- Most effective way to stabilize, and transition people back into society

Who Can Do This?

This is an emergency. We need to build sites that are appropriate in scale, and we need it to do it with urgency. It would be wonderful if the City and County could partner with the State to set this up, but they've clearly demonstrated the inability to raise to the challenge – we need outside help. It's time to call in FEMA or/and, the Army Corp of Engineers.

What It Would Look Like

- Tent sites modeled after mobile Military field camps (small cities)
- Barrack style tent units segregated for: single females, single males, families, those with pets, etc.
- 24/7 on-site health care services: medical, mental health, substance abuse, etc.
- 24/7 on-site security – and – front line crisis responders
- Community Dining Hall / cafeteria / nutrition center
- Hygiene Facilities: showers / laundry / pet wash stations
- On-site office space for case workers, work/life counselors, employment counselors, etc.
- Secure storage lockers for personal items
- Recreation center / meeting hall / library / Wi-Fi
- Military style PX (no drugs or alcohol)

How the Program Would Work

Outreach workers in the field will make initial contact and determine if individual(s) are living unsheltered. If this is found to be the situation, they will explain what options are available: accept services, **or**, leave the city, **or**, face citation and possible arrest.

Steps / Process: From Street to Shelter

Identify / Prioritize / Place:

1. Those suffering mental health issues.
2. Those recently homeless due to catastrophic circumstances.
3. Those dealing with substance abuse issues.
4. Those who decline help.

For those accepting services, transport will be provided to the appropriate facility for intake and processing.

At Shelter Site

- Assess – determine the most appropriate services based on evaluations
- Stabilize – allow time for new arrivals to rest and acclimate to new surroundings
- Assign – dedicated case manager, counselors, and support team
- Personalized Action Plan – with timelines and benchmark targets for focus
- Monitor – evaluate and adjust assistance accordingly
- Transition – those who are ready for the next stage of their journey as soon as realistic

Additional Services / Benefits

Centralized sites will be designed to operate as fully functioning, independent small cities, providing all the services necessary to care for people in need. In addition to their primary purpose, these sites can provide a wide range of related benefits.....and opportunities. Let's take a quick look.

To run and operate, our small cities will require people.

For those who want to work, **On-Site** jobs will be made available – and will pay a minimum wage. This will provide incentive, purpose, and hope for those wanting to stabilize and reintegrate into society.

Reward: those who work will be given preference for transitional/permanent housing, and, first considerations for full time job opportunities. * Anyone identified with a physical and/or mental disability will be given first priority for housing and services.

Examples of **On-Site** jobs: food services, security, facility maintenance, healthcare assistance, peer counselors, recycling/sanitation/disposal, warehousing/inventory, shuttle drivers, barbers/hygiene, bicycle service/repair, pet grooming, etc. Anything you can imagine a need for – there's a job we can create and fill.

Off-Site work projects should also be pursued – paying a minimum wage. If we can get the city on board, work crews can be assembled and dispatched for: litter clean up, graffiti cleanup, city park maintenance, brush removal/trail repair, public space maintenance, etc. Again, anything we have a need for, we'll have a job for.

By-Product Benefits

- Centralized sites will provide shelter guests the predictability of knowing where they'll be and what to expect, versus the uncertainty of not knowing what tomorrow will bring. Predictability provides stability – which is *the* necessity to establish routine, and develop positive work/life habits.
- For those in recovery, consistency of support and environment is especially critical; all service inclusive centralized sites will provide that.
- Work participation, on-site job training/skills development will increase the potential for participants to succeed in future employment opportunities.
- A few large tent sites, versus numerous mini-pod transition parks scattered throughout Portland, will greatly reduce the stress and frustration experienced by surrounding communities and businesses alike.
- Centralized parks can provide better security – for both guests inside the parks, and for adjacent neighbors. These parks will reduce crime such as burglaries, vandalism, auto theft and car break-ins, while reducing the city wide spread of garbage that is often associated with homeless folks. This will be accomplished by focusing homeless folks to centralized sites that can be more effectively managed.
- This program will transform the entire city of Portland into a clean, safe, and welcoming community for all.
- If we can get endorsement and participation from our social service organizations, citizens will see a unified effort and will more likely support actions moving forward. When partnered with FEMA and other supporting agencies, if managed competently, we can create an All-Star program that could potentially serve as the nations model for addressing homelessness.
- Considering that a high percentage of homeless folks have come here from outside Oregon, and considering Portland is a sanctuary city.....a strong message is necessary to dissuade folks who intend to come here solely for the services and lack of law enforcement. This alone will reduce demand.
- Hedge Our Bet: the first centralized site to be established could also be viewed as a training exercise to prepare for large scale disasters – this program is a Win-Win.

Imagine: A Real-World Working Lab

These centralized sites can also serve as a real-world testing ground for new technologies and sustainable living models. Encourage private sector participation to develop, test, and evaluate – not just experimental technologies, but also the next generation concepts of the future.

- * Renewable Energy Solutions
- * Food Consumption and Recycling
- * Water Use and Conservation
- * Waste Treatment and Recycling
- * Green Building Design / Construction
- * Sustainable / Organic Farming
- * Co-habitation / Community Integration
- * Education / Training / Skills Development

We're only limited by our imagination, and our willingness to try.....lets get busy.



Fwd: Sharon's Spring 2024 Newsletter

1 message

Multnomah County
Commissioner Sharon Meieran
May 2024

[View this email in your browser](#)



Dear Friends and Neighbors,

Greetings! Time is flying by and a lot has been happening. I'm going to dive into the deep end and give you my take on some of the biggest issues in Multnomah County right now, including how they fit into the current budget process.

HOMELESSNESS

“Homelessness Response Action Plan” - read the fine print!

The County Chair and Mayor have proposed a new bureaucracy to oversee homeless services in Multnomah County, allocating millions of dollars to a “homelessness response system” through a “homelessness response action plan” ([HRAP](#)). Despite the massive policy and budget implications, it has largely flown under the radar. I have major concerns about the substance of the HRAP, compounded by the lack of public process and the potential for abuse of power.

As we know, the homelessness crisis pre-existed COVID, worsened during COVID, and now more people are dying on our streets than ever before. The crisis worsened due to poorly conceived and coordinated policies during the COVID pandemic, along with the explosion of fentanyl and methamphetamine use due to ubiquitous cheap supply, the extremely addictive nature of these drugs, and the lack of county planning.

Four decades worth of “comprehensive plans” attempted to coordinate city and county efforts to “solve homelessness”. These included [*Breaking the Cycle of Homelessness: The Portland Model*](#) (1988); [*Home Again: A Ten-year Plan to End Homelessness*](#) (2004); and [*A Home For Everyone*](#) (2014).

The plans all said basically the same thing: “Homelessness is complicated. We need to focus on prevention, outreach, shelter, and housing. We can’t do it alone. We need unprecedented collaboration and coordination. We need data and accountability. We need goals and action items. And we need to build on the excellent work that came before.” And all of the plans failed, each leaving Portland worse off than the one that came before.

Most recently, A Home For Everyone (AHFE) promised to “reduce homelessness by 50%” in its first two years (an identical promise to that being made in the HRAP). AHFE established the Joint Office of Homeless Services (JOHS) to consolidate City and County efforts to combat homelessness in a single department, with a governance structure to create policy the JOHS could then implement. We all know how that turned out.

The HRAP offers nothing new to an already overly bureaucratized and dysfunctional system. It recycles four decades of similar efforts, except it is less cohesive, more confusing, and has less chance of success. There are problems with the HRAP, both large and small, technical and substantive, process-related and operational. It took me a long time to review the HRAP, largely because it was so convoluted and filled with jargon, but I finally compiled all of my feedback, along with a proposed alternative, into a detailed report. I shared this with the County Chair ([linked here](#)). I also summarized my feedback for those who prefer Cliff’s notes ([linked here](#)).

A summary of my summary of the problems

- **The HRAP is based on a false foundation.**

The HRAP claims to “build on the success of prior work” in a weak attempt to positively spin the County’s current abysmal housing placement rate of 26%. But 26% “placement” means that 74% of people in shelters are not moving into better situations. Meanwhile, the numbers of people living and dying on our streets continue to grow. Whether this is an overt effort to market failure or an unfathomable ignorance of the failure of current plans, it is unacceptable.

- **The HRAP offers empty promises disguised as “deliverables”**

Any homelessness plan must start with a clear understanding of who is on the street and what investments will most efficiently and effectively get them shelter, services and housing. A true By Name List (BNL) can be the foundation for such a plan and would contain the names of all people living unsheltered, with information about their individual housing needs and barriers. The information would proactively guide investment, and success would be measured as individual people got into a better situation and moved off the list.

Unfortunately, none of this is happening in Portland, largely because the Joint Office of Homeless Services (JOHS) does not have a true BNL and does not approach the problem systematically as one would with a true BNL, and refuses to admit it. They took a limited database of names at a given point in time and used it solely to obtain a number. The actual human beings living unsheltered and suffering who may be on the list were literally irrelevant. The HRAP promises to house or shelter half the number they obtained in two years, irrespective of who they are, whether they are on any list, or whether unsheltered homelessness is reduced.

Meanwhile, the public (and the City, it seems) are under the impression that the County is promising to reduce the number of people currently living unsheltered by 2699. It is a bait and switch and no one is calling foul.

- **The HRAP lacks clear baseline data.**

The County promises to increase the number of shelter beds by 1000. Yet neither the City nor County have baseline data regarding how many shelter beds exist in Portland or how many are occupied. The County has published three versions of shelter numbers on its website and in the HRAP, yet all are different and none are accurate. Without a baseline, how can they claim to “add” anything?

To confuse things further, the County claims that 555 shelter beds that have already been bought and paid for, but weren’t made available on time, will count toward their 1000 new bed goal. This is fuzzy math at best, deception at worst.

- **The HRAP is a poster child for potential abuse of power and poor governance.**

The HRAP and IGA vest absolute power in the County Chair when we need objective leadership independent of a single elected official. Placing an entire homelessness system, including the selection of its director, under the authority of a single elected official is dangerous in the best of times. And these are far from the best of times

As examples of what can go wrong with absolute power concentrated in the Chair consider Housing Multnomah Now (the Chair’s signature housing proposal promising to place 300 people in seven months, which actually placed seven); the Chair’s response to the 90-day fentanyl emergency and ambulance response crisis; her inability to get tens of millions of dollars SHS revenue out

the door; and appointment of an individual with no background in homelessness as homelessness system director, who ended up having to resign under a cloud.

Accountable to the Chair's handpicked leader is a governance committee composed mostly of politicians. Politicians generally run for office to do good, but they are not experts in homelessness. There can be immense public pressure to focus on individual programs or projects that can sound good -and even do good - but won't make a dent in terms of the big picture of homelessness. Furthermore, sometimes the political winds can favor policies that might actually do harm. We need to break this cycle, not reinforce it.

The Solution

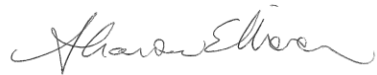
An independent governance structure should be established that is composed of substantively informed leaders and led by a single, accountable subject matter expert, selected through a transparent process based on objective criteria. This governance team should be as independent of politics as possible and be responsible for creating a comprehensive holistic framework for a homelessness system of prevention, shelter and housing.

!ACTION ALERT!

As there have been no public board meetings allowing for dialogue and raising of questions about the HRAP, even in the context of the major changes to homelessness governance and funding that it represents, I have asked for a [public board work session to discuss it](#). I am grateful that the Chair scheduled this.

It will happen THIS THURSDAY AFTERNOON, MAY 16, from 1 - 2pm. Please tune in, attend in person, and/or consider weighing in via email to the Chair at mult.chair@multco.us. Copy other commissioners at District1@multco.us, District2@multco.us, DIstrict3@multco.us and DIstrict4@multco.us.

Those who do not learn from history are doomed to repeat it and I worry that right now we are on the brink of repeating history at tremendous cost and with a potential risk of significant harm.



Dr. Sharon Meieran
Multnomah County District 1 Commissioner

Find out more about Sharon by visiting:

[Facebook](#) / [Twitter](#) / [Website](#)

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Commissioner Meieran on Homeless Response System and Intergovernmental Agreement

Feedback on Homelessness Response Action Plan (HRAP) and
Intergovernmental Agreement (IGA); Alternative Governance Proposal

–Multnomah County Commissioner Sharon Meieran

Introduction

Having read the HRAP and IGA multiple times, with a background as a lawyer, direct service provider, and policymaker, I still do not understand what the documents are trying to achieve. I can't even tell what aspect of homelessness is being addressed - unsheltered homelessness? Sheltered homelessness? People at risk of becoming homeless? Prevention of homelessness? Long term housing? The words used are confusing, numbers are represented inaccurately and inconsistently, the purported goals are all over the map, and it's not clear who is supposed to do what.

If the problem is not having a shared framework for a comprehensive functioning homelessness system (which I believe is a major problem), then concisely state this and describe and depict the proposed framework, explaining how what is proposed differs from the current system or what came before and failed.

If the problem is lack of effective governance, oversight, accountability, and coordination of a fragmented system with siloed responsibilities and funding streams (which I believe is a major problem), then state this clearly and then concisely explain the plan for attaining effective shared governance and oversight. Explain how what is proposed differs from the current system or what came before (particularly A Home For Everyone) and failed.

If the problem is the City wanting a specific "deliverable" in return for money they give to the County (which is the single thing that it seems like the IGA is trying to accomplish), then just say this and have a simple agreement that does not purport to be anything more than it really is. "In exchange for the City providing XXX funds to the JOHS, the County agrees to house or shelter 2699 people over the course of the next 1.5 years and will make available 445 new shelter beds that have not already been planned and/or invested in."

Multiple well-conceived and thoughtful plans attempting to collaboratively address homelessness through comprehensive, coordinated efforts between the City and County have failed over the

past three decades as the situation on our streets has worsened. The HRAP offers the same rhetoric as the prior plans, but with a worse actual plan. If we invest massive amounts of time and energy in this misguided attempt to reinvent the wheel, we will end up three years further into failure, harming more people, wasting tremendous resources, and squandering what little public trust we have left. The documents don't withstand basic scrutiny, and no one who has actually read them and considered them in the context of 40 years of prior failed plans should believe that they will lead to meaningful change. The documents must be personally reviewed with a critical eye and any questions fully addressed. To do less would be a disservice to the public.

Is meaningful change possible in our current system? Absolutely. Can a reasonable IGA be gleaned from what is proposed? I think so. By the end of June? Likely not, but I'm open to the possibility.

The City and County can adopt a path that can lead to foundational change, but only if we focus like a laser on three crucial elements:

1. Establish a single objective, independent, accountable leadership and governance structure directing homelessness policy, guided by expertise, best practices, and a holistic view of the homelessness system. Policy and planning should not be directed by elected officials. In fact, politics should be removed from the equation as much as possible. (The HRAP as written does the opposite.)
2. Clearly convey that the "joint" office of homeless services is exclusively a County department and not officially connected to the City. Neither an IGA nor an ordinance is needed to achieve this goal, and it needn't take two years. (The current proposed IGA makes this much more complex than it needs to be.)
3. Draft an IGA that has a narrow scope and focuses on what it can and wants to actually achieve. (The current proposed IGA does the opposite.)

Below, I will offer some constructive feedback for the HRAP and IGA as they currently exist. I believe that by adopting some of my proposed suggestions the documents could be improved. That being said, I do not believe that either document should be adopted, let alone pushed through on a rush basis.

I will conclude with an alternative approach that could be reasonably accomplished in a limited time frame and I hope you will consider this.

HRAP - I will go through the document page by page in order to provide some structure for my feedback.

First untitled section:

Problem: Right now the way the HRAP is written, the first two paragraphs seem to say that the main problem isn't homelessness itself, but having a dysfunctional system with no shared,

comprehensive plan to address it. The HRAP then seems to list elements contributing to the dysfunction, but does so in a very confusing and rambling way.

Solution: Be clear and concise. Instead of run-on sentences with a bunch of digressive examples going on for paragraphs, just stick with the big picture: The elements contributing to the dysfunction include lack of clarity in government and organizational roles and responsibilities; overlaps and gaps among local, state and regional entities; profound lack of affordable housing; lack of effective behavioral health systems and supports; lack of coordination among myriad entities engaged in homeless services; lack of reliable baseline data, information sharing platforms, data management, and data collection and analytic strategies; etc.

Conclude this section with “This Homelessness Response Action Plan offers (succinct summary of what the HRAP is actually supposed to do that responds directly to the problem that was identified)” The way it’s currently stated is boastful (that’s how the term “ambitious” comes off, and that word is used in the previous plans that failed), but doesn’t actually address the problem that’s stated. Is the goal to align and coordinate? If so, that’s not a very impressive goal.

Problem Statement:

- Problem: Wasn’t the initial section the problem statement? It’s not clear what that untitled section is supposed to do vs. the “Problem Statement” section.

Solution: Be clear in differentiating these sections - if they both have to exist (which isn’t necessarily the case), then explain what each section is supposed to accomplish.

- Problem: The “Problem Statement” isn’t one. It basically says: Lots of people are homeless. Tons of them are living unsheltered. Tons more are in shelters or doubled up. Multnomah County has finite resources. What is lacking is a focused, coordinated and urgent strategy that (blah blah blah - words that seem like they’re trying to sound intelligent but aren’t used effectively or appropriately):
 - Number 1 literally doesn’t say anything.
 - Number 2 is policy speak that doesn’t say anything.
 - Number 3 doesn’t make sense - How does a strategy “Understand and define population segments”? I note the phrase “population segment” is used repeatedly in this document. There can be discrete populations defined by their shared characteristics, or sub-populations, or sectors of a population, or cohorts, but the phrase “population segment” is distracting and doesn’t fit. It should be switched out throughout the HRAP and IGA.
 - Number 4 uses a different format from the rest of the list. To be consistent it should just list what it will do - “Center racial equity.” Adding “at the forefront” to “center racial equity” is redundant. Either “place racial equity at the forefront” or “center racial equity.” This is basic grammar. Save further explanation until later or describe it in detail in a footnote.
 - Number 5 doesn’t make sense. How does a strategy “Quantify the type of housing and shelter required to move individuals and population segments off the street or out of shelter into sustainable permanent housing”?
 - Number 6 is a mishmash of words thrown together in a way that doesn’t make sense. Also, starting with “Strategically” when the lead-in is “What is lacking is a strategy that...” is redundant.
 - Number 7 is a bunch of jargon that says nothing. Data in what sense? Outcomes about what?

The “problem statement” should be the heart of the plan. Instead this is a confusing bunch of words that don’t really say anything. I read the “Problem Statement” and I’m even less sure about the problem that needs solving than before reading the plan.

Solution: Try just saying what you mean in regular words. Do not refer to population “segments”. Use words correctly and consistently. Review rules of grammar. Avoid jargon.

Executive Summary:

General problem: This is not an executive summary.

Problems by paragraph:

- Paragraph 1: The first paragraph diminishes credibility by saying the PITC is “accurate”. Accuracy is defined as “free from error”, “correct”, or “in agreement with the truth”. The PITC has some arguably positive features, but accuracy is not one of them.

Solution: I recommend removing the word “accurate” - it only serves to undermine credibility.

- Paragraph 2: A lot of the numbers in this section are either misleading, inconsistent, or erroneous. The paragraph starts with the claim that the County's "by name list" includes "11,153 people who were experiencing homelessness as of January 2024". The paragraph then proceeds to say that 2,558 of these names can't be accounted for. So why even mention 11,153 at all? It only serves to confuse.

Solution: Start with the "confirmed" 8,595 number, and then break that down clearly and concisely. Suggestion: Efforts to improve data collection and accuracy have resulted in identification of 8,595 individuals whose housing status was reported and confirmed by service providers contracting with the County as of January 31, 2024. This included 5,398 people living unsheltered; 2,593 living in a (County? City? Other?) funded shelter; and 604 living in shelters not funded by (City, County, etc.).

I would also clearly state the limitations of the list, which are many. "We recognize this is a significant undercount, for a variety of reasons, but at least this provides a starting point to begin taking a more focused approach. "

- Paragraph 3: This is one of the most important points for people to understand - the causes of and contributors to homelessness, and the categorization of different types of homelessness. This paragraph grossly oversimplifies and confuses the reality of what leads to and perpetuates homelessness.

Solution: This should be revised by someone who understands the complexity of homelessness and can break it down so that people reading the plan can make sense of it.

- Paragraph 4: This paragraph is embarrassingly confusing, overly simplistic, and inaccurate. When broken down, it essentially says: (1) As affordable housing supply decreases, whether due to increasing rent or fewer physical housing options compared with the population, more people are unable to get and retain housing. (2) The solution is having an adequate supply of affordable housing to meet people's needs. (3) Shelter and transitional "options" (whatever this means) are necessary to address "a homelessness crisis", but not sufficient on their own to solve homelessness. (4) Moving people through transitional "settings" (?) and into housing is impaired by failing to provide them with the right services while in transition. (5) This results in a failure of our "system" (what system?) to achieve its "intended lasting outcomes" (what are these? These are never defined and not tied to any specific goal, population or system).

No one can argue the basics of supply and demand in relation to housing. With fewer physical housing units, more people needing the units, and escalating rent vs. income, of course we need more housing units and we need ways for people to be able to afford them. But the problem is much more complicated than just having affordable housing available. Homelessness can result from or be exacerbated by physical illness, mental illness, or addiction disorders; previous history of incarceration; racism; having support needs due to aging; domestic violence; etc. And the reality is that once people become homeless, regardless of the underlying reason, they are

exposed to trauma and stress that can lead to substance use and worsening of underlying mental health conditions. This can cause a further downward spiral of incarceration, risk of death and injury, and chronic inability to get or sustain housing. So the “solution” to homelessness is not simply “having an adequate supply of affordable housing,” because many people for valid reasons can’t simply move into housing. They require different types of housing that’s not only deeply affordable but provides the services and supports they actually need to get and stay housed.

In terms of shelter and transitional “options”, there seems to be no understanding of why these are necessary to “address” a homeless crisis. There is no acknowledgement that shelter actually saves people’s lives while they are unhoused, as well as reducing their suffering, improving their dignity, and improving their and the public’s safety. This is the crux of why shelter is needed and yet it is completely ignored as part of the equation.

In addition, shelter serves as a transition point to help people access services and skills needed to move into a better situation. The role of shelter is twofold - saving lives and helping people transition. What makes our failure to provide shelter not only ineffective but unconscionable is that letting people live unsheltered is essentially treating human beings like garbage and not addressing the humanitarian, public safety, and public health crises that have emerged as a result of our own failed policies.

In terms of the failures of the “system” leading to inability to transition people into housing and achieve the system’s “intended lasting outcomes”, I don’t even know what to say. How do systems “intend” outcomes? What are those outcomes? This sentence is absurd and seems like an attempt to deflect responsibility. Because we - local government - are the system. We have failed. And we’re about to do it again with this plan, but worse.

Solution: Revamp this paragraph completely. Break it down into multiple paragraphs if needed. Study homelessness or get the input of someone who is an expert in this work from a broad-based perspective rather than a single ideological viewpoint. Use common sense and regular language. Read it when you’re done and see if it actually makes sense and doesn’t seem offensive.

- Paragraph 5: Of course issues of behavioral health are inextricably linked to issues of homelessness. But this paragraph is just a hodgepodge of generic sentences that may be true when taken as stand-alone vague conceptual statements, but don’t fit together or tie into the bigger picture. It’s like this paragraph was just thrown in to try to sound intelligent because it referred to behavioral health, but the paragraph actually highlights the lack of true understanding of the interconnection of homelessness (particularly chronic homelessness) and behavioral health.

Solution: Rewrite the paragraph with an attempt to address the shortcomings.

- Paragraph 6: This paragraph leaves out the basic tenets of solving homelessness (prevention, shelter, housing). What are “desired results”? Why single out behavioral healthcare rather than the myriad services and supports needed to get people housed and enable them to retain that housing? Was spellcheck used? The paragraph is poorly written, but I do agree with what I think is the underlying concept, so long as the basic tenets of homelessness are included.

Suggested revised paragraph: No amount of housing, shelter, services or supports will “solve” homelessness in the context of our current fragmented and dysfunctional system, where service providers are too often unsupported and left to fend for themselves. We need an intentional approach to homelessness that coordinates the disconnected efforts and leads to a system that effectively prevents homelessness, keeps people safe if they do become homeless, and supports them as they transition into long term housing.

Paragraph 7: I vehemently disagree with this paragraph and believe that it undermines the credibility of the entire HRAP. Suggesting that prior plans made “major strides”, identified “effective solutions” and “fostered system coordination” blatantly contradicts reality. Prior homelessness plans showed a far greater understanding of the complexity and scale of homelessness, and provided better approaches to solving it, with far more engagement, than what is contained in the HRAP. And yet these plans failed and things got worse. To suggest that the failure was a matter of scope and scale shows a fundamental lack of understanding of the homelessness system and what is needed to fix it. And, if the problem was only one of scope and scale, shouldn’t the HRAP simply advocate that we keep doing the same thing, just more of it? The problem is not about scale and scope. It’s about failed systems and leadership.

Solution: The only solution is to remove the paragraph entirely, or include a paragraph that incorporates a true analysis and understanding of the prior plans, an acknowledgement that they failed and we are now worse off, and, most importantly, that identifies why the plans failed so that we can fix the underlying problem(s).

Paragraph 8: This paragraph is mostly fluff that doesn’t say anything, but what it does say is inaccurate. Most fundamentally, it still doesn’t say what “system” needs fixing, or why this effort is any more coordinated or holistic than prior efforts which, if one reads the prior plans, were all more thoughtful, inclusive, and understandable than the HRAP. The paragraph fails to explain why the HRAP will succeed when the other plans, incorporating virtually identical concepts, touting unprecedented collaboration and coordination, promising reductions in homelessness, describing plans for implementation, and elevating systems thinking, failed. If you can’t answer this fundamental question, then the rest of the plan is built on a false foundation and will crumble.

Solution: Rewrite the paragraph and say the opposite.

Vision:

- Problem: A generic, vapid, uninspiring statement.

Solution: Rethink. Perhaps consider a vision where no one will die on our streets.

Guiding Principles:

Overarching problem: This section lists a bunch of generic principles. They're fine but offer nothing of substance. A college student writing a term paper on homelessness could have written this an hour before their project was due.

- All people living in Multnomah County should have access to safe, stable and permanent housing

Comment: Sure, can't argue with that.

- A comprehensive strategy on homelessness should simultaneously address the need for temporary shelter and emergency services as well as permanent long-term housing

Comment: Although generically fine, this "principle" seems to misunderstand the whole idea of what the word "comprehensive" means. It reduces homelessness to a binary model - we need to address BOTH shelter and housing - rather than addressing the complexity of the system and needing an intentional strategy that is truly comprehensive and puts all of the pieces of the puzzle together to create a meaningful whole.

- Subject matter expertise, lived expertise and equity should be at the center of planning

Comment: Again, it's hard to argue with the generic concept here. But look up the definition of "expertise". Lived "expertise" is not a thing. Lived experience, and wisdom stemming from lived experience, could be reasonable alternatives to use. Also, the fact that the initial person chosen to be the director of this new "system" possessed neither subject matter expertise nor lived experience would seem to undermine this core principle or at least suggest profound irony.

- Transparency and accountability for measured results should be a focus of spending and investments from all levels

Comment: Transparency and accountability are essential, but it's hard to glean this message from the weird use of the passive voice in this sentence. Just say what you mean. And once you do, I would note that the principle is generic.

- Services to people experiencing homelessness should be person-centered and place the needs of the individual at their core

Comment: Absolutely! Hard to argue against this concept. Unfortunately, the HRAP seems to do literally the opposite, making the "principle" seem disingenuous. The whole "theory of change" and program-based model is counter to the notion of putting people at the core. Systems and programs are not people. This is the only place where the concept of person-centered is. The way the supposed by name list is used is the opposite of a person-centered approach.

- Collaboration and a connected system for transitions is critical to navigating both behavioral health and housing systems to achieve lasting results

Comment: SO generic. Collaboration by whom? A “connected system for transitions” of what? Critical to navigating by whom? I appreciate and support the concept (I think) but it is not well expressed.

- To every extent possible, investments should be aligned and synergistic, leveraging one another to make the highest possible use of every dollar

Comment: Sure. Hard to disagree with that generic statement.

What’s missing:

- The first principle should be that we support the health, safety and dignity of people living in our County. People should not die because they are living unsheltered. Period.
- Highlight equity.

Theory of Change:

- Problem: The concept is only defined in a footnote, and the footnote itself is confusing. Furthermore, the concept seems misapplied to the HRAP. It’s like people wanting to sound like policy wonks are trying to inject buzzwords into a document that already doesn’t make sense. If the “theory of change” concept is being appropriately applied, then so much context is missing that one can’t understand how it all fits together into a cohesive theory of change. If this is indeed the center of a plan, then clearly explain why and how..

In addition, the whole description counters what for me is the foundationally important concept of identifying individual needs and responding to them - changing our paradigm from program-centered to person-centered. Matching people to the services they actually need and supporting them through a connected and coordinated system. The “theory of change” as described seems very clinical and detached, and it doesn’t address the connections between all of the various fragmented aspects of the system. If a true theory of change model was applied to guide this process, it feels like there would have been a different result.

This whole section sounds contrived and doesn’t actually tell us anything meaningful. If anything, it undermines the HRAP as written because it feels so superficial and disconnected.

Solution: Start the paragraph by explaining what a “theory of change” is - not relegating it to a footnote or using phrases like “missing middle” that no one understands. My suggestion: “A ‘theory of change’ is a methodology used to explain how identified outcomes will be achieved using focused interventions. It’s like a recipe for how we get from isolated ingredients - sugar, eggs, butter, flour, heat - to our desired result - a cake.” The rest of the paragraph needs a lot of work to make it mean anything. I think it’s intended to say something like “For Multnomah County, we will identify populations at risk of or experiencing homelessness using data and analytics; we

will identify evidence-based goals and interventions to achieve them for each of the populations; and then we will measure the outcomes to determine whether our interventions were successful in achieving our stated goals. We will do this while placing a premium on engagement, continuous improvement, and efficiency.”

- Problem: The second paragraph is distracting because it is so jargon-y and pretentious while saying nothing. Seems to be a catch-all paragraph to throw a bunch of buzzwords into.

Solution: Delete the paragraph.

- Problem: The “theory of change” seems like it's supposed to be a fundamental element of the HRAP, yet it appears in a short paragraph in the middle of the document, seemingly at random, disconnected from any substance.

Solution: If the theory of change is a crucial aspect of the HRAP, include this in a meaningful way up front in the document, rather than having it randomly appear in a small stand-alone section in the middle.

Overarching Strategy:

1. Paragraph 1, problem: The paragraph states that “Of note, this approach is unique among recent local plans in its clear definition of end-goal outcomes: an improvement from merely measuring services delivered or the numbers of people served.” This is inaccurate on multiple levels.
 - First, prior plans actually do include clear end-goal outcomes. In fact, AHFE promised a deliverable of cutting unsheltered homelessness by 50% and doubling shelter capacity. Much like the HRAP. This raises the question of whether the authors of the HRAP actually read the prior plans.
 - The “clear definition of end goal outcomes” supposedly incorporated in the HRAP is misleading. This plan uses the same old approaches and outcomes, it just tries to disguise them with different or distracting words and numbers (further elaborated on below).
 - In terms of being an “improvement” from merely measuring services delivered or the numbers of people served”, the HRAP itself uses the exact approach it says needs to be improved on. It focuses on “outcomes” like “place 2700 people in shelter or housing” or “add 1,000 shelter beds”. This does nothing to actually intervene and demonstrably decrease homelessness or improve people’s lives.

I appreciate that a “key contributor” to the HRAP said to “Create an unrelenting priority, and organize around it.” But nothing in the HRAP screams “unrelenting priority!” I’m not sure what any of the priorities of the HRAP actually are.

Solution: Don’t say things that are misleading, distracting, or aren’t true.

2. Paragraph 2, problem 1: The first sentence is a totally convoluted way to say something straightforward. (It also uses the phrase “population segment” which I’ve already suggested be switched out). The paragraph says that “local and national data” suggest that subsets of the general

population can be identified “around which interventions may be organized to achieve given outcomes.” What does this mean? It seems to basically just say “one could theoretically organize certain populations that one could theoretically intervene on.” The passive voice presents a problem here and the sentence as written is not something worth saying.

Solution: If the HRAP’s overarching strategy is intended to devise focused interventions for specific populations, just say so and explain why.

Paragraph 2, problem 2: The list of populations itself is inconsistent and contains information that makes the presentation more confusing.

Solution: Simply provide a list of the populations then add footnote references to studies containing the “local and national data” already mentioned that explain why these populations are being highlighted. Don’t add information in the list itself for some populations but not all, or add different types of information for different groups. It’s confusing and distracting.

Outcomes:

This is perhaps the most problematic section of a plan that I see problems with in virtually every paragraph.

- General concern: The “outcomes” section leads with inaccurate and inconsistent data and misrepresents what a “by name list” is and how it should be used. The promise to cut unsheltered homelessness in half in less than two years is a shell game relying on City and County Commissioners, along with the public, failing to recognize that they’re being scammed. Those proposing the HRAP seem to promise to reduce unsheltered homelessness by half because that’s what people want to hear, but that is NOT what they’re promising. So instead, they create the illusion that this is what they mean, but in reality promise something completely different, and then make no effort to correct the misunderstanding they created.

To understand the scam, it’s essential to start with an understanding of what a true By Name List (BNL) is for people living unsheltered, and why it can be such an effective strategy. A BNL for people living unsheltered is built by proactively reaching out to people living unsheltered and understanding their individual housing needs and barriers. This information is used to guide investment in what people collectively need, and success is measured as individual people move into better situations and are removed from the list.

Unfortunately, the JOHS “list of names” fails to meet most of the criteria that make a BNL so effective. The JOHS list only includes people who have been served by a limited number of organizations contracting with the County. The list is passive and is not updated in real time. It is not based on proactively reaching out to obtain information from people living unsheltered (many

of whom do not engage with any organization, let alone one that is contracted by the County and happens to have access to the County's database). The County's list is at best a gross undercount of people living unsheltered who have at some point used County-contracted services at inconsistent points in time.

For the sake of argument, even assuming that the County's list is up to date and accurate, it is not used in the way that makes a BNL such an effective tool. It is used to obtain a number - in this case the number of people on the list as of January 31, 2024. After the number has been obtained, the list itself, and the people on it, become totally irrelevant. They are not targeted to receive services and what happens to them is not tracked. The only thing that is obtained from this "list" is a number.

Once the number is obtained, it is halved, and the resulting number is used to determine how many people the County promises to house or place in shelter. It doesn't say where they will come from, or whether they will need to retain their shelter or housing to be counted a "success". People newly homeless who can be rapidly housed or sheltered will be prioritized, and the chronically homeless - with serious mental illness, addiction or other disability - will remain unsheltered. This system does not incent changing anything for those who are most vulnerable.

Remember Housing Multnomah Now? That program promised to house or shelter 300 people living unsheltered within seven months. I believe they placed seven within that time period. I'm not sure how anyone could believe that this promise to place 2699 people is anything other than at best a shell game, at worst a lie.

Solution: Finally implement Built For Zero for real and create a true BNL! Hire a small team of outreach workers to deploy in an organized way to meet people where they're at and get information about who they are and their needs and barriers so that we can truly know how many people are living outside and understand how we can invest our resources most effectively. As you get those specific individuals into better situations, move them off the list until it's reduced by half.

Alternatively, when referring to the County's list, be honest - call it what it is and identify its shortcomings. Stop suggesting this is an accurate number of people living unsheltered or that we have any idea who they are. This is a lie.

- Problems with "proposed outcomes":

- Proposed outcome 1: The first “outcome” listed in the “Outcomes” section is “adopt clear, achievable goals with measurable outcomes.”

Problem: Redundant. An outcome shouldn’t be “adopt outcomes...”

Solution: Change the language and describe a real outcome. Alternatively, remove the sentence.

- Proposed outcome 2: “Reduce unsheltered homelessness for the following priority populations at a rate equal to or greater than that population’s proportion of the overall population in the baseline number”

Problem: This doesn’t make sense.

Solution: Explain.

- Proposed outcome 3: Increase “exits from adult shelter to permanent housing” by 15% by Dec. 31, 2025.

Problem: Currently, we do not know how many people are in shelter, how many exit to permanent housing, or what happens to them once they are in housing. The numbers we do have, which are unreliable at baseline, are pathetic: 13% of people in congregate shelter exit shelter to permanent housing and 26% exit all forms of shelter to permanent housing. Which type of “shelter” is this percentage increase referring to? Why was 15% chosen? What happens to the up to 87% of people who do not get placed into housing? How many people retain their housing after being placed from shelter? What will we do for the people not placed? You do not measure an accurate baseline for this number already, you are proposing to increase the unknown number by an arbitrary 15%, and you do not mention anything about what will happen to the vast majority of people who will not be placed from shelter into housing. This seems like a major problem.

Solution: Remove this or reframe it and address the questions/concerns.

- Proposed outcome 4: Ensure 75% of people housed in permanent supportive housing retain their housing 24 months after placement”

Problem: Who is included in the baseline number of people who are housed in supportive housing? Where will they be coming from? Are they placed in supportive housing from unsheltered homeless, from shelter, or from housing? How do you define “permanent supportive housing” in this context? How will you measure retention rates?

Solution: Remove this or reframe it and address the questions/concerns.

- Proposed outcome 5: End all behavioral health, health system or hospital discharges to the street by Dec. 31, 2025.

Problem: This does not seem feasible. Who was consulted to determine this “outcome”? I doubt that hospital systems, ER personnel, or others with any connection to hospital systems, health

systems, or behavioral health centers, would think this is possible. This is a great aspirational goal, but it is literally impossible to be addressed in 1.5 years. Suggesting this as an outcome shows a lack of understanding of health systems, ERs, and the crisis around behavioral health.

Solution: Please explain how you came up with this goal and who you circulated it with to determine it was reasonable.

- Proposed outcome 6: End discharges from corrections to the streets by 2026.

Problem: This seems like an unrealistic goal as well. I'd like to see any data or research suggesting this might be even remotely possible.

Solution: Provide the data.

Foundational Strategies to Accomplish Goals:

- General problems:

The first three "strategies" mentioned are not strategies at all. They are generic policy jargon that doesn't say anything meaningful to real people.

The subsequent "strategies" are not strategies either. They are statements of the obvious, described in the most generic ways possible.

Reading ahead, it seems like "strategies" 4-13 are actually purported "Goals" that are described in more detail later in the HRAP, so it's not clear why they are listed in this section.

- Goals:

As already mentioned, the "Goals" are generic and state the obvious. The identified short-, mid- and long-term "outcomes" identified in the Goals section are different from the outcomes listed in the Outcomes section, which is extremely confusing. The whole approach makes no sense. How do the outcomes in the Outcomes section tie to the goals and outcomes in the Goals section? How does any of this tie in to whatever the actual goal of this HRAP is (which I still can't identify)?

Conclusion:

I have repeatedly reviewed the goals, outcomes, and action items for the HRAP and here I've tried to raise questions and offer suggestions that might lead to an improved version. However, as I've previously stated, I believe the plan is fundamentally flawed. It is a generic, vague document seemingly trying to make up for its lack of substance by using buzzwords and jargon. It is built on a false foundation, uses inaccurate, inconsistent, unrealistic, and misleading numbers, and doesn't articulate a clear goal or purpose. It feels like a recycled version of all the plans that have come before, but it's not as well thought out or conveyed, and there is no explanation of why it's different and will succeed when all prior versions failed.

IGA

The IGA as proposed is terribly written and it's unclear what it is trying to accomplish. I will describe what it seems like is happening and then what I think should happen.

Briefly, I believe the current proposed IGA is seeking to replace the JOHS with a new bureaucracy and governance structure around homelessness housed in the office of the County Chair. It is trying to ensure that the County continues to receive money from the City and the City is receiving some promise of "deliverables" from the County in order to provide said funding. The JOHS will be confirmed as the County department it is and be overseen by the vague governance of the new homelessness services bureaucracy.

In more detail: Although the apparent intent in originally establishing the JOHS was that it in fact be a joint office with shared oversight, planning, funding and responsibility for homeless services between City and County, in reality it has been a County entity since its inception, with all authority vested in the County Chair. The JOHS receives funding from the City, but is not obligated to follow City directives, and in fact has often diverged significantly from policies and projects the City has wished to implement.

At this time, County leadership (the Chair and COO) have suggested that they want to retain the JOHS as exclusively a County department and they want to create a new shared homelessness response system with an entirely new governance and operational structure. Under this new structure, apparently the County will take over certain shelter functions from the City. The COO and the Chair do not want to lose funding coming from the City that would support shelter operations.

On the City side, the Mayor apparently will agree to continue providing some funding to JOHS for shelter operations, so long as the County promises certain "deliverables" around homelessness. These include (1) reducing the number of people living unsheltered by 50% (actually - placing 2699 people living unsheltered into housing or shelter by the end of 2025); and (2) increasing the number of shelter beds (currently unknown) by 1,000 (actually 445, accounting for the fact that 555 of the supposedly new beds are already bought and paid for, just not built or occupied).

In my feedback about the HRAP I explained why I believe these deliverables are a shell game and a scam. I believe the specifics around funding and deliverables should be reconsidered, but in general this is the only aspect of the IGA that makes sense as an IGA.

There is no other item relating to the HRS or HRAP that could or should be part of an IGA. I can't understand how a legally binding agreement could be entered into based on anything related to the HRAP or HRS other than the narrow agreement around shelter deliverables in exchange for funding.

For any other matters pertaining to homelessness, the City and County can enter into separate agreements via joint statement, joint resolution, future IGA, or other mechanism as desired and

appropriate.

My proposal for inclusion in an IGA:

1. The City will give the County X dollars annually for the duration of this agreement. In exchange, the County promises to take over management and operations of all TASS and SRV shelters previously funded and operated by the City.
2. I believe that the County should convey specific amounts of SHS funds to the City as determined by a formula mutually agreed to by the parties. The same for other jurisdictions in the County. This could be considered for this or a future IGA.
3. Acknowledge that the JOHS agreement will be allowed to lapse and the JOHS will be renamed to reflect that it is solely a County department.

My proposed alternative to the HRAP:

Comprehensive Homelessness Services Approach -

A Common Sense Alternative to the HRAP

Introduction

Homelessness is a public health, public safety and humanitarian crisis. The Multnomah County Chair and Portland Mayor's Homelessness Response Action Plan (HRAP) and Intergovernmental Agreement (IGA) (collectively the "Proposal"), seek to change the agreements between the city of Portland and Multnomah County regarding homelessness oversight, governance, and funding. They list a bunch of goals to be achieved through a hodgepodge of actions using a lot of jargon. Unfortunately, the Proposal does not offer a solution. Rather, it recycles three decades of previous homelessness response plans, each of which failed more spectacularly than the last. But the HRAP is worse.

If we are to ever have a hope of solving the seemingly intractable issue of homelessness, we must learn from rather than repeat our mistakes. And our biggest mistake around homelessness has been a failure to establish effective leadership and governance over structurally siloed systems with fractured funding streams and intersecting responsibilities.

The City and County each play key roles in providing a continuum of homelessness supports, with the City historically overseeing infrastructure-related functions and the County supporting health and human services. Unfortunately, with different roles and responsibilities, the City and County have been unable to effectively bridge their separate yet crucially important roles to establish a shared vision and leadership structure to drive a holistic, comprehensive plan around homelessness.

The County Chair has held the most power in this dysfunctional system, and the proposed HRAP and IGA expand this authority even further. Funding has been disjointed and reactive, with an influx of

hundreds of millions of dollars from the Supportive Housing Services (SHS) tax going exclusively to the County. Governance committees have been established over the years that have been led by elected officials, who can't help but respond to political pressures. And as a result, homeless policymaking has been highly transactional and project-based, driven more by politicians getting what they need to be elected than people who are impacted getting what they need to survive and thrive.

The current Proposal is a model version of this flawed approach, with a proposed governance structure dominated by elected officials rather than systems experts.

Rather than going down the same path, I believe we should be pursuing excellence through an independent and objective approach to leadership and governance. We need to create a policy-making body built on a foundation of subject matter expertise and competence. It must maximize representation and inclusion of public and private partners while reducing bureaucracy. It will need to minimize the influence of politics. And it will need to be vested with the authority to direct spending and get things done.

The good news is that we can shift our trajectory away from failure and toward success. Solving homelessness is possible - even straightforward - if we put the right leadership and governance structures in place and just get on with the work. The following will summarize some key concepts and history around homelessness, identify the major flaws of the HRAP, and offer a viable alternative.

Definitions and shared understanding

There is no shared definition for the term "homeless" and this has been a source of tremendous confusion. "Homeless" has been used to refer to people who are at risk of becoming unhoused but currently have a roof over their head; people living in temporary emergency shelters or housing; and people living unsheltered outside. For clarity, I will use the following definitions:

- Unsheltered homelessness: Living outside.
- Sheltered homelessness: Living in a setting specifically designed to temporarily improve safety compared to living outside.
- At risk of homelessness: Living in some form of housing that is not sustainable and can result in someone becoming episodically homeless, which in turn can transition into chronic homelessness (see below).

There are as many reasons for homelessness as there are people experiencing it. For the purpose of conceptualizing the system, however, it can be helpful to consider two broad categories of people who experience homelessness (see [ECO-NW study \(https://oregoncf.org/assets/PDFs-and-Docs/PDFs/OregonHomelessness.pdf\)](https://oregoncf.org/assets/PDFs-and-Docs/PDFs/OregonHomelessness.pdf)). The two categories include:

1. People experiencing "transitional" or "episodic" homelessness, who do not have enough income to meet their housing cost burden, and may be one medical bill/job loss/life event away from losing

their housing. These individuals often need mainly rent assistance and physical housing, but may also need low intensity supportive services such as childcare, utility assistance, workforce training and placement, or supports for living in place as they age.

2. People experiencing “chronic” homelessness, who have been homeless for over a year, or multiple times within a year, and experience a serious disability, including people experiencing serious mental illness and/or substance use disorder, who often need not only deeply affordable housing, but intensive supportive services to enable them to sustain that housing.

It is important to note that, if people who fall into the first “category” don’t have their needs met, they are at risk of becoming chronically homeless. The number of people experiencing chronic unsheltered homelessness in our community has grown dramatically over time.

Currently, the vast majority of people who are chronically homeless suffer from serious mental illness and/or addiction. Because regardless of why people lose their homes in the first place, the reality is that living on the streets can trigger or compound underlying mental illness and/or addiction issues. This increases their risk of injury and death, and makes it much more difficult for them to get into or sustain long term housing.

The fastest growing segment of newly homeless individuals are older adults, who often have serious disabilities, including physical ailments and cognitive challenges. The issue for these individuals is most often escalation of rent in the context of very low fixed income, and/or lack of supports allowing them to age in place.

Meanwhile, hundreds of school-age children and youth were reported as being homeless last year, exacerbating a devastating intergenerational cycle of poverty and despair.

Strategic approach to homelessness: Three pillars

Homeless services in Multnomah County and the City of Portland are largely provided through a network of community-based organizations contracted through the Joint Office of Homeless Services (JOHS). Services in theory support three key aims: (1) Preventing homelessness; (2) providing emergency shelter and safety on/off the streets; and (3) getting people into long term housing.

- The best way to “solve” homelessness is by preventing it from happening in the first place. This involves strategies such as emergency financial assistance to help with utility bills and other basic needs, short and long term rent assistance, and other mechanisms to prevent people from losing their homes.
- Shelter and emergency services are geared toward providing a safe place for people to stay while they get connected to services and, ideally, transition into permanent housing.

- Long term housing includes housing that is “deeply affordable” (accessible to households making 0-30% of median family income), “affordable” (accessible to households making 30-60% of median family income), and “supportive” (deeply affordable housing with wraparound services for people with low level needs or severe underlying disabilities, including serious mental illness and substance use disorder). It has been shown that supportive housing is the most effective permanent housing strategy for people who are experiencing chronic homelessness, but only if it is done right - with matching of individuals to the services they actually need, funding at a level that will achieve adequate service provision, and prolonged duration of support. This is a resource intensive approach, and currently this degree of support with adequate funding and coordination (referred to as “Housing First”) is not provided consistently or effectively in Multnomah County.

Some strategies for each of the three pillars of addressing homelessness are listed below in Figure 1:

Figure 1

Allocation among these strategies is where tough budget choices must be made, because any resources expended on one of these strategies is unavailable to allocate to another strategy. For example, resources allocated to shelter will not be available to prevent a family from losing their apartment when they are unable to pay their utility bill.

That being said, allocation of finite resources can only be optimized within a coordinated, comprehensive, holistic, functioning system with effective governance and oversight.

And a crucial component of all of this is ensuring that continuous improvement mechanisms exist that constantly measure the effectiveness and cost-effectiveness of approaches. This is currently lacking in the County’s approach to homelessness.

Multnomah County’s problem isn’t about money; it’s about lack of effective systems and governance

Fortunately, state and federal policy makers, along with voters who approved Metro’s Supportive Housing Services tax (the SHS Tax), have recognized the need for commitment of substantial resources to address the homelessness crisis. Multnomah County and the City of Portland currently have over \$400 million to dedicate to addressing homelessness in the current fiscal year alone. If not enough to permanently solve homelessness, the amount should at the very least be enough to make a huge dent. The fact that it hasn’t raises red flags, and circles back to lack of effective leadership, governance, and accountability in our homelessness “system”.

A picture speaks a thousand words, and the following is just a partial representation of our homelessness system as it currently exists:

No plan can be developed, implemented or evaluated under this ridiculous structure of disconnect, dysfunction, and lack of accountability. But this system did not develop in a vacuum.

Four decades of ambitious and well conceived plans attempting to solve homelessness failed, each worse than the one before. This is why we are where we are and we're about to do it again

In 1988, Mayor Bud Clark released *Breaking the Cycle of Homelessness: The Portland Model*. This was followed in 2004 by *Home Again Action Plan: A Ten-year Plan to End Homelessness*; and in 2014 by *A Home For Everyone*. As stated in Bud Clark's Plan, they sought "a method to prioritize and coordinate the wide ranging needs of the diverse homeless population, to leverage funds, and to identify and rectify gaps or overlaps in service needed to break the cycle of homelessness." (*The Portland Model*, p 19)

Each of the prior plans contained some version of the following:

- A description of the history and evolution of homelessness, including the role of the federal government in creating the situation we have now through decades of disinvestment and misguided policies.
- A statement that "it took decades for this problem to develop, we shouldn't expect to see it resolve overnight"
- A recognition that the homeless population is extremely diverse, with a tremendous diversity of needs.
- An emphasis on the siloing between various local governments and identifying the need for clarification of roles and responsibilities.
- A recognition that homelessness is complex, intersecting with behavioral health, public safety, and other social and societal factors.
- An acknowledgment that homelessness is a shared problem requiring a shared solution. That there must be collaboration and coordination among City, County, and other public and private partners, including business, philanthropy, people with lived experience of homelessness, nonprofit organizations, law enforcement, courts, human service agencies, behavioral health, and more.
- An emphasis on the need for effective data management, information sharing, and analysis.

In each of the previous plans the City and County touted unprecedented collaboration and created governance structures to direct, shepherd and implement the work:

- The Portland Model:
 - Emergency Basic Needs Committee (EBNC) which evolved into the Community Action Agency (CAA) to establish a service delivery model for access, integration, continuity, and accountability in homeless services.
- Home Again:
 - Advisory Council on Homeless Issues (ACHI) to prioritize programs and projects and identify needs and gaps, leading to:
 - The Citizens Commission on Homelessness (CCOH) comprising elected officials, business and community leaders, neighborhood association chairs, and persons experiencing homelessness;
 - The Plan to End Homelessness Coordinating Committee (PTEHCC). representing non-profit agencies, “mainstream” agencies (such as County Community Justice, health and mental health departments, and the Housing Authority of Portland) serving homeless people, representatives from other planning bodies, and homeless and formerly homeless people;
 - Blue Ribbon Housing Commission (BRHC), to increase the supply of affordable housing in the tri-county region.

- A Home For Everyone (AHFE coalition) strove to achieve an “ambitious vision” to “unite elected officials and people who’ve experienced homelessness with leaders from the faith, philanthropy, business and nonprofit communities around a shared vision and carefully chosen strategies in housing, employment, health, and emergency services”. It was governed by an Executive Committee and a Coordinating Board, with a number of subcommittees representing different populations and the JOHS to operationalize and implement the plans.

All of the plans set forth goals and action steps to meet the goals:

1. Breaking the Cycle of Homelessness - The Portland Model:

- Housing
- Housing management Coordinator
- Person Down
- Drug and Alcohol Treatment System - “The alcohol and drug treatment system lacks the capacity to assure appropriate treatment when it is needed. People are sobered, detoxified and ready for long term care only to find they must wait for vacancy in those programs. This often leads to having no place to go but back to the street, with the likelihood of returning to the dependency cycle.”
- Involuntary commitment
- Street Sanitation
- Jobs
- Case Management
- Point of access to services
- Street Safety
- Chronic mental illness treatment
- Public Participation

2. The 10-year Plan to End Homelessness - Action Plan

- Move people into housing
- Stop discharging people to homelessness
- Improve outreach to homeless people
- Increase supply of PSH
- Create Innovative New Partnerships
- Make the Rent Assistance system more effective
- Increase economic opportunity for homeless people
- Implement new data collection technology throughout the system

3. A Home For Everyone: A United Community Plan to End Homelessness

- Improve alignment of existing resources to support a more comprehensive, integrated approach to service delivery, consisting of six priority program areas:
 - Housing;
 - Income and benefits;
 - Health;
 - Survival and emergency services;
 - Access to services; and
 - System coordination.
- Coordinate investments in safety net services and permanent solutions to “break down silos” among various systems (health, community justice, mental health).
- Preserve public and private investments, with a commitment to align dollars to be used as effectively and efficiently as possible.
- Set ambitious goals and hold selves accountable to measuring and achieving them.
- Leverage additional resources among public, philanthropic, business, faith and secular nonprofit sectors.
- Identify new resources and develop proactive strategies to meet our goals
- Create the JOHS between the City and County to supposedly “combine their spending on services for people experiencing homelessness” and operationalize policies.

Each of the plans was thoughtful, informed, ambitious, and still makes sense when taken at face value. And yet they all failed. The question is why. I believe they failed because no single individual had control of or responsibility for implementation. No one created a true holistic plan for preventing and responding to homelessness and stuck to it. And no one created a governance structure that could overcome the prioritization of politics over substance.

The HRAP contains much of the same rhetoric as prior plans, including identical phrases and in some cases promising identical deliverables. For example, with AHFE, the Mayor and County Chair promised to reduce unsheltered homelessness by 50%; over the course of the plan unsheltered homelessness increased substantially and the number of people dying unsheltered reached unprecedented levels.

But the foundation, false promises, misleading data, vagueness and politicization of the HRAP are worse than any of the plans that have come before and they are poised to exacerbate the fallout. Three examples show us why:

- False foundation.

The HRAP claims to “build on the success of prior work” in a weak attempt to positively spin the County’s current abysmal housing placement rate of 26%. But 26% “placement” means that 74% of people in shelters are not moving into better situations. Whether this is an overt effort to market failure or ignorance of the failure of prior efforts, it is unacceptable.

- Empty promises.

Any homelessness plan must start with a clear understanding of who is on the street and what investments will most efficiently and effectively get them shelter, services and housing. A true By Name List (BNL) can be the foundation for such a plan and would contain the names of all people living unsheltered, with information about their individual housing needs and barriers. The information would be collectively analyzed and proactively guide investment, and success would be measured as each individual got off the list into a better situation.

Unfortunately none of this is happening in Portland, largely because the Joint Office of Homeless Services (JOHS) does not have a true BNL. Instead, it promises major reductions in unsheltered homelessness that it will be unable to deliver because it’s not using a list and counting down. Instead, it has seized upon an arbitrary number of people on a list at an arbitrary point in time and decided to “place” half of this number of people into shelter or housing. But not the actual people on the list - any people who become homeless in the next 2 years. People who can be rapidly housed or sheltered will be prioritized, but the chronically homeless - with serious mental illness, addiction or other disability - will remain unsheltered. The JOHS will claim success, but nothing will change for the most vulnerable dying on our streets or the systems that resulted in their being there.

- A lack of clear data and understanding of capacity.

Neither the City nor County have baseline data regarding how many shelter beds exist in Portland or how many are occupied at any given time. The County has published three versions of shelter numbers on its website and in its homelessness plan, yet all are different and none are accurate. Without a baseline, there can be no real way to assess how much capacity is added. And to confuse things further, the county claims that 555 shelter beds that have already been bought and paid for will count toward their alleged 1000 new bed goal.

The HRAP is substantively flawed and falls apart under basic scrutiny. But the myriad substantive and technical problems with the plan serve as a distraction from the root cause of the problem, borne out over four decades: Failed leadership and governance.

Only impeccable independent leadership and governance can drive a comprehensive, holistic solution to a multifaceted, complex, intersectional problem.

The issue of homelessness is complex, but the approach to solving it doesn't have to be. Our desired state should not be isolated sets of goals distributed among a bunch of disconnected priorities, but an effective and efficient system that can withstand changes in political ideology, addressing multiple goals of intersecting systems effectively and efficiently over time, using a finite and predefined set of resources.

Unfortunately, elected leaders have demonstrated time and again that they can't figure out how to lead this charge, regardless of how many committees they establish, goals and action items they set, or resources they have available. The common factor of all the plans that have failed has nothing to do with the substance of the plans - they are remarkably similar and continue to make sense. Rather, all the governance structures have been dominated by politicians who, in many but not all cases and despite best intentions, have not had a true understanding of homelessness, and often focused more on individual programs and projects and getting elected than changing our system and perhaps going against the political grain.

It's time to demand a structure where an independent body of experts with a dedicated non-political leader is given the authority to make crucial decisions around City and County homeless policy and direct investments. It's not too late to do the right thing, but time is running out for those who need our help. Those who do not learn from history are doomed to repeat it.

Fool us once, shame on you. Fool us twice, thrice, and a fourth time - shame on us. We're allowing too much time and money to be wasted - time and money we desperately need to use to save our city and get its residents safely off the streets.

Immediate action items:

1. Establish an independent governance structure that is composed of substantively informed leaders and led by a single, accountable subject matter expert, selected through a transparent process

based on objective criteria. This governance team should be as independent of politics as possible and be responsible for creating a comprehensive holistic framework for a homelessness system of prevention, shelter and housing. See Figure 2, below.

- a. This can be accomplished by joint Resolutions passed by both the City and County, with technical details such as salaries, funding, and contracts, formalized in an IGA as needed.
- b. Appoint a Director of Implementation (Director) no later than June 30, 2024.
 - i. The Director will be appointed through a collaborative process between the Mayor and Chair based on predetermined objective criteria demonstrating subject matter expertise in homelessness systems and operations, as well as leadership skills.
 - ii. The Director will be confirmed by a supermajority of both City Council and County Commission.
 - iii. The appointee must not hold elected office at the time of appointment and must not be employed by any organization represented in the homelessness continuum of care. Actual or apparent conflict of interest must be avoided.
 - iv. The Director's salary will be jointly agreed upon by the City and County, paid jointly by the City and County for the first two (2) years, and be re-evaluated with potential adjustment in amount and mechanism of payment after two years.
 - v. The Director will report jointly to the Mayor and Chair and any substantive communications will be promptly shared with all City Councilors and County Commissioners.
 - vi. The Director will oversee three working committees: (1) Steering Committee; (2) Community Advisory Coalition; and (3) Operations/Implementation Committee.
- c. Establish the Steering Committee, Community Advisory Coalition, and Operations/Implementation Committees (collectively "Committees") no later than June 30, 2024. Each Committee will have independent Charters the Committees themselves will develop, with guidance and support from the City and County.

Figure 2

1. Formally clarify that the Joint Office of Homeless Services is exclusively a County department and have the County change the department name by replacing the term "Joint" with the name "Multnomah County." Additional changes to any roles and responsibilities of the JOHS can be accomplished through joint City-County Resolution, IGA, or other formal mechanism of agreement, as deemed appropriate. This must occur by 12/31/24.

2. Urgently and proactively catalog the baseline status of homelessness and services in Multnomah County. We can't understand the scope and depth of the problem, and hence respond to it, unless we actually measure it.
 - a. Create a list of individuals that includes their names, where they are currently living, what they need to be sheltered or housed, and what their barriers are. Establish a dedicated team of outreach workers, harness volunteers and neighborhood associations, create a grid, use technology - apps, ipads, etc - and count. Hire two limited duration full time staff for one year to create and shepherd this By Name List effort.
 - b. Catalog and coordinate outreach. Hire two dedicated limited duration staff for six months to identify which organizations are providing which services, what their scope of work and geographic outreach is, and describe this verbally and visually.
3. Create a robust shared data and analytics system led by an expert with experience in management of homelessness data systems. Establish a universal information sharing platform.
4. Establish intensive connective action team pilots - intensive shelter inreach, transition navigation.
5. Authorize deep financial and performance-based audits of SHS Measure funds, the JOHS, and organizations contracting with the County to provide homeless services. The goals will be to identify gaps, disconnects, and ineffective use of resources, and make recommendations for improvement. This is directly aligned with the goals of the SHS measure and SHS measure funds can be used to hire dedicated auditors, as advised in consultation with the County Auditor.
6. Begin a pilot process of results-driven contracting through an inclusive and supportive process directly engaging our local community based organizations.
7. Assess in one year, in time to direct funding for the next fiscal year budget.

Conclusion.

Despite the best efforts of exceptional leaders implementing comprehensive plans over decades, homelessness has worsened in Multnomah County. Thousands of people are living unsheltered,

hundreds are dying annually, and the suffering is immeasurable. Rather than implementing yet another plan that does not offer anything new, we need to understand why previous plans have failed and address this head on.

Review of the prior plans suggests that none were able to transcend the structural challenge of having siloed City and County governments, with fragmentation of authority and funding streams in the context of shared responsibility and lack of accountability. This was compounded by political tensions and incentives to push individual programs and projects based on political expediency. And at the heart of each plan was a governance structure dominated by politicians.

We need to establish a different paradigm of governance, driven by subject matter expertise and led by an independent individual not beholden to a political office. Achieving the goal is not the hard part - the solution is complex but straightforward and there are a number of ways we can move forward. The hard part is making the decision to take a different path. It's time we started heading in the right direction.



Summary: Commissioner Meieran on Homeless Response System and IGA

I have significant concerns about the proposed IGA and also the HRAP. I worry that these proposals signify massive changes in governance around homelessness but have largely flown under the radar without the exhaustive public process they deserve. I've provided detailed feedback to the Chair (attached to this email as a pdf) and summarized my main concerns and recommendations below (also attached as a pdf). I'd love to schedule some time to discuss these with you.

My concerns:

1. There has been minimal opportunity for public discourse or Board vetting of the HRAP when we need scrupulous openness and transparency.
 - The HRAP is treated as if it's a done deal, millions are being allocated in our budget, yet it hasn't been formally discussed or approved.
 - We should hold at least one formal Board work session on the HRAP, potentially more, and have a formal vote to adopt.
2. The HRAP and IGA vest absolute power in the County Chair when we need leadership independent of a single elected official.
 - Placing an entire homelessness system, including selection of its director, under the authority of a single elected official is dangerous.
 - As examples of what can go wrong, consider Housing Multnomah Now; the inability to get tens of millions of dollars SHS revenue out the door; and the appointment of an individual with no background in homelessness as homelessness system director.
 - I don't think the public would support placing a homelessness system under the exclusive purview of the Chair right now and we are their representatives. We need to take this responsibility seriously.
3. The HRAP recycles decades of prior homelessness plans that have failed, except it is less collaborative, detailed, cohesive, coherent, and vetted.

- I've read the prior plans multiple times and in detail. They failed over 40 years, each worse than the last. The HRAP incorporates virtually identical approaches with virtually identical content and approach.
 - A Home For Everyone made identical promises around shelter and decreasing unsheltered homelessness as the HRAP but left unprecedented numbers of people living in squalor and dying on our streets.
 - Those who do not learn from history are doomed to repeat it, and the HRAP is leading us down a well-worn, costly, and dangerous path.
4. The HRAP makes a committee of politicians central to governance when we need an independent governance structure characterized by objectivity and expertise.
- Politicians run for office to do good. But they are not experts in homelessness and sometimes do not understand the basics of the system.
 - There is immense public pressure to pursue policies, individual projects, or programs that sound good but may not do good, and certainly will not change our systems.
 - The right thing to do to change our systems may be politically unpopular but we need to do it anyway.
 - We need to establish an independent governance structure guided by experts, led by an accountable director selected according to objective criteria, who can lead change that's necessary, even when it's not popular.
5. There's still no comprehensive holistic plan, and the only way to get one is through effective governance.
- The HRAP is a hodgepodge of generic goals, disjointed topics, and jargon.
 - Nothing puts the pieces together, there is no framework for a holistic system, and no mechanism for achieving one.
 - The only way to get to a truly comprehensive plan is through independent, effective and accountable governance vested with the authority to direct action.

My recommendations:

1. The JOHS IGA should be allowed to lapse.
 - If certain technical details need to be addressed before the expiration date of the current IGA, then extend it for a couple of months.
 - There's no downside to extending the deadline by a couple of months to make sure we get things right. But there's a huge risk of harm if we rush through this process and get something wrong (which, as the replacement IGA is written, will happen).

2. If the parties want to achieve something specific, a narrowly tailored IGA should be executed pursuing that clear objective.
 - If the goal is to promise certain deliverables around shelter in exchange for a certain amount of funds, then this should be the agreement. Period.
 - Including a bunch of stuff about the HRAP muddies the waters and is unnecessary for the IGA. The IGA should be straightforward and say what it means.
 - Additional fuzzier details can be agreed upon via Resolution or other mechanism. This was done for A Home For Everyone - the JOHS was established through IGA with technical details, but the governance structures and committees and other stuff was achieved through Resolution.
 - I personally believe the IGA should include a mechanism for dedication of a certain amount of SHS funds determined via formula to go to the County's jurisdictions. This can be a longer discussion but needs to be addressed.
3. The JOHS should be acknowledged as exclusively a County department.
 - This doesn't need a County ordinance to happen. Including this in an IGA is unnecessary and inappropriate.
4. The roles and responsibilities of City, County, State and Federal governments as they currently stand should be clearly delineated.
 - Nothing connects the dots of our current dysfunctional homelessness system.
 - As the HRAP and IGA propose to add a whole new layer of bureaucracy, we should at least have a foundational map of what currently exists.
5. A governance structure should be established that is composed of substantively informed leaders and led by a single, accountable subject matter expert, selected through a transparent process based on objective criteria.
 - This governance team should be as independent of politics as possible and be responsible for creating a comprehensive holistic framework for a homelessness system of prevention, shelter and housing.
6. The HRAP should be deeply vetted through at least one public Board work session and it should not be adopted without a supermajority vote of both City and County.

Conclusion:

The path to ending homelessness may not be easy, but it's straightforward:

1. Clearly delineate City, County, Metro and State roles and responsibilities;

2. Identify the scope and scale of homelessness through proactive and direct measurement of what real people need (a true By Name List, translated into clear system needs);
3. Catalog what infrastructure, services, and supports currently exist and analyze their cost-effectiveness and outcomes;
4. Identify how much total funding is available for homelessness prevention, shelter and housing;
5. Put the pieces together - apply the funding we have to purchase the services we need, prioritizing life, health and safety for the immediate term while setting a foundation and planning for the long term.

If we establish an informed, independent governance model based on expertise rather than politics, we can create a comprehensive holistic homelessness system that will finally begin to change our trajectory. The HRAP and IGA do the opposite. They obscure what actually needs to happen and add layers of bureaucracy to an already Byzantine system. They speak in jargon and put politicians at the center of a process led by the Chair.

Having gone through the documents with a fine tooth comb, I've tried to summarize my feedback in a way that is constructive and honest. I am willing to change my perspective if confronted with data and arguments based on evidence. Although I do not support the IGA or the HRAP as written, with a public vetting and honest discussion I hope we might get to proposals that we can all agree on.

Thanks so much for your consideration.

With respect,

Sharon