



Community Budget Advisory Committee Meeting Minutes

April 1, 2024

4:00 PM - 6:00 PM

[draft]

Attendance:

Committee Members: Christine Hermann, Danny Cage, Daniel DeMelo, Mallette Faherty, Nathan Williams

Absent: Nicki Dardinger, Sasha Burchuk (on leave)

JOHS & County Staff: Bill Boyd, Antoinette Payne, Malka Geffen, Chris Fick - HRS Director, Tabitha Jensen - Chair Vega-Pederson's Office

Agenda Item	Discussion Points	Decision/ Action
Welcome	Brief welcomes Fourth CBAC meeting for the FY2025 budget process	
Homeless Response Action Plan	<p>CBAC discussed and asked Homelessness Response System director questions about the draft Homelessness Response and Action Plan (HRAP).</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● What incited the plan's new governance structure, and what outcomes/targets was the current CBAC not meeting? <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ A vacuum was left after A Home For Everyone was sunsetted. Since JOHS is not responsible for addressing all of homelessness, we needed a larger structure. The CBAC can fit into the new Community Advisory Committee. ● Will some members of the existing committee constitute the new committee? We see value in some carryover. The short description in the plan does not include community members who are not connected to day-to-day work than specialists. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Continuity would be valuable. Average, engaged community members would also be valuable. JOHS has strong feelings about its advisory committees as well, and we want to do this in collaboration with them. ● Speak to the approach for the additional 1,000 shelter units in the plan. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ A big driver of this plan was the extension of the City/County IGA, which has a priority to address unsheltered homelessness. The JOHS assembled the Community Sheltering Strategy Committee, which includes electeds and community members, came up with the additional units goal. It's ambitious, and some 	

	<p>of those will be the new Temporary Alternative Shelter Sites (TASS) sites.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Can JOHS funding be used to acquire hotels for alternative shelter sites? <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ We have a number in use and it's definitely an option. ● [Question from a public attendee] I'm concerned the HRAP has only 150 more family shelter beds by Dec. 2025. There are over 150 families on the waitlist today, with no mention in the plan of immigrants/asylum seekers. Our county needs a plan for these. (Washington County eliminated homeless encampments; why don't we do what they did?) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ We've heard from a lot of folks about this and recognize the issue, and we'll consider adding that. The legislature set up a welcome center for this population and funded it through June, and the county has maintained that this is an important state responsibility. Multnomah County has 45% of the population but 80% of the homeless population in the tri-county area, so it's important for partners to step up and help fund a population we just don't have the funding to serve completely. ● In this legislative session, they just passed a housing bill for affordable housing; will it have an effect on the HRAP? <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ PHB and Comm. Rubio could better speak to this; that bill largely targets incentives for workforce housing, and by the time the funding is spread out across the state, not a huge amount of that is coming to the metro area. ● How much of the plan is locked in programmatically in the first year, considering there'll be a new mayor and new commissioners in both the city and county, who did not themselves approve of the plan? <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Budgetary decisions will be made by future boards, and this was one of our motivations for having the 3-year IGA and the system up and running to provide continuity for the upcoming transition. ● What is the timeline for the IGA? <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ It will be voted on by the end of April. ● So we won't achieve the goal of operationalizing the governance structure by the end of April 2024? <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ We need to differentiate the Steering & Oversight and Implementation setup objectives and that of the advisory committee. ● Do you anticipate changes to the county code for the plan? <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ I don't believe so. ● Would the new community advisory committee have a representative to the Central CBAC? <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ I assume so. 	
<p>Check-in about asylum seekers</p>	<p>The CBAC used the fist-to-five decision making tool to make time to hear about the county's efforts to support asylum seekers: 5, 5, 4, 4, 4</p>	

Tabitha Jensen, Director of Budget & Strategic Projects for the Chair shared information and answered questions about the county's work to support asylum seekers coming to our community with limited resources:

- The federal government allowed asylum seekers access to the country but not to work, and there's no funding for interior cities like Portland.
- Gov. Brown allocated some funding for the Oregon Department of Human Services (ODHS) to set up a Welcome Center.
- There was less appetite for the state to keep funding it when Gov. Kotek took office, so a sizable allocation was given to Multnomah County to close the welcome center and capped 300 households that would receive subsidized housing for up to 6 months. And then there was no plan for someone to be responsible for this. There's been an increase in advocacy in the community taking up this cause. We're in a complicated situation:
 - Was 5 families and now 10 households are coming per week
 - Only so much capacity at JOHS family shelters
 - \$2 million came from the recent short legislative session, but that's earmarked for providers of existing services
 - Community advocacy groups fundraise to house people
 - There's a perception that the County is able to cover the needs of non-asylum seekers, but it is not
- [Question from a public attendee] I'm concerned the HRAP has only 150 more family shelter beds by Dec. 2025. There are over 150 families on the waitlist today, with no mention in the plan of immigrants/asylum seekers. Our county needs a plan for these. (Washington County eliminated homeless encampments; why don't we do what they did?)
 - Personally, I hold humanitarian concerns, while keeping in mind that if we don't have thresholds for capping participation they could drive anti-immigrant sentiment within the city. We know the more we provide, the more folks will come, especially because other communities are closing their doors. Even if we build resource, we would max out every time. It's very complicated. We're working on this on the day-to-day at this point.
- Does the county have a plan for an emergency if Texas starts bussing people here?
 - No. The Red Cross might get involved; it would likely be a state-level emergency,
 - Even though it's a humanitarian issue, governments have to think about what funding is available and other financially demanding work.
 - We rely on philanthropy and other non-government funders with things like host homes that aren't drawing down government dollars.
- What is the average family size?

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Some come single, who are queer/trans, but also people with multiple children. ○ 20 hotel rooms that were at risk last week because they'd been privately fundraised but couldn't be covered anymore were for over 80 people. ○ Part of the problem is that there isn't a unified system to collect data. 	
Approve 3/18/2024 meeting minutes	Minutes were approved.	
Update on new member approval	It is on Thursday's Board of County Commissioners consent agenda to approve of all new CBAC members countywide. Details here .	
Initial recommendation letter draft compilation	<p>CBAC members had time to compare and assemble their recommendation letter drafts.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Members will send the committee Chair content to compile by 4/8 ● Chair will send out initial draft by 4/12, as a Google Doc for suggestions ● CBAC will review and approve at 4/15 meeting 	
Next meeting:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● April 15, 2024 ● 4p-6p ● Public attendance link: https://multco-us.zoom.us/j/94313943411?pwd=TEE5TmdKM0dNV2ZONIR6SWNHZzZjQT09 ● Passcode: #2m%gFv& 	