



Homeless Services Masterplan Subcommittee Meeting Agenda

**Siskiyou Room, Community Development and Engineering Building, 51 Winburn Way
Wednesday, March 27, 2024 * 5:30 – 7:30 p.m.**

AGENDA

CALL TO ORDER: 5:30 p.m., Meeting held in person or join virtually via Zoom at

- 1. Welcome & Agenda Review (5:30–5:35 p.m.)**
- 2. Public Forum (5:35–5:40 p.m.)**
Up to 5 minutes allotted for public comment.
- 3. Comments from Council Liaisons (5:40–5:45 p.m.)**
Communications with or from Council about the work of the Subcommittee
- 4. Approval of Minutes (5:45–5:50 pm.)**
- 5. Updates on Services Inventory and Data Gathering (5:50–5:55 p.m.)**
- 6. Gathering Community Perspectives**
 - a. Representation (full group, 5:55–6:10 p.m.)
 - i. Who will we gather input from?
 - b. Assignments (small groups or individually, 6:10–6:45 p.m.)
 - i. Complete a population-specific “outreach and engagement plan” (worksheet)
 - ii. What demographics will we gather?
 - iii. What questions will be asked?
 - c. I & I (Ideas & Improvements, 6:45–7:05 p.m.)
- 7. Council Study Session (7:05–7:20 p.m.)**
- 8. Debrief (7:20–7:30 p.m.)**
 - a. Takeaways
 - b. Pluses and Minuses (What went well tonight? What do you wish were different?)
- 9. ADJOURNMENT: 7:30 PM**

Next Meeting Dates: Tuesday, April 9 and Wednesday, April 24 (City Council Study Session Progress Report 4/1)

In compliance with the Americans with Disabilities Act, if you need special assistance to participate in this meeting, please email linda.reid@ashland.or.us. Notification 72 hours prior to the meeting will enable the City to make reasonable arrangements to ensure accessibility to the meeting (28 CFR 35.102–35.104 ADA Title 1).





Homeless Services Masterplan Subcommittee Meeting Agenda

Timeline

Date	Meeting	Topics	Follow-up Tasks
2/28	Subcommittee	Understanding the players addressing homelessness	
		Subcommittee Approach, Tasks, and Timeline	Share with HHSAC and City Council
		Assignments to complete Service Inventory	Gather information
		Communications with HHSAC and City Council	Provide written materials
	HHSAC	Subcommittee Approach, Tasks, and Timeline	
	City Council	Subcommittee Approach, Tasks, and Timeline	
3/12	Subcommittee	The Responsibilities of a Continuum of Care (CoC)	Gather additional information
		Final preparations for Program/Service Inventory work	Gather information
3/27	Subcommittee	Updates on Program/Services Inventory and data gathering	Continue to gather information
		Determine which subpopulations to engage in providing community perspectives and who will engage each population	
		Develop engagement plans for each subpopulation	Set up mechanisms, promote opportunities
		Decide on questions for each subpopulation	Prepare input/survey tools
		Communications with HHSAC and City Council	Provide written materials
3/28	HHSAC	Community Engagement plans	
4/1	City Council	Community Engagement plans	
4/9	Subcommittee	Updates on Community Engagement	Continue with process
		Review Services Inventory	Any additions
		Identify barriers to accessing services	
		Data presentation	Any clarifications



Homeless Services Masterplan Subcommittee Meeting Agenda

Date	Meeting	Topics	Follow-up Tasks
4/24	Subcommittee	Review public input highlights, and decide who will prepare the findings	Prepare findings
		Review information on local CoC; discuss strengths, weaknesses, and potential opportunities	
5/7	Subcommittee	Presentation and discussion of community perspectives, themes, and priorities	
5/22	Subcommittee	Review data and Services Inventory; assess strengths, weaknesses, and potential opportunities	
6/11	Subcommittee	Review draft report, including framework for money map. Suggest revisions.	Finalize report
		Discuss format for reporting to HHSAC and City Council	Prepare for reporting on HHSAC and Council
6/26	Subcommittee	Review final report	Final adjustments
		Confirm plans for reporting to HHSAC and City Council	Final preparations
tba	HHSAC	Subcommittee Report	
tba	City Council	Subcommittee Report	

Memo

DATE: March 27, 2024

TO: Homeless Services Masterplan Subcommittee

FROM: Linda Reid, Housing Program Manager

DEPT: Planning

RE: Gathering Community Perspectives

1. Representation

a. Community Sectors / Roles

- i. Businesses
- ii. Non-profit organizations
- iii. Faith-based organizations
- iv. Law Enforcement
- v. Healthcare (mental, physical, behavioral)
- vi. Education (early learning, k-12, higher education)
- vii. Public Housing Authority
- viii. Landlord
- ix. Affordable housing developers
- x. Employment and workforce programs

b. Individual Representation

- i. People experiencing homelessness now
- ii. People who have experienced homelessness in the past
- iii. Diversity in racial and ethnic backgrounds
- iv. Diversity in ages / age groups
- v. Diversity in gender identity and sexual orientation
- vi. Diversity in political viewpoints
- vii. Diversity in income levels
- viii. Diversity in residency in Ashland (new residents, long-term)
- ix. Diversity in household composition (singles, couples, families)

Planning Department

20 East Main Street
Ashland, Oregon 97520
ashland.or.us

Tel: 541.488.5300
Fax: 541.552.2059
TTY: 800.735.2900



Memo

Sign up (or be assigned) to one or more populations.

Complete a worksheet (see next page) for each population you are assigned.

2. Demographics to Gather

- a. Community Sectors /Roles
- b. Individual Representation

3. Process

- a. Online surveys
- b. Written surveys
- c. Individual interviews
- d. Focus groups
- e. Other...?

4. Questions / Topics of Inquiry (tentative)

- a. What is the problem?
- b. What is the City of Ashland's role?
- c. Who else should have a role? And what is that role?

Planning Department

20 East Main Street
Ashland, Oregon 97520
ashland.or.us

Tel: 541.488.5300
Fax: 541.552.2059
TTY: 800.735.2900



Memo

GATHERING COMMUNITY INPUT WORKSHEET

POPULATION:	
METHODS FOR COLLECTING INPUT	DETAILS – Timing / Dates / Events / Partners
Online Survey	
Written Survey	
Focus Group(s)	
1:1 Interviews	
Other Method	
Demographics to Collect	Ways to Promote / Engage / Incentivize
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Age Range ▪ Gender / Gender Identity ▪ Community Sector / Identity ▪ Race / Ethnicity ▪ Length of Time in Ashland ▪ Lived Experience of Homelessness ▪ Education Level ▪ Household Income Range ▪ Household Size or Composition ▪ Other? 	
	Questions to Ask
Subcommittee Member(s):	

Planning Department

20 East Main Street
Ashland, Oregon 97520
ashland.or.us

Tel: 541.488.5300
Fax: 541.552.2059
TTY: 800.735.2900



PUBLIC FORUM MEMORANDUM

To: Homelessness Subcommittee
From: Dennis Kendig (dakendig@gmail.com)
Date: March 21, 2024
Re: The Program/Service Inventory Won't Tell Us What We Need to Know

Background. Subcommittee members have been busy charging around contacting a list of some 50+ organizations that have some connection with providing assistance to the homeless. For each organization, they have been conducting interviews and filling out forms that seek certain data for the persons ostensibly helped by the organization. For example, the form asks whether the homeless they assist are Men, Women, Youth over/under 18, and Seniors. And for “circumstances,” providers are asked whether the homeless they serve are Veterans, Fleeing Domestic Violence, Chronically Homeless, or Other. The problem remains, however, that the form does not ask for key information that we really need to know before we decide how to address our homeless problem.

What is that critical data? The single largest segment of our homeless population is those persons who suffer from what HUD describes as “Chronic Substance Abuse.” In plain language, **drug addicts and alcoholics**. Those persons are simply not as likely to respond as favorably to housing, say, as those who are victims of domestic violence, or are runaways, or are permanently disabled. I believe most of us would agree that the addicted need to be weaned from their substance abuse or they will never be able to rejoin society. As I’ve argued previously, to think that simply providing them with housing will cure their addiction is naïve. It would be more productive to give these people the opportunity for housing on condition that they will commit to an appropriate drug or alcohol rehabilitation program. If they refuse, or fail to honor the program, and they commit unlawful acts while living on the streets, then commitment to a lockdown rehabilitation facility will be an appropriate outcome.ⁱ

The second largest segment of the homeless is comprised of those who are “Severely Mentally Ill.” Will housing “cure” their mental illness? Of course not. Those persons belong in a state hospital with similarly ill residents. Certainly, just depositing them in a converted Motel 6 without near-24/7 oversight will not solve their problem – or ours.ⁱⁱ

Different Strokes for Different Folks. Once we have identified and segregated our “hard core” homeless, we can hopefully devise more creative programs for helping those who are disabled, only temporarily unhoused or otherwise need a helping hand. It is these folks who are more likely to be helped through local efforts.ⁱⁱⁱ

Been There, Tried That? Homelessness is a complex social issue with no simple solution. And this isn't the first time Ashland and its neighbors have tried to figure out how to address it. Many studies have already been done, plans have been adopted, and much (much!) money has been spent, analyzing the homeless issue in Jackson County. Here's a partial list of prior studies:

- Jackson County *10-Year Plan to End Homelessness* (June 2009)
- City of Medford, *Comprehensive Plan: Housing Element* (December 2, 2010)
- City of Medford, *5-Year Consolidated Plan and Analysis of Impediments to Fair Housing Choice* (May 2015)
- *Ten-Year Plan to End Homelessness in Jackson County: Progress Highlights on the Six Strategies 2009-2018* (September 2018)
- *Homelessness in Jackson County: Service Providers Perceptions and Needs*, prepared by SOU MBA students (March 2018)
- *City of Medford Residential Homelessness Survey 2018*, prepared by SOU MBA students (January 2018)
- Lesar Development Consultants, *Medford Oregon Homeless System Action Plan Implementation Plan*, April 2019 (revised June 2020)

This Subcommittee's charge is to "prepare a draft master plan to guide the City of Ashland's investment in homelessness services." Rather than start with a *tabula rasa*, I suggest that we should review these studies, and discuss their implementation with Jackson County and City of Medford representatives who were responsible for making them work. We should find out what ideas were actually implemented, and what effect they had. Efforts that were successful should be endorsed (and perhaps repeated); plans that failed should be shelved.

ⁱ I offer the example of the Medication Assisted Treatment programs used at the Rhode Island Department of Corrections. See: <https://bhddh.ri.gov/substance-useaddiction/individual-and-family-information/help-opioid-dependence/medication-assisted>. I know many of you disagree with me. If you have recent, large-scale studies that support your view, please don't hesitate to send them my way. I'd prefer to be wrong – but I haven't seen recent, reliable, long-term studies showing that "Housing First" works for those addicted to drugs or alcohol.

ⁱⁱ Unfortunately, Oregon's state hospitals rank 49th in the country in terms of quality. (Mental Health America: <https://mhanational.org/issues/2022/ranking-states>) Perhaps the time will eventually come that our mercurial politicians will deem this cause worthy of their fleeting attention.

ⁱⁱⁱ There will always be folks we cannot reach because they are just not comfortable being housed. (Mike and his chihuahua come to mind.) A solution for them eludes me.



Homeless Services Masterplan Subcommittee

Community Development Building

51 Winburn Way

March 12, 2024

MINUTES

CALL TO ORDER: 5:30 p.m.

I. WELCOME & AGENDA REVIEW: 5:30–5:37 p.m.

- Attendance: All members were in attendance with the following exceptions: **Henigson-Kann** present via Zoom, **Leonard, Bloom, Price, Bachman, and VanEgdom** absent
- **Fields** starts the Agenda overview

II. PUBLIC FORUM: 5:37–5:40 p.m.

Note: Anyone wishing to speak at any Housing and Human Services Advisory Committee meeting is encouraged to do so. If you wish to speak, please rise and, after you have been recognized by the Chair, give your name and complete address for the record. You will then be allowed to speak. Please note the public testimony may be limited by the Chair.

- No speakers for public forum present

III. COMMENTS FROM COUNCIL LIAISONS: 5:40–5:43 p.m.

- **Kaplan** was unable to provide an update to council members at the last city council meeting due to a packed agenda and limited time, will share packet/subcommittee items but *cannot* discuss; **Rohde** asks questions re: the 24/7 shelter and the possibility of an ad-hoc shelter committee that has been spoken about outside the HSMS and coordinating with the ad-hoc committee once/if created

IV. ANNOUNCEMENTS: 5:42–5:43 p.m.

- “Announcements” section needs to be added to agendas/minutes going forward
- **Neisewander** announces that Rogue Retreat tours 8:30–11 am on March 22nd and those interested should speak with her about signing up

V. APPROVAL OF MINUTES: 5:43–5:47 p.m.

- Approval of previous meeting minutes with the following changes: Change “Bloom and Dylan” to “Bloom and Kaplan”; remove “elephant in the room” phrasing & clarify
- Additional discussion on the HSMS role with the night lawn is limited to listing it as a resource, but no decision making on its course of action

VI. RESPONSIBILITIES OF A CONTINUUM OF CARE: 5:47–6:45 p.m.

- Presentation by Melissa Markos of Jackson County CoC; **presentation available**
- CoC: “Continuum of Care” is a HUD-mandated planning body for homeless services, designed to promote communitywide planning and strategic use of resources to address homelessness by improving coordination and integration with mainstream resources
- CoC meetings are public, available via zoom or in person
- CoC staff reside at ACCESS
- Jackson County’s CoC Governing Board is required to have a person with lived experience



Homeless Services Masterplan Subcommittee

of homelessness in the past 7 years

- Responsibilities for a CoC: Operate a Homeless Management Information System (HMIS), Operate a Coordinated Entry System, Compile and Submit the Annual Collaborative Application, Complete an annual Sheltered Point in Time (Pit Count) and Housing Inventory Count (Unsheltered PIT counts are required Bi-annually), Hold Semi-Annual Public Membership Meetings, Complete an Annual GAPs Analysis (but not structured as to what to include in them)
- Good data needs to be updated and accurate; bad data is worse than no data
- CoC supports: permanent supportive housing, rapid rehousing, transitional housing, supportive services, prevention services, outreach & assessment, and emergency shelter
- MAC Groups are mandated and have continued system performance measures: Job & income growth, # of unsheltered, **successful placement in permanent housing, return to homelessness**, prevention, **length of episode**, and # of homeless persons for the first time; *bolded items are the parts with the most program/funding emphasis*
- Approximately 3,200 people are served by the Jackson County CoC
- Outreach definition vary; most \$ going to it possibly ever; now being tracked with KPI's
- CoC's are not linked but Jackson County started sharing data with 26 entities
- ACCESS checks in at 6 and 12 months after program exit
- No point in time (PIT) counts for unsheltered for 2024
- Housing inventory count (HIC) counts all sheltered people experiencing homelessness
- Coordinated Entry is used as a consistent, community-wide intake process to match people to existing community resources; assessed using a standard/objective assessment tool that identifies vulnerability and barriers to housing, those with the highest are prioritized to receive access to available housing programs
- Discussion on better methods to track homelessness and why we don't use them
- **Fields** asks how do the homeless experience the coordinated entry process?
 - Community member Debra with lived experience speaks to how she experienced the process and that no timelines were given, but the system worked well for her
- HUD provides self-assessment "programs"
- CoC began re-structure in 2023; new executive team formed in March 2024; coordinated entry to be revamped

VII. **GATHERING COMMUNITY PERSPECTIVES:** 6:50–7:00 p.m.

- Quick review of timeline; remaining discussion moved to next meeting

VIII. **DEBRIEF:** 7:00 – 7:30 p.m.

- **Calvin** goes over instructions for the sign up for remaining spots on service inventory list; deadline to get this information turned in is April 2nd; homeless-specific programs only
- Move outreach section to next meeting

IX. **ADJOURNMENT:** 7:30 p.m.

Next Meeting Dates: Wednesday, March 27th 5:30–7:30 PM

In compliance with the Americans with Disabilities Act, if you need special assistance to participate in this meeting, please email linda.reid@ashland.or.us. Notification 72 hours prior to the meeting will enable the City to make reasonable arrangements to ensure accessibility to the meeting (28 CFR 35.102–35.104 ADA Title 1).