

**HOMELESSNESS STEERING COMMITTEE**  
*AUGUST 27, 2012,*  
*COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT BUILDING,*  
*4:00-6:00 P.M.*

**AGENDA:**

- 1. Approve minutes from 8/8/12 HSC meeting**
- 2. Review proposal from Community Works**
- 3. Review & comment on charge for HSC from Mayor Stromberg**
- 4. Report from Sub-committee on Winter Shelter**
- 5. Update on Donation Boxes, Day-use Shelter, Outreach to Faith Community, etc.**
- 6. Public comment/ announcements**

*Draft Minutes*  
August 8, 2012  
Ad-Hoc Homelessness Steering Committee  
Ashland Library  
4:00 - 6:00 p.m.

Attendance

Ayars, Parker, Sohl, Saldana, O'Bryon, Morris (Council liaison), Reid (Staff)

Absent

Hopkins-Powell, Lewis, Rohde

Agenda Item #1: Call to Order

Parker called the meeting to order at 4:10 p.m.

Agenda Item #2: Approval of Minutes

Saldana/Ayars moved to approve the minutes as presented. Voice Vote-Motion passed unanimously.

Agenda Item #3: Debrief from the Faith Community Meeting

The Committee members felt that the meeting accomplished what they had hoped. The committee members learned about additional resources available to homeless populations. Committee members also learned that there is a lot of interest and support for an organization that would function similarly to the former ICCA. Ayars met the new Rabbi at Temple Emek Shalom, Rabbi Boettinger. She has scheduled a meeting with him for next week, he said that he is very interested in working with those less fortunate. Audience member Haxton stated that he thought that it would be helpful if the HSC could use the list of resources generated from the FBO meeting last month to create a pamphlet or handout to provide to the homeless. It was suggested that committee members should e-mail any resources not listed in last month's minutes to Reid who will compile the list and bring it back to the group for review at the next regular meeting. Parker mentioned that she was encouraged by the positive response from the faith community participants and how willing they were to provide volunteers and resources.

- a.) **Next Steps:** O'Bryon stated that the committee needs to set a date in the near future to invite the FBO's back to encourage further discussions, also there were some FBO's not represented because they had scheduling conflicts. It would be nice to hear from them.

Agenda Item #4: Discussion/Next Steps on the following Issues:

- a.) **Winter Shelter:** Parker would like to find ways/organizations/funding streams that can help to provide shelter this winter. A subcommittee made up of Saldana, Morris and non-committee member Haxton, was formed to look at several options including: whether Ruth will be organizing the emergency and Sunday night shelter's again this year, whether the Presbyterian church will be able to host the Sunday shelter, whether CERT can become involved again, either through training or volunteer coordination and what that would entail/cost, and lastly, what barriers regulatory or otherwise are preventing organizers from utilizing City buildings for emergency shelter.

- b.) **Jobs Program:** It was decided to put this topic on hold, since it can be covered under the services offered at a day use center.

- c.) **Housing Options:** The September meeting of the Jackson County Homeless Task Force will be held in Ashland (September 18<sup>th</sup>, 10:30-12:00 at the Ashland Community Center) at that meeting the housing providers present can give a brief overview of their programs.

- d.) **Day-Use Center:** See item #5 below.

Agenda Item #5: Update from Dennis Slattery.

Councilor Slattery has continued to work on the Day Center/Homeless Resource Center proposal. Slattery believes that an effective day center can make some of the other homeless and at-risk resources possible. Slattery has maintained communication with the Salvation Army and has also continued to talk with community members, stakeholders and the council about the day center idea. The council has authorized the use of City resources in the form of staff time to go on a fact finding mission to explore properties, leases, and potential organizations to come up with some specifics to bring back to the council. There is a realization that something needs to be done in the near term, thus far things have been moving incrementally. There is still a lot to be done; looking at specific financial liability and day to day operating costs of the center. We are at a fork in the road where we will see if the community can get behind a start-up day-center. Audience member Wieczorek asked Councilor Slattery if the City would be open to working with a more local group who is financially ready and able to take on such an endeavor. Slattery answered that the City would be open to any organization that is willing to work toward fulfilling the mission of helping people who are homeless, that is the focus of the effort; whatever will best accomplish that mission. Parker thanked Slattery for his efforts in continuing to move the day-center concept forward. Parker referenced a recent article in the Journal of the American Medical Association (see attached) which shows that providing supportive housing for chronically homeless populations is more cost effective for communities than to do nothing. Parker stated that providing a service such as a day center would be beneficial both to the City and to the Ashland community.

Other Reports/Announcements

Mobile Clinic Update- the Mobile Clinic will be in Ashland from 9 A.M. until 5 P.M. every Tuesday until school starts. There has been a lot of demand for dental services. People who come for dental services should plan on getting there as early as possible, services are first come, first serve. Behavioral health is offered as well and the clinic does have the ability to provide medications on site.

Parker made an announcement about the Oregon Mission of Mercy free dental clinic coming up on September 13-16<sup>th</sup>. The event is looking for volunteers and Parker would like to see the HSC come up with some kind of transportation to and from the event for Ashland residents. This dental clinic will be able to offer dentures to those in need which is something that the La Clinica Mobile Clinic is not able to do at this time but which they are seeing a lot of need for.

Mobile Shower Unit: Parker gave the group an update on the mobile shower unit that the Emergency Medical Corps (?) has. Parker has spoken with the coordinator and it looks like Ashland may be able to borrow the unit. At this time no formal agreement has been finalized and there are still a lot of details to be worked out. The unit will need to be hooked up to a power and water supply. Parker will continue to work on this resource.

Public Comments - None

Adjourn-6:05

**Next meeting: August 27, 2012 4:00-6:00 P.M.**

**Siskiyou Room-Community Development building**

Respectfully Submitted by Linda Reid, Housing Program Specialist



Proposal from Community Works to the City of Ashland  
To Create a Youth Center in the Grove

**Contact Information:**

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**Proposal:**

Community Works proposes to assist the City of Ashland help people experiencing homelessness in Ashland find resources, including housing. To do this, we propose establishing a youth drop in center at the Grove with the overall goal of reducing the risk of chronic homelessness into adulthood.

The youth drop in center will be open to all youth after school from 4:00 to 7:00, Monday through Friday, including through the summer. The emphasis will be on serving homeless and runaway youth. The building will also be used during the day to serve the youth already in Community Works' care, who are currently living in Ashland. The City of Ashland is asked only to provide the Grove. All other costs will be provided by Community Works.

**Need:**

In January 2012, 213 people without homes were counted in Ashland, with 71 of them being school age children and youth enrolled in Ashland School District. City officials estimated that another 35 people were missed in the count. The homeless youth population is likely much higher than the count, as not all homeless youth are enrolled in school. Community Works alone, through its Homeless Youth Street Outreach Program, made 402 contacts with 80 unduplicated youth in Ashland in 2011. The number of homeless people in Ashland during the warm months also is likely much higher.

Homeless youth are often overlooked. Most homeless youth are not eligible for foster placement and cannot stay at most emergency shelters because they are not accompanied by a legal guardian. Many of these youth do not link with agencies that can help. Some lose hope and turn to drugs and alcohol putting them at high risk for a life on the streets.

The City of Ashland has been engaged in a dialogue about rising frustrations around homelessness and potential solutions. Law enforcement, business owners and residents are voicing increased concern about panhandling and urinating in public, as well as more serious issues such as the fires that were started in the Plaza. Numerous newspaper articles and on-line blogs have been published recently citing fear and economic concerns that panhandlers are turning away tourists and theater goers.

*“The number of homeless students in Oregon continues to rise as families and communities struggle with persistent economic challenges,”* said State Superintendent of Public Instruction Susan Castillo.<sup>1</sup> *“But behind each of these numbers is a child, a family, a story. Homeless families in Oregon, and around the country, face a host of challenges from finding a safe place to stay and food to eat to making sure students get to school ready to learn. These are very real challenges without easy solutions.”*

Dona Bolt, Oregon’s coordinator of homeless education, states *“there are more kids that are new to homelessness now than ever before—nearly 2,500 of the homeless students lack not only a home, but also a parent or guardian.”*<sup>2</sup> Abandoned by parents or having run away from home or foster care, these students “couch surf,” staying temporarily with a series of friends and acquaintances, or face greater dangers by “camping” in parks, sleeping in cars or attempting to stay in buildings deemed uninhabitable.

These youth often become homeless because of the families they were born into. For example, one 17 year old youth we served said this: *“My mom died of HIV when I was two. I never met my dad. I didn’t know I was being raised by my grandparents. I thought they were my parents. When my grandfather died, my grandmother and I just fought too much.”*

Potential solutions to concerns about homelessness in Ashland currently are being discussed. They have include creating an exclusion zone, transporting offenders to Medford, creating a work-for-housing concept, and creating a drop in center that can connect people experiencing homelessness with resources.

Lasting solutions require multi-faced approaches. Community Works proposes helping to address youth homelessness for the City of Ashland by creating a drop in center for youth, where youth can connect with social service providers to receive mental health treatment, drug and alcohol treatment, housing referrals, and more.

We propose moving some of our youth existing services to the Grove. We have a considerable presence already in Ashland with homeless, runaway and adjudicated youth, and would further move some of our Medford based services to Ashland.

We will collaborate with the ad hoc Homeless Steering Committee and other youth serving and social service agencies to provide the following services as appropriate and as possible:

- Assist youth in locating housing through Community Works’ existing Transitional Housing Program and with other programs.

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<sup>1</sup> Oregon Department of Education News Release: “Homelessness now affects over 20,000 students in Oregon.” 2011. <http://www.ode.state.or.us/news/announcements/announcement.aspx?ID=7674&TypeID=5>

<sup>2</sup> Oregon Department of Education: “The Superintendent’s Pipeline.” 2007. <http://www.ode.state.or.us/pipeline/september-pipeline-07.pdf>

- Assist youth in reuniting with their families when appropriate.
- Assist youth in gaining access to help from social workers, therapists, medical care, and other professionals.
- Operate a shower and laundry program.
- Provide food and access to food resources.
- Supply donated clothing and hygiene supplies to youth.

In addition, we will have activities for all Ashland youth, such as supervised time recording music in the recording studio, and basketball in the gym.

**History of the Grove:**

Steve Groveman and Arnie Green had a vision of creating a teen center for youth in Ashland. They and the Community Works Board of Directors raised \$1.2 million in foundation, government and donor funds to build the site on city land. \$400,000 was raised through contributions by local donors, mostly Ashland residents. The Grove opened in March 2000. According to the *Mail Tribune*, after Groveman’s death in 1999, Community Works struggled to attract youth to the site and lost approximately \$190,000. (October 2, 2000.) The Grove was ultimately turned over to the city. Reasons cited in the article were budget cuts, a flagging economy and low enrollment. In a letter dated July 18, 2003, Arnie Green wrote to the Ashland Rotary, “The basic reasons are two: economics and demographics. Community Works has continued to lose funding that helps underwrite prevention programs across our valley. Nowhere has this been more keenly felt than at the Grove. Additionally, declining numbers in low-income teens have compounded the challenge of attracting this target group in sufficient numbers, a HUD funding requirement.”

While it may seem that the same conditions exist today, the situation is actually quite different. By relocating Community Works’ existing Ashland-based youth programs to the Grove and some Medford based staff, Community Works can underwrite the basic costs of operating the Grove. In particular, the following existing services, along with their budgets and staff, would be housed at the Grove:

<b>Current Services for Ashland Youth</b>	<b>Goals and # of Ashland Youth Already Served</b>	<b>Current Annual Budget in Ashland</b>	<b>Total Projected Annual Budget in Ashland after Move to the Grove</b>
Homeless and Runaway Street Outreach	<p><b>Goal #1:</b> Provide access to emergency shelter to 80 to 100 Ashland homeless and runaway youth.</p> <p><b>Goal #2:</b> Provide street-based outreach, support and resource</p>	<p>\$42,975</p> <p>(includes \$8,400 from the City of Ashland)</p> <p>+\$15,000</p>	<p>\$42,975</p> <p>(includes \$8,400 from the City of Ashland)</p> <p>+\$15,000</p>

	<p>development to homeless youth, reaching 80 to 100 Ashland youth each year.</p> <p><b>Goal #3:</b> Provide support and services to youth who are at risk for (or experienced) sexual assault, sexual exploitation, and relationship violence. In 2011, we reached 60 Ashland youth and connected 30 per year with sexual assault and domestic violence services.</p> <p><b>Goal #4:</b> Provide crisis information, harm reduction strategies and referrals for 80-100 Ashland homeless and runaway youth who are experiencing health, mental health, and alcohol and drug problems.</p> <p><b>Goal #5</b> Provide a meal for homeless and runaway youth on Wednesdays and Fridays.</p> <p><b>Goal #6:</b> Improve problem solving skills and decision making skills so that youth will make better choices in their lives.</p>	(in-kind donations)	(in-kind donations)
Transitional/ Independent Living Program	<p><b>Goal #1:</b> Provide subsidized housing for youth ages 16-21 and staff to supervise them. We typically subsidize 1 to 5 apartments in Ashland that house up to 6 Ashland youth who were previously homeless.</p> <p><b>Goal #2:</b> Improve independent living skills. Ashland youth participate weekly in skill building classes, such as budgeting and parenting. These youth are required to be enrolled in school or to be employed.</p>	<p>\$11,000</p> <p>+\$15,000 (in-kind donations)</p>	<p>\$80,000</p> <p>+\$15,000 (in-kind donations)</p>

	<b>Goal #3.</b> Provide a continuum of care for these youth, including case management and mental health therapy.		
Lithia Springs School and residential care	<p><b>Goal # 1:</b> Provide a quality high school education to adjudicated youth who are in residential care. Currently 27 youth attend Lithia Springs School in Ashland.</p> <p><b>Goal #2:</b> Improve problem solving skills and decision making skills so that youth will make better choices in their lives. Youth participate in intensive therapy and skill building daily.</p> <p><b>Goal # 3:</b> Provide therapeutic residential care that promotes independent living skills and good citizenship for adjudicated youth. Currently Community Works owns a Boys' House and a Girls' House in Ashland, housing 24 youth.</p> <p><b>Goal #4:</b> Provide youth with a sheltered vocational experience. Youth work in at Mission Candles to gain work experience and independent living skills.</p>	\$2,116,645	\$2,116,645
School-based Counseling	Goal: Provide mental health counseling for youth attending Ashland High School.	\$17,000	\$17,000
<b>TOTALS</b>		<b>\$2,217,620</b>	<b>\$2,286,620</b>

While recruitment of youth to the Grove was difficult in 2000, we believe it will be a natural place for youth to gather now. Community Works has existing relationships with youth who are experiencing homelessness and mental health issues in Ashland through our Street Outreach Program. These street

outreach workers will be able to communicate the services offered at the Grove. In addition, Community Works has since developed excellent relations and collaboration with the Ashland Police Department.

While substantial services are already being provided by Community Works and other community partners, it is still not enough. Bryce Brooks, LCSW, Director of Youth and Family Services and supervisor for the street outreach program in Ashland said, *“Youth in Ashland still have to go to Medford for services. Many of them can’t get there and just do without.”*

The following services are needed and wanted by youth, and will attract them to the Grove:

- A shower program, which does not exist in Ashland now.
- A place to do laundry.
- Meals on Wednesdays and Fridays (these would be moved from Lithia Park to the Grove.)
- A clothes closet and hygiene supplies.
- A computer to assist with job searches and resume building.
- An address for youth to put on their resumes.
- Social and health services provided by Community Works and by collaborating agencies and individuals that will be invited to participate, such as Maslow and co-located government employees.
- Referrals and connections to housing, food, employment, and other basic needs.
- Connections to caring adults who will volunteer their time.
- Recreational activities such as music recording.

What Ashland youth have said about our homeless services the need for services in Ashland:

*“I really appreciate the smiles, friendliness and food. You give me hope that things can be better and the resources that can help.”*

*“During this difficult time, you have been the only consistent thing in my life. Thank you so much.”*

### **About Community Works**

Community Works is a non-profit, social service agency serving the Rogue Valley with best practices programs that address youth issues, domestic violence, sexual assault, mental health issues, and crisis intervention. Community Works incorporated as a non-profit in 1996, though some of our programs have been in existence for more than 40 years. We have facilities in Ashland, Medford and across the Rogue Valley. Our corporate offices are in Medford. In addition to the services described here, Community Works operates the Dunn House domestic violence shelter, HelpLine, the county’s 24 hour crisis hotline,

and Urgent Response, the county's after hours mental health crisis intervention team, and responds to victims of sexual assault.

Community Works has a long history of providing services to the homeless population in Ashland. We collaborate with the following agencies: Maslow Project; Hearts With A Mission; Salvation Army; Department of Human Services; The Ashland City Police Department for mandatory reporting, information on encampments, and safety considerations for homeless youth; La Clinica to provide free medical and dental care at a community meal where we conduct homeless outreach services; OnTrack to refer youth for drug and alcohol treatment services; Jackson County Mental Health to refer people for psychiatric services; Housing Authority of Jackson County for permanent housing; Access, Inc. for food pantry, bus tokens and financial assistance; The Job Council for job support, maintenance and vocational training; Uncle Foods Diner for meals; Lotus Rising Project and SOU Pride for LGBTQ support; Rose Circle for mentoring; and Consumer Credit Counseling Services for educational and life skills support.

In addition to our work directly in Ashland, Community Works offers a continuum of care to all of Jackson County youth and adults. Many of our services are used by Ashland residents. For example:

- Our 24 a day, 7 days a week crisis intervention hotline serves all of Jackson County.
- Women and children from Ashland come to our Dunn House Shelter for victims of domestic violence.
- Our court advocates help Ashland victims of sexual assault or domestic violence.
- A team of trained and masters-level mental health therapists for family, couple, and individual counseling.

**Sample Schedule of Activities at the Grove**

8:00 – 4:00 Monday – Friday	Lithia Springs School in session	Community Works school staff and residence staff on-site.
4:00 – 7:00 Monday – Friday	Shower program	Community Works staff oversees.
4:00 -7:00 Monday – Friday	Connection with housing and other social services.	Community Works and other non-profit and government agencies staff this with help from volunteers recruited by Ashland's groups formed to address homelessness.
4:00 – 7:00 Monday – Friday	Computers available for job searches and resume development.	Community Works and volunteers oversee.

6:00 Wednesdays and Fridays	Hot meals served.	Community Works.
4:00 Tuesdays and Thursdays	Life Skills Classes offered.	Community Works.
4:00 – 7:00 Monday – Friday	Use of the gym for recreation such as basketball, dodge ball, or dances that youth organize, as well as use of the music studio.	Volunteers.

**Conclusion**

Community Works proposes addressing the problem of homelessness among Ashland’s youth by consolidating its existing youth programs in the Grove. Timing is important in this offer. Knowing whether our proposal is accepted soon is critical so that we may move smoothly before our current lease expires and to give us time to work with the ad hoc Homeless Steering Committee to recruit volunteers and to reach out to further help Ashland youth.

We are requesting to lease the Grove for \$1 per year. Ashland residents already have a significant investment in the Grove as a teen center. Community Works and these residents’ original vision can be realized, returning the Grove to its original purpose. Community Works is heavily invested in reaching and serving Ashland’s homeless and runaway youth. The proposed program will serve as a mechanism for others in the community to synergize our efforts to address youth homelessness in Ashland.

## **HSC Scope of Work - Draft - 7/30/12**

Conceive and implement projects for the benefit of the homeless and near homeless population of Ashland, under the supervision of the City Council. Subject to the following conditions:

1. Obtain the approval of the City Council before moving to the implementation phase of a project.
2. Make assisting people to move out of homelessness a priority.
3. Recognize that homeless issues in the Downtown Area overlap with, but are distinct from, behavior issues in the Downtown.
4. Respect all perspectives on any issue under consideration by the Committee.
5. Avoid committing the City to any project, or setting any expectations, without Council backing.
6. Report to the Council, either in person or in writing, every three months or sooner if needed.

Also evaluate proposals regarding homelessness, that are referred to the Committee by the Council.