



HUMAN SERVICES COMMITTEE

Agenda

Tuesday, April 7, 2015
2:00 pm

Madison Avenue Meeting Room
500 SW Madison Avenue

- | | |
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| Discussion/ Possible Action | I. Simple Shelter Requests
(Attachment) |
| Information | II. Other Business |

Next Scheduled Meeting

Tuesday, April 21, 2015 at 2:00 pm
Madison Avenue Meeting Room, 500 SW Madison Avenue

Agenda

None at this time.

MEMORANDUM

March 30, 2015

TO: Human Services Committee
 FROM: Nancy Brewer, City Manager *NB*
 SUBJECT: **Simple Shelter Request**

On February 24 the group that has identified itself as Simple Shelter filed the attached list of requests with Mayor Traber. This staff report provides the Committee with information about that request.

1. Allow the public bathrooms on the waterfront to be available for use throughout the year.

Response: The bathrooms in all parks are closed each fall and re-opened around the first of March. Once re-opened, the bathrooms are locked at night. The winter closure is put in place to winterize the bathrooms and minimize winter effects of freezing temperatures on the plumbing. The night time closure is due to behavior issues where some people locked themselves in the bathrooms, started fires, vandalized and have monopolized the bathroom prohibiting others from using the facilities.

2. Allow area for free camping e.g., re-open the Willamette campground.

Response: The Willamette campground was closed several years ago following repeated neighborhood complaints about loud parties, drug dealing, and fights among those using the campground. Since the campground has been closed the Parks and Recreation Department has worked with the neighborhood, advisory board and City Council to develop an adopted master plan that includes placement of a community garden in the former campground area. The community garden is in this year’s capital improvement plan and will be constructed this spring.

3. Work with representatives from the homeless community to identify and allocate land and resources for the formation of a Tiny Home community.

Response: In discussions with the Simple Shelter representatives, it became apparent that they believed the City owned parcels of land that were not in use for any other purpose. The City has no land that is not already being used as a park, natural area, or for the utility infrastructure system. The City could work with the homeless community on this issue, but would need to find resources to purchase developable parcels of property and would also need to find a developer who could build affordable housing. The City would also need to address potential liability issued for activity that may occur on the City-owned property.

4. Increase financial investment in Corvallis Housing First program.

Response: The City invests in homeless solutions in the following programs/amounts:

Mechanism	FY 14-15 funding amount
Social Services Allocation	\$164,000
CDBG Human Services Allocations	54,000
CDBG Capital Allocations	75,000

The City Council could determine that the city’s current investment should be increased. The appropriate time and place for that discussion would be at the Budget Commission meetings coming in April.

5. Re-zone the old Gazette-Times building to be converted into a new homeless shelter where couples, families and people with pets can remain together.

Response: Mayor Traber informed the Simple Shelter representatives that the City does not own this facility and cannot re-zone private property in this manner.

6. Lower the fairground overnight camping fee and remove the exclusion placed on Benton County impoverished families.

Response: Mayor Traber informed the Simple Shelter representatives that the City does not own or control the Benton County fairgrounds or the rates they charge for camping. The representatives were encouraged to talk with the County Commissioners about this request.

7. Cease all police action, and prosecution of trespassing, on peaceable citizens committing no harm while found on commercial properties.

Response: The Police Department will address behaviors that are counter to legal action, including where a commercial property owner has indicated that trespassing is not allowed.

8. Cease all ticketing and prosecution with camping laws on individuals using vehicular shelter in the City of Corvallis.

Response: The Police Department does not routinely ticket people sleeping in vehicles or actively seek to find people sleeping in vehicles. From time-to-time, community members call Police seeking a law enforcement response to people sleeping in vehicles and when an individual's behavior is an issue, the Police Department will intervene to address the issue/behavior.

9. Provide coin-operated showers for the homeless to offer support for the care of their physical needs.

Response: The only location the City has for showers is at the Osborn Aquatic Center. People may shower there for the regular price of admission (currently \$5 for a single individual). The Parks and Recreation Department has discussed lower prices, but once a person has entered the facility they have full access and staff doesn't know/can't control whether people go for a swim, etc. The City has no other location for showers (i.e., no vacant buildings, no unused land), which would require building a new facility. If the City Council wanted staff to explore this issue, including potential locations and costs, a motion to pursue it would be in order.

10. Provide lockers for the homeless to offer basic security for their belongings.

Response: I have discussed this issue with Aleita Hass-Holcombe. She indicated they would need/want at least 50 lockers, around the size of the bike lockers located in the Transit Center, though taller and less "deep" and that the lockers should be sheltered, well lit, and spread around in different locations as a best practice. She also indicated that other storage businesses in town were simply too expensive, or the units too large for some people. This issue gets back to the City simply not having the location to place lockers, or the resources to acquire/construct/cover and light lockers, manage abandoned contents, etc. If the City Council wishes to have staff explore land acquisition, design, and costing information a motion to pursue it would be in order. As an alternative, the Simple Shelter representatives could approach local storage businesses to see if an arrangement acceptable to both parties could be negotiated.

Representatives from the Daytime Drop In Center, Homeless Shelter Coalition, Simple Shelter, Jackson Street Youth Shelter, CARDV, Community Services Consortium, and Community Outreach, Inc., along with a representative who works with homeless veterans have been invited to this HSC meeting to provide input and have been provided with a copy of this staff report.

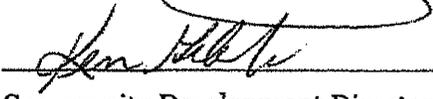
Review and Concur:



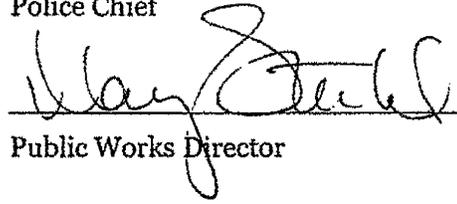
Parks and Recreation Director



Police Chief



Community Development Director



Public Works Director

Goal 1: Services

Strategy 1: Supportive Services	Rating	Comments	Continue? Y or N	Agency?
Rent Assistance	3	Different organizations had different experiences based on the populations that they worked with but that programs meeting this step seemed to be adequately meeting the need.		
Properties	2.5	Slight improvement, however, the community has seen a lot of renovations rather than added capacity.		
Transition	4	Significant progress with recognition of new services. There was concern about the occurrence of "patient dumping" by Samaritan Hospital wherein individuals in compromised health are discharged without housing options that can provide adequate medical support.		
Funding subsidies	3			
Strategy 2: Medical	Rating	Comments	Continue? Y or N	Agency?
OHP	4.5			
211 + Navigator	2	Was concern for the continued lack of available resources.		
Fund	2			
Dental Assistance	4.5	Improved tremendously over the past five years.		

Goal 2: Affordable Housing

Strategy 1: Emergency & Transitional	Rating	Comments	Continue? Y or N	Agency?
4 units for youth	5	Increase the number of units to 10.		
10 units for adults	5	Increase the number to 30, up from 10.		
Mental Health transitional		Lack of knowledge on families needing treatment services.		
Shelters-non-treatment	3	Housing First has plans for a new shelter with 100 beds to open in 2016.		
Permanent shelters	3	Partners Place has 14 units for permanent housing for families.		
Sex offenders	2	No real resource is in place to ensure that sex offenders are finding housing.		

Goal 3: Capacity for Self support

Strategy 1: Street Outreach	Rating	Comments	Continue? Y or N	Agency?
Trial position	2.5	Lacks a component for youth. A representative from Benton County Mental Health would be advantageous for a comprehensive discussion of this step.		
Coordinate among agencies	2	AST works well to meet this step but there is no link to the community's homeless youth.		
Strategy 2: Job Training	Rating	Comments	Continue? Y or N	Agency?
Specialized Training				
Job bank/Day labor site		The step lacks clarity. The Boys and Girls Club as well as the Benton Community Foundation offer job training programs to youth in the community.		
Strategy 3: Drop in Center	Rating	Comments	Continue? Y or N	Agency?
Permanent site	3			
Center for sexual/domestic violence	4.5	Due to the completion of CARDV's Advocacy Center.		
Strategy 4: Financial Issues	Rating	Comments	Continue? Y or N	Agency?
Assistance program		Vina Moses, We CARE, St. Mary's, and CSC were recognized as working towards this step, however, such resources lack collaboration.		
Strategy 5: Re-entry	Rating	Comments	Continue? Y or N	Agency?
Youth from Juvenile Facilities		Jackson Street is an important component to completing this step.		
Long term Adult		Clear bench-marks should be made so that future evaluations are more effective, and the goals should be reworked so that people outside of this committee are engaged to work with HOC in these efforts.		
Long term Elderly		Steps should be rewritten as S.M.A.R.T. goals (specific, measurable, attainable, realistic, and timely) and clearly identify the ideal populations they are intended for.		
Transitional		Teen drug court lost funding.		

Goal 4: Societal Stigma

Strategy 1: Advocates	Rating	Comments	Continue? Y or N	Agency?
Navigation/Peer	1	The lack of clarity around the S.O.A.R. program. It was suggested to rewrite the step to refer to a Peer Support certification program. The Health Department, CSC, and the CPD offer assistance for individuals applying for SSI and SSDI.		
Street Monitor	2.5	Daytime Drop-In Center serves to meet this step but the progress that has been made is unclear. JSYS extends these services to the youth population and there are resources available through the Health Department.		
Vets	4.5	CSC has a highly funded and active Veterans Program.		
Strategy 2: Education	Rating	Comments	Continue? Y or N	Agency?
Central Info Hub	4	Always room to improve the access to information.		
Network through Agencies	3	City Club, GT, and The Advocate, have all made valuable efforts but there is still a need to join with more community partners.		
Engage Homeless	2	Needs to be better information sharing between organizations, committees, and individuals working in the camps and having more face-to-face interactions with members of the target population.		

Goal 5: Data Collection

Strategy 1: Info Evaluation and Accountability	Rating	Comments	Continue? Y or N	Agency?
Demographic Collect	3	The committee's creation met this step but there needs to be a better system for annual evaluation and follow-up to ensure that progress is being made.		
Oversight Committee				
Regional Oversight Committee				