

NOTES: MEETING 2 9/17/21
Homeless Think Tank Seaside
Brainstorm strategies for
working with/relieving/solving/reducing homelessness

Participants: Jay Barber, Rick Bowers, Dave Ham, Sharon Johnson, Dale McDowell, Seamus McVey (via notes after viewing video), Viviana Matthews, Nelle Moffatt, Tita Montero, Frank Morrison, Ariel Nelson, Monica Steele.

AGENDA

Nelle

- ❖ Strategies: Define
- ❖ Brainstorm strategies for working with/relieving/solving/reducing homelessness
- ❖ BETWEEN MEETINGS:
 - Collate and summarize outcomes of discussion & circulate to TT members (even those who could not attend)

Ariel Nelson's comment on the related House Bills: Cities only need their enforcement to be in compliance with state law. City laws and ordinances have until July 2023 to be in compliance with state laws. State land use ordinance has been amended to allow shelters in any zone including safe parking areas and urban camp sites. City can approve these as long as restrooms are available on the site.

"Round Robin" Strategies

Housing & Shelters

- Demonstration project for transitional housing, tiny homes, micro-shelters
- Policy from top down, location for tiny homes
- Permanent supportive housing and services so they can stay sheltered
- Low barrier shelter
- Plan for a warming center this winter
- Consolidated service site where homeless & families live in safe clean&sober location
- Managed campgrounds for sites with tents, cars, and RVs
- Scatter sites for shelter so not all in one location
- Scatter sites with oversight management and maintenance
- Coordinated entry like Longview, funded by the county (WA)
- Develop program matching vacation rental owners with vetted homeless individuals for a specific time period (winter)
- Create a range of different types of shelter to meet a variety of needs of the homeless
- Build stepping stones for people out of homelessness – work on building the next step
- People who move into housing still need support
- Have a broad approach that includes multiple sites of accessibility, designating them for different levels of barriers that need to be achieved, ie. A clean and sober site vs. one that doesn't necessitate sobriety etc.
- There is a need for shelter FROM the shelters. The well-meant structures put in place often set up situations that cause an abundance of stress, which in turn can lead to violence. There needs to be flexibility in policies put in place in a hypothetical shelter or camp site situation.

Access to Services

- Navigation Center – that provides mailing address, shower, direct access to services
- Keep CCA Liaisons we have – get long term funding
- Police designate a person on staff as point of contact re homeless. Direct any issues to this person.

- Place to store belongings
- RV hook-ups and sewer dump capacity
- CCA does case meetings with veterans and planning to expand to other groups
- CCA has services that may not be well known
- Anonymous Practical Everyday Support recovery program in Seaside is open to all who wish to utilize it at no cost to anyone at any time.

Coordination and Partnerships

- Work with non-profits and churches
- Continue coordinated planning group re homelessness
- Build partnerships between churches, social services, and government
- Work with city and county partners
- Coordinated city and county to learn from each other
- Have a team approach and action plan that produces results
- Have churches sign up to cook dinners once a month at shelters
- Community Solutions – Built for Zero consultants
- Have a liaison specific to Seaside, rather than relying on the two that CCA has that cover the whole county

Government Ordinances and Approval

- Quick approval – not waiting for updating the comprehensive plan
- Use of large empty public buildings
- Update comprehensive plans to include special needs people and homeless
- Code compliance for scattered sites requiring that property is well maintained and managed.
- Identify and separate sex offenders and those with warrants

Funding

- Increase staff in all areas
- Money – how do we get more in this county?
- Money from HUD, Continuum of Care – we need more of our share.
- Experts in grant writing, knowledge of HUD. Look at Deshutes, Cook, Bend for how they do it. Homelessness Leadership Council. Coordinated efforts (State supports this – Ariel)
- Behavioral Health bills the state, so run specific costs through them, eg. Building lease.
- Rotary Club etc. invest in the community

Data on Successes and Barriers

- Collect data on people being served in a housing strategy – needs & services provided
- People in housing system – who, how helped, success
- Communicate good work to the community – what you are doing – progress

Overcome Barriers and Myths

- How do we get out of the status quo thinking?
- Identify systemic blocks to affordable housing
- Understand reasons that some people refuse services
- Help those who want to be helped first
- Overcome “us & them”, “sheltered & unsheltered” by providing opportunities to meet each other face to face and get to know each other.
- Set up an event or a series of events in which people who are or have been houseless are able to share their story of how they became houseless, what it’s like, and how they hope to or did become housed. This would be an opportunity to educate the general public on what the homeless community actually looks like, and how those dealing with it are just as much people as those who never have.
- Work case by case to solve issues for the individual person
- Confidentiality is an issue to solve in order to encourage collaboration