

COORDINATED HOUSELESS RESPONSE OFFICE (CHRO)

Board of Director Working Session Minutes

11:00 – 12:30 pm on Thursday, July 20th, 2023
Deschutes Services Building, Allen Room, 1300 NW Wall St., Bend, OR

Attendance: Commissioner Adair, Chair; Councilor Perkins, City of Bend; Councilor Blum, City of Sisters; Councilor Zwicker, City of Redmond; Mayor Richer, City of La Pine; Chris Ogren, Houseless Response Analyst; Erik Kropp, Deputy County Administrator; Tammy Baney, COIC Executive Director; Marissa Cummings, Deschutes County; Eric King, City Manager – City of Bend; Mickie Derting, City of Bend; Keith Witcosky, City Manager – City of Redmond; Anna Kaminski, Bend Bulletin; Kerry Prosser, City of Sisters; Linda Cline, City of Redmond; James Cook, Oasis Village; Angie Powers, Deschutes County; Max Krech, County Intern; Carissa Heinige, Deschutes County; Commissioner Chang, Deschutes County; Commissioner Debone, Deschutes County; Geoff Wullschlager, City Manager – City of La Pine; Gary Hewitt, Executive Director – St. Vincent De Paul Bend; Mary Winters, City of Bend; Ian Leitheiser, City of Bend; Janice Garceau, Deschutes County; Amy Fraley, City of Bend; Brook O’Keefe, City of Bend; Matt Stuart, City of Bend; Jessica Gamble, Home More Network; Mike Thomas, Community-member; Jill Martinson, Community-member.

1. Introductions and Agenda Review

Chair Adair called the meeting to order at 11:02 am. Participants in the room introduced themselves.

2. Approval of Minutes

Chair Adair called for a correction to the minutes due to a transposition error.

VOTE: Vice-Chair Perkins motioned approval of the June minutes, pending edits. Councilor Zwicker seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously. Mayor Richer was absent from the vote.

3. Strategic Planning Discussion

Councilors Perkins and Zwicker explained to the Board the outcomes from the Strategic Planning Subcommittee discussion earlier in the week. Councilor Perkins explained that nothing had been changed during the discussion. Councilor Zwicker explained the meeting was open to the public. Mayor Richer explained he was unable to attend the subcommittee meeting due to a schedule conflict. The group discussed minimal feedback on the proposed plan from the community, despite several outreach efforts from staff. Councilor Blum requested that acronyms in the plan be spelled out for clarity. Councilor Perkins requested that staff add a goal about supporting homelessness prevention in the

Strategic Plan. Staff agreed to implement the changes and send a final version to the Board prior to submission to the State.

Vote: Councilor Zwicker motioned approval of the Strategic Plan, pending edits. Councilor Blum seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

4. Governance Discussion

Commissioner Adair introduced the governance discussion, with a focus on the CHRO bylaws. Commissioner Adair expressed an interest in having a representative of the HLC join the CHRO Board as a non-voting member. The rest of the Board agreed. The board directed staff to make the necessary changes to the bylaws.

Councilor Blum asked several clarifying questions about the bylaws, and noted that three different groups in the bylaws are referred to interchangeably. The board expressed a desire to call the advisory board the advisory committee to mitigate confusion. Councilor Blum also asked why management of the Office wasn't included in the bylaws. Councilor Zwicker explained these rules only apply to the Board, and rules for COIC and the CHRO's management will be defined in the future.

The group discussed advisory committee membership terms, and decided that term limits were unnecessary. They also decided upon staggered initial terms.

The board agreed to discuss changes made to the bylaws in the August CHRO Board Meeting.

Commissioner Adair brought a letter from the Governor to Deschutes County to the CHRO Board for a brief discussion and to ask for CHRO Board support. Board members expressed support for the County's letter. Commissioner Chang noted he didn't expect a formal request of the CHRO Board. Erik Kropp noted that what was shared with the CHRO Board was an internal draft that had not gone before the Commissioners yet. Erik noted that the letter would go before the Commissioners next week.

Councilor Perkins expressed a desire to hear an update about how each community's discussion went about transitioning the CHRO to COIC. Each board member shared that their respective council/commission was supportive of the transition. Tammy Baney said that the COIC Board would discuss the transition in their board meeting on August 3rd.

5. County Heat & Smoke Thresholds

Carissa Heinige and Marissa Cummings presented the CHRO Board with the County's response to emergency heat and smoke events. Carissa explained that the thresholds were based on previously identified standards in partnership with the National Weather Service, The Oregon Health Authority, The Forest Service, and The Oregon Department of Environmental Quality. Carissa explained that although the thresholds are clearly defined, that heat can impact individuals differently and people should seek help if they feel they need it.

Marissa identified some sites across the County that will be available to assist the community in a heat or smoke event. Marissa explained the process for getting sites operational in the event they are necessary. Commissioner Adair asked if host sites were paid for operating. Marissa noted that they were not compensated at this time and staff were primarily volunteers.

6. Incident Command Concept

Commissioner Debone introduced the concept of the CHRO utilizing an incident command model to address the homelessness crisis. Commissioner Debone explained that incident management systems are researched and studied, and have been identified as a best practice for responding to incidents, large and small. Commissioner Debone explained how the model operates, laying out several responsibilities: Command, Operations, Planning, Logistics, and Administration/Finance.

Councilor Perkins expressed concern over the proposal, noting that homelessness isn't an incident. Councilor Perkins asked where Commissioner Debone thought the CHRO would fit into the model. Commissioner Debone noted that he was advocating for a best practice at this point and wasn't trying to dictate how it would work. Commissioner Debone noted that the model is adaptable. Councilor Zwicker expressed that the important part of the discussion is that homelessness is a problem that a team of people are trying to solve, and not to let terminology get in the way of progress. Councilor Perkins asked if something like this had been proposed in the past. Tammy Baney noted that similar models have worked for other programs, but not necessarily for homelessness. Tammy said that staff could look back to past processes and ascertain how it could apply to the CHRO, noting that other organizations outside Deschutes County were involved in that process.

Councilor Perkins expressed concern with the current state of homelessness, noting that the situation is untenable and someone recently died while experiencing homelessness. Councilor Perkins suggested the CHRO convene an emergency roundtable with public agency partners to consider declaring a state of emergency on homelessness. Commissioner Adair noted that this type of meeting would be valuable. Councilor Blum asked what the expected outcomes

of the meeting are. Commissioner Adair responded that it would tell the governor that the CHRO has widespread support. The group agreed to have a planning meeting the following Thursday at 8 am.

7. Provider Update – St. Vincent De Paul | Bend

Gary Hewitt presented St. Vincent De Paul's program offerings to the CHRO Board. Gary explained how St. Vincent's newly opened tiny home village operates with 10 units and how they move clients from tiny homes into rental housing that they can support themselves in. In it's short time, the program has already graduated one client and has another one on the way.

8. Public Comment

No public comment

Chair Adair adjourned the meeting at 12:36 pm.