

COORDINATED HOUSELESS RESPONSE OFFICE (CHRO)

Board of Director Working Session Minutes

8:00 – 8:30 am on Thursday, July 27th, 2023
Virtually via Zoom

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; Amy Fraley, City of Bend; Marissa Cummings, Deschutes County; Eric King, City Manager – City of Bend; Mickie Derting, City of Bend; Mike Thomas, Community-member; Chuck Hemingway, Community-member.

1. Introductions and Agenda Review

Vice-Chair Perkins opened the meeting and reviewed the agenda.

2. Planning for Meeting with Public Lands Partners

Vice-Chair Perkins opened the conversation about planning for an emergency roundtable with public lands partners. The group discussed who should be invited to an initial roundtable meeting, and who may be appropriate to follow up with once the public landowning agencies had consensus defining the problem. Councilor Zwicker requested that law enforcement participate in the meetings, as well as other public lands agencies, like ODOT, the Forest Service, the BLM, and cities and the county.

The board agreed that the key part of the conversation would be focused on messaging. The group acknowledged that miscommunication has been a big concern and has created problems in the community in the past.

Commissioner Adair expressed a desire to hear more regular updates from providers to have a sense of what is going on in the community. Councilor Perkins asked if it would be possible to create a heat map of where homeless camps are located within Deschutes County. Councilor Perkins asked staff for feedback on the request. Chris Ogren mentioned that there could be pushback in the community about publicly identifying places where people camp for two reasons: 1) it could bring unwarranted harassment to places people are camping, 2) it essentially tells people where they can go to camp. Councilor Perkins understood the concerns but expressed a desire to get a better understanding of the nature and location of camps in Deschutes County. Chris noted he may be able to come up with a document, but it would likely be an internal document not intended for public distribution. Mayor Richer expressed a desire for a general

document that identifies general areas and general amount of people, the map doesn't have to be overly specific for the Board to have a better understanding.

The group agreed to set up an initial meeting with public lands agencies, with a follow up meeting with local providers and other interested parties to come at a later date.

3. Other Items & Adjourn

Vice-Chair Perkins adjourned the meeting at 8:33 am.