

MEETING SUMMARY
REDMOND COMMUNITY HOMELESSNESS TASK FORCE
MEETING 1-APRIL 29, 2015
6:30 – 9:00 pm
TOGETHER CENTER, 16225 NE 87th Street Redmond
Building A, Rainier Room

As approved by Task Force on May 13, 2015

- **Welcome and Opening Remarks**

Mayor Marchione offered opening remarks and his thanks to Task Force Members for volunteering their time.

- **Task Force Members in Attendance:**

Meghan Altimore, Pam Mauk, Steve Daschle, Gary Smith, Andrew Koeppen, Carolyn Mansfield, Al Rosenthal, Chris Falco, Lara Bolger, Tim Short, Marian LaBeck, Andrea Liggett, Derek Wentorf,

- **Staff in Attendance:**

Chief Ron Gibson, Commander Charlie Gorman, Jane Christenson, Colleen Kelly, Brooke Buckingham, Karen Reed-Facilitator

- **Task Force Members Hopes and Questions**

- Mutual understanding
- Address safety and security concerns (2)
- Realistic recommendations for Redmond
- How many homeless are in Redmond?
- Redmond will be more accommodating to serve needs of the homeless
- How can we work with other Eastside cities to improve systems serving the homeless/people in need?
- Identify root causes of homelessness
- Make things better, not worse
- Stay focused on getting to actionable recommendations
- Don't want young homeless people hanging out in the library and in my building
- Understanding the resources available to help this issue.
- Actionable recommendations (3)
- Actionable recommendations for Redmond.
- A collaborative approach to resource sharing to address homelessness (2)
- Find solutions that work for all
- This process will raise awareness of this issue
- Better understanding of problem and ways to mitigate impacts
- Learn more, hear the different perspectives(2)

- **Task Force Formation & Process Issues**

- a. Review of Mission Statement
- b. Review and Approval of Ground Rules
- c. Review of Task Force Charter, Role of Steering Committee. Charter will be available for review and approval at the next meeting

- d. Review schedule and agendas
- e. Dates for future meetings: May 13, June 17, July 8, July 29, August 12

- **Presentation and Discussion: Demographics of homelessness in King County, East King County and Redmond, presented by Colleen Kelly and Mark Putnam**

Why do people become homeless? (Note: This is an expanded explanation of slide 7 from the Homelessness 101 handout -- copied from CEH draft Strategic Plan update)

In 2012, the Journal of Public Affairs published New Perspectives on Community-Level Determinants of Homelessness, a study of predictive factors for community rates of homelessness.

Findings include:

- **Housing Market Factors:** An increase in rent of \$100 per month correlates with a 15% increase in metropolitan homelessness and 38% in suburban or rural areas. *Local Trend:* Seattle rents rising fastest in the nation, per Seattle Times, Sept 2014.
- **Economic Conditions:** Poverty and unemployment rates are positively associated (correlate) with rates of homelessness. *Local Trend:* Poverty in King County is on the rise, with south King County reflective of the suburbanization of poverty, per Seattle Times, May 2013.
- **Safety Net:** The extent to which social safety net programs (with specific reference to mental health funding) provide adequate assistance can impact the chances that households will experience homelessness. *Local Trend:* Washington State ranks 47 out of 50 in per capita access to psychiatric beds per Washington State. Institute for Public Policy, 2009.
- **Transience:** While in-migration may be positively associated with strong labor markets, it may also increase the vulnerability to homelessness of those less well-suited to compete in these arenas. *Local Trend:* Seattle is a city of newcomers, per Seattle Times October, 2014.

The causes of homelessness are complex, and the solutions must be shared. Rising poverty, low wages, state and federal cuts to safety net programs, racism and the effects of disproportionality, lack of affordable housing, and criminalization of people experiencing homelessness --all contribute to increased rates of homelessness and all community partners will need to be accountable to addressing these local determinants of homelessness.

King County

- Over 10,000 households homeless over course of a year.
- 2015 1-night count: 3,772 homeless unsheltered; 6,275 sheltered; Total in count 10,047
- Disproportionately people of color.

Housing System Responses: many types.

- Crisis Response:
 - Day services & outreach
 - Emergency shelter (Example: The Landing Usually up to 90 days)
 - Transitional housing (up to 2 years; 2 transitional housing facilities in Redmond)
- Housing Stabilization
 - Prevention & Diversion (find folks an empty bed somewhere)
 - Short Term Rental Assistance (cash)
 - Rapid Rehousing & support services (< 12 months)
 - Permanent Housing – Service Enriched
 - Permanent Supportive Housing (heavy services add; for chronic homeless, those with high barriers to permanent housing)
 - Support Services alone (health care, mental health, job training, counseling, etc.)

- Single point of entry /coordinated entry into housing system: call **211**.

Redmond

- 3% of King County Population
- 15% of East King County population (Bellevue, Kirkland, Issaquah, Redmond) (Note: no consistent definition of East King County across studies/data sets)
- Poverty in Redmond
 - 6.6% below Federal Poverty Line (family of 4 < \$23K/yr.)
 - 13% under 200% of FPL (family of four < \$46K/yr.)
 - 27.7% of City residents are “housing burdened” (pay >35% income on housing)
- In 2014, Eastside nonprofit service providers served 233 homeless individuals from Redmond accounting for 199 distinct households
- Services gap difficult to measure. Since 2012, “2-1-1” received housing need calls from 81 Redmond families, 33% of which were reported placed in housing.
- **Presentation and Discussion: Redmond’s City Vision and Mission with respect to public safety and human services presented by Chief Gibson and Jane Christenson.**

City Police: The goal is to resolve problems and find solutions that don’t require arrest where appropriate; we cannot arrest our way out of this. Many of the complaints the police dept receives concerning homeless individuals involves activity that while concerning to community members is not illegal under current state law. Some of the examples include loitering in public places and panhandling. Additionally, arrests for minor offenses do not tend to help an individual move out of their current situation of homelessness. Arrests in many circumstances tend to serve as a temporary solution to a long term community concern. RPD is encouraging officers to work in partnership with our local human service providers to look for long term solutions to the condition of homelessness in our community. We believe this is a concern in our community that requires a community wide solution. There are times when the correct solution is an arrest of the individual because of their behavior, not because they are homeless and happen to be in our community.

The Chief shared data showing an increase in crime rates in Redmond in the last few years but noted that we cannot necessarily associate that increase with the homeless individuals.

City Human Services—2015 budget info:

General Fund = \$806,847

CDBG = \$25,580

Total = \$832,427

Homeless services = \$237,994 (29%), 71% support other human service needs

Of that, \$167,111 (70%) is for shelter/housing

- **Homework Assignment**

Issues of concern, underlying causes

- **Reports/Scheduling/Topics for Next Meeting(s):**

- Task Force Charter
- Homework Results

- Presentation & Discussion: **Current Systems to Address Homelessness in Redmond – Populations and Facilities/Public Safety/Outreach**

- **In Closing: A Balanced Approach**

As the meeting came to a close, the need for the community to proceed with a balanced approach was underscored. Over the years, Redmond residents have consistently emphasized both public safety and feeling safe with a sense of community and helping those in need.

Reflecting this balanced approach, City of Redmond staff from both law enforcement and human services have partnered on their outreach and problem-solving activities, within the community and in collaboration with other Eastside cities experiencing similar challenges.

Similarly, working group volunteers reflect a broad range of perspectives on these challenges, and were thanked for lending their time and insights towards what is envisioned as a multi-disciplinary action agenda that will also be balanced in its proposed solutions/next steps towards addressing homelessness concerns in Redmond.

- **Adjourn**