

## **Task Force on Homelessness**

### **January 24, 2012: Meeting Highlights**

Task Force Tri-Chairs: Jon Jennings, Suzanne McCormick, Dory Waxman welcomed and thanked Task Force members.

Overview of the Task Force's Charge – Doug Gardner, Director City of Portland's Department of Health and Human Services reviewed the charge of the Task Force as outlined in the City Council Resolution.

Discussion of DRAFT Planning Process Map – Suzanne McCormick reviewed with the Task Force a preliminary timeline and process for involving a larger stakeholder group into the process.

Presentations & Discussion on Current State of Homelessness – Doug Gardner; Jon Bradley, Preble Street; Josh O'Brien, City of Portland presented an overview of the current state of homelessness, reviewing multiple slides decks with current data.

Discussion Highlights -

Emergency Shelters: overflowing due to, among other things, rapid rehousing program ending, inappropriate discharges from hospitals to shelters; geriatric and senior citizen populations increasing; teens: gay, lesbian, transgender youth population at risk for homelessness.

Lack of ADA facilities in shelters.

Many people need help maintaining housing once they are placed in a residence (degrading to get housing and then not be able to maintain); maybe too challenged to maintain on own without support.

Need data on success of flexible, low barrier shelters vs. structured shelters. Which works better?

Determine what constitutes results. Need to define and clarify a clear explanation of how "data drives policy" and to ensure not spending efforts and resources on accumulating data without analyzing it and producing actionable items.

We have data to show what cost is to support a homeless person on an emergency basis vs. long term solution/placement. Need to educate City officials and general population that long term is cheaper and better answer. Education includes giving a human face to the homeless of Portland.

What and where are day services for homeless in Portland?

Stakeholder Advisory Group to be established to work with Task Force. Each task force member encouraged to consider areas of interest and work with specific advisory group. Therefore need to define: who are the decision makers at the city and state level, in organizations, hospitals, police, etc. who can become stakeholders. Need to determine how to recruit.

Also need to define: the market; additional sources of funding; what will homeless growth look like when federal and state funding decreases; what are immediate needs and who is not being served at all; how can religious communities fit in to a solution.