

# EUGENE CITY COUNCIL

## AGENDA ITEM SUMMARY



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### Work Session: Opportunity Eugene Follow-Up

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Meeting Date: September 26, 2012  
Department: Central Services  
[www.eugene-or.gov](http://www.eugene-or.gov)

Agenda Item Number: B  
Staff Contact: Sarah Medary  
Contact Telephone Number: 541-682-6877

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#### ISSUE STATEMENT

On July 18, 2012, staff presented City Council with an update on the final report and recommendations from the Opportunity Eugene Task Force. In addition to the report, staff recommended that council consider and adopt a policy framework (included below) to help guide decisions related to evaluating proposed actions that the City might take to address homelessness, whether on a short-term basis or a long-term basis. The City Council directed the City Manager to return after the summer break to finalize the policy framework with the council, and bring back to the council a list of potential sites and a recommended process for evaluating safe and secure site(s). This is the first of two work sessions scheduled for the council to finalize the policy framework and begin evaluation of options for providing “safe and secure” sites for the homeless. Staff will be bringing additional material to the work session.

#### BACKGROUND

- A Task Force was established Dec. 14, 2011, in response to the Occupy Eugene encampment and issues surrounding homelessness. Group Task was to develop recommendations to present to the council within 90 days for addressing the needs and impacts for the un-housed in the community.
- On April 11, 2012, staff presented the City Council with the recommendations of the Opportunity Eugene Task Force.
- July 18, 2012 - Staff presented an update on efforts to address homelessness in the community and a draft policy framework to use when evaluating proposals, including those contained in the Opportunity Eugene Task Force Report. The council began discussions of the policy framework and Task 1 of the report – Identify and Establish Potential Sites.
- **Policy Framework presented July 18, 2012:**
  1. **Transition people away from homelessness.**  
Actions should work to assist individuals and families in permanently breaking the cycle of homelessness.
  2. **Create and promote health, safety and security throughout the community.**  
Actions should promote the principles of health, safety and security both for the un-housed and housed residents of the City of Eugene.

3. **Utilize partnerships and share resources with stakeholders.**  
Actions should involve the development of partnerships and the sharing of responsibilities and resources with other agencies and stakeholders.
4. **Promote neighborhood livability.**  
Actions should be built on efforts to garner community-support, be accessible to its beneficiaries and balance issues related to appropriate siting.
5. **Promote sustainability.**  
Actions should promote the City’s triple bottom line framework and promote environmental, equity and fiscal sustainability.
6. **Have Measurable Outcomes.**  
Actions should define goals and be able to report on progress made toward reaching those goals.
7. **Be Scalable-Pilot New Programs.**  
New projects should begin as pilots in their initial phases, with the possibility for growth as success and demand is demonstrated.

**Homelessness**

Since meeting in July, the Human Services Commission released a report on the “Eugene/Springfield Lane County’s Homeless Service System” (LCHSS, September 2012). Information from that report is included below and in Attachment A as additional background information on homelessness in Lane County. The 2011 and 2012 “One Night Homeless Count” (Annual Highlights, Attachment B) conducted in the Eugene/Springfield metro area is also provided below. “One Night Homeless Counts” are done nationwide on a selected night each January. While the shelter count is completed each year, the street count is only completed every other year. The last street count was done in 2011. The street count includes people found on the streets, in parks, under bridges and freeway underpasses, and sleeping in cars. The shelter count includes people found in emergency, transitional and safe haven housing facilities.

Emergency housing facilities typically provide short-term shelter up to 60 days while transitional housing provides housing up to 24 months. Transitional housing facilities also provide supportive services such as childcare, job training, and home furnishings that help individuals live more independently. Safe haven housing facilities are specialized permanent housing facilities that serve hard-to-reach homeless persons with severe mental illness and other debilitating conditions.

	<b><u>2011</u></b>	<b><u>2012</u></b>
Emergency Housing	367	392
Transitional Housing	338	259
Safe Haven Housing	29	
Unsheltered	1,406	

According to the LCHSS report, the current number of beds available in above housing categories described above is:

	<u>Year- round</u>	<u>Seasonal</u>
Emergency Housing	463	35
Transitional Housing	263	n/a
Safe Haven Housing	27	n/a
Permanent Supportive Housing	261	

Homeless subpopulations include mentally ill, substance abuse, victims of domestic violence, unaccompanied youth under 18, chronically homeless, veterans, and families with and without children. Service providers typically focus on serving specific subpopulations rather than trying to provide services to all of the subpopulations.

#### **CITY MANAGER’S RECOMMENDATION**

As this is the first of two work sessions, no City Manager recommendation is proposed at this time.

#### **ATTACHMENTS**

- A. Eugene/Springfield Lane County’s Homeless Service System, September 2012
- B. One Night Homeless Count Highlights, 2011 and 2012

#### **FOR MORE INFORMATION**

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## Eugene/Springfield Lane County's Homeless Service System September 2012

### Introduction

Local non-profits provide shelter, housing, case management, and supportive social services to homeless singles, families and youth. Non-profits, government and faith based organizations partner to provide these critical community services. Our homeless service delivery system helps homeless people find stable housing, increase their skills and their income, and gain more control over the decisions that affect their lives.

This document describes:

- Organizations that are providers and participate in the homeless service system
- Services are available to participants

As you use this document, if you find program information that needs to be corrected or updated, please contact Pearl Wolfe, Lane County Human Services Commission Human Services Supervisor, by email at Pearl.Wolfe@co.lane.or.us.

### Housing Inventory of Shelter and Housing Providers

### Background

In January 2012, agencies were contacted for an annual update of the Continuum of Care Housing Inventory to gather accurate information about their shelter and housing services and their participant populations.

### Types of Shelter and Housing Provided in the Eugene/Springfield Lane County Homeless Service System

The shelter and housing types provided in our community include: emergency shelter, transitional shelter, safe haven, and an extreme weather shelter and permanent supportive housing programs. In addition, we have access centers and street outreach services. A description of each type of housing is listed along with the housing inventory charts.

#### 1. Emergency Shelter

Emergency Shelter is often the first stop for individuals, youth and families entering the homeless service system. These shelters provide short-term shelter-generally up to 60 days. Area shelter providers indicated emergency shelter stay policies range from a maximum of 1 - 60 days. Agencies identified as providing emergency shelter in the community are listed in the table below.

Table 1: Lane County Area Emergency Shelter Providers

EMERGENCY SHELTER	Agency	Program	Year-Round Beds	Beds HH w/ Children	Beds HH w/o Children	Total Seasonal Beds
	Catholic Community Services	Eugene Family Shelter	22	21	1	0
	Catholic Community Services	Springfield Shelter	6	6	0	0
	Community Sharing	Motel Voucher Program				
	Eugene Mission Inc.	Eugene Mission	380	30	350	0
	Looking Glass	Station 7	10			
	ShelterCare	Brethren Housing (families)	11	10	1	0
	ShelterCare	Family Housing Program	13	13		
	St. Vincent De Paul	***Egan Warming Center	0	0	0	0
	St. Vincent De Paul	Faith based Night Shelter				35
	Womenspace	***Womenspace Shelter	21	20	1	0
			<b>463</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>353</b>	<b>35</b>

## Other Specialized Shelters

### *Cold Weather Overflow Shelter*

In response to the extreme weather, St. Vincent de Paul's **Egan Warming Center** is a coalition of community members representing service providers, religious congregations, nonprofit support agencies, social activist communities and local government who have come together to ensure that homeless people in Lane County have a warm and safe place to sleep when temperatures drop below 30 degrees between November 15th and March 31st.

### *Domestic Violence Services*

**Womenspace** is the sole domestic violence facility in the area that provides emergency shelter to people experiencing homelessness due to domestic violence.

## 2. Transitional Housing

Transitional housing facilitates the movement of homeless individuals and families to permanent housing. Homeless persons may live in transitional housing for up to 24 months and receive supportive services such as childcare, job training, and home furnishings that help them live more independently.

The following table is a listing of transitional shelters in the area.

*Table 2: Lane County Area Transitional Housing Providers*

TRANSITIONAL HOUSING	Agency	Program	Total Beds	Beds HH w/ Children	Beds HH w/o Children
	Catholic Community Services	Amazon Transitions	49	45	4
	Catholic Community Services	McKenzie Transitions	46	43	3
	Looking Glass	McKenzie Transitions	7	2	5
	Looking Glass	The Ladder Program	2	2	
	ShelterCare	McKenzie Transitions	30	30	
	ShelterCare	The Inside Program	24		24
	Sponsors	GPD Homeless Veterans	10		10
	St. Vincent De Paul	Connections CoC	72	72	
	St. Vincent De Paul	GPD VET LIFT AVC-GPD	19	3	16
	St. Vincent De Paul	GPD VET LIFT AVC-GPD (Short -Term)	4		4
			263	197	66

### 3. Permanent Housing Supportive Housing

Permanent Supportive housing is for those in the community who have long-term physical or mental health needs and need housing in settings that include permanent housing for homeless persons with disabilities means community-based housing for homeless persons with disabilities that provides long-term housing and supportive services. The following table describes the availability of these permanent housing services.

Table 3: Lane County Area Permanent Supportive Housing Providers

PERMANENT SUPPORTIVE HOUSING	Agency	Program	Year-Round Beds	Beds HH w/ Children	Beds HH w/o Children
	HACSA ( Housing and Community Services of Lane County)	**Shelter Plus Care CoC	73	15	58
	HACSA	VASH LC VASH Section 8	97	17	80
	Looking Glass	Emerald Options	4		4
	Mainstream Inc.	Emerald Options	23	10	13
	Oregon DHS	Emerald Options	5		5
	Oregon DHS	Housing PLUS	3		3
	ShelterCare	***Shankle Safe Haven (Scattered Site)	11		11
	ShelterCare	Shankle Safe Haven CoC	16		16
	St. Vincent De Paul	LIFT CoC	29	21	8
	St. Vincent De Paul	VET LIFT 1 CoC (includes expansion)	11		11
	St. Vincent De Paul	VET LIFT 3	11	2	9
	St. Vincent De Paul	VET LIFT 4	5		5
			288	65	223

\*\*\*Safe Haven

#### Specialized Permanent Housing

##### Safe Havens

Safe Havens are supportive housing units that serve hard-to-reach homeless persons with severe mental illness and other debilitating behavioral conditions that are on the street and have been unable or unwilling to participate in housing or supportive services. Traditionally, safe havens are low barrier shelters with a participant population that seeks shelter as needed. Currently, our community has one safe haven that is operated by the ShelterCare which is *Safe Haven Shankle*.

### Shelter Plus Care

The Shelter Plus Care Program provides rental assistance for hard-to-serve homeless persons with disabilities in connection with supportive services funded from sources outside the program.

Shelter Plus Care (S+C) is a program designed to provide housing and supportive services on a long-term basis for homeless persons with disabilities, (primarily those with serious mental illness, chronic problems with alcohol and/or drugs, and acquired immunodeficiency syndrome (AIDS) or related diseases) and their families who are living in places not intended for human habitation (e.g., streets) or in emergency shelters. The program allows for a variety of housing choices, and a range of supportive services funded by other sources, in response to the needs of the hard-to-reach homeless population with disabilities.

### 4. Access Centers for people who are homeless

*Access Centers for Families* help to meet basic needs by providing low-income, homeless or at risk of becoming homeless families (with children) emergency services, provisions, information and referral, and case management. Families receive an intake and needs assessment for all households; provide emergency assistance to include food, clothing, supplies etc. Telephone access, housing location, advocacy, mentoring, and employment assistance and clothing vouchers are available to all Center families who are homeless.

*Access Center for Youth:* offer day shelter and employment skills and opportunities, including services to assist youth to access more intensive, supportive services. The Youth Access Center meet the community's basic needs by providing youth with safe, day shelter with access to services including basic needs, case management, employment and community resources, laundry, phones, meals and computer, access.

*Access Centers for Singles:* Provide singles homeless adults with emergency and basic needs assistance to include food, clothing, laundry and shower facilities, prescription assistance, supplies, telephone and internet access, housing location, advocacy and transportation assistance.

*Table 4. Access Centers*

ACCESS CENTERS	Agency	Program	Population
	Catholic Community Services	CCS Community Service Center	Singles and families
	Cottage Grove Community Sharing, Cottage Grove, OR	Community Sharing Community Service Center	Singles and families
	Hosea Youth Services	Hosea Youth Services	Homeless youth
	Looking Glass	New Roads	Homeless youth
	Siuslaw Outreach Services, Florence, OR	Siuslaw Service Center	Singles and families
	St. Vincent De Paul	Eugene Service Station	Singles adults males and females
		First Place Family Center	Homeless families with children under 18
	White Bird Clinic	Whitebird Walk in services	Single males and females

## 5. Street Outreach Services

Street Outreach offers connections to essential services for people who are homeless with everything from food, clothing and shelter; to medical care; substance abuse treatment; protection from sexual exploitation, victimization, disease and pregnancy; abuse/neglect services; housing; mental health services; and crisis counseling.

<b>STREET OUTREACH SERVICES</b>	<b>Agency</b>	<b>Program</b>	<b>Population</b>
	HIV Alliance	HIV Outreach	People at risk for HIV/AIDS
	Looking Glass	New Roads	Homeless youth
	White Bird Clinic	WhiteBird Outreach	Single adult males and females

## 6. Homeless Management Information System HMIS

The Lane County Human Services Commission manages the HMIS data collection software designed to capture information over time on the characteristics of persons experiencing homelessness. The data extracted from Lane County programs in the HMIS improves the ability of the Continuum of Care (CoC) to track program performance and client outcomes and make program and fiscal data-driven decisions. Lane County better serves homeless and at-risk people in our community by determining how to best address the immediate and long-term needs of the homeless and at-risk populations in the community. Data helps to identify gaps in the CoC and to monitor service delivery by tracking bed occupancy, homeless episodes, and the success of programs measured by participants gaining access to housing, income, non-cash benefits, and treatment services.





## 2011 One Night Homeless Count HIGHLIGHTS

### **2,140 people were counted in Lane County during the 2011 One Night Homeless Count:**

This number includes homeless community members who were counted on the streets, under bridges, in parks, at food pantries, day access centers, churches, emergency shelters, transitional housing, Safe Havens and other locations on January 26, 2011. Approximately 92 staff and volunteers from 20 organizations including 58 programs counted homeless people this year. Of the 2,140 people counted:

- 1,406 people were unsheltered either because they were turned away due to a lack of shelter availability or they were otherwise unable to access shelter
- 338 individuals accessed Transitional Housing
- 367 individuals accessed Emergency Housing
- 29 individuals accessed Safe Haven Housing

**Total: 2,140 individuals counted in 1,690 households**

### **Highlights included:**

- 190 family households with children consisting of 607 people
- 254 homeless veterans
- 633 chronically homeless people
- 159 people living in permanent supported housing (not included in the 2,140 count)
- 56 people living in Homeless Prevention Rapid Re-Housing (HPRP) (not included in the 2,140 count)

### **Homelessness - County-Funded Social Services:**

- 8,177 households including 10,708 who were homeless sought social services through Lane County Human Services Commission funded programs during calendar year 2010
- 897 unduplicated individuals (4,544 shelter beds) were served at the Egan Warming Center during 19 nights of extreme weather at five faith-based sites during the 2010-2011 winter season
- 1,850 homeless students attended public school in Lane County during the 2009-10 school year (Oregon Dept. of Ed.)

### **Cost of Homelessness (updated Fall, 2010 Lane County HSC):**

Homelessness affects all Lane County residents because people without shelter require costly support services:

- \$312 is the average cost of a visit to the Sacred Heart Hospital Emergency Room at RiverBend
- \$737 is the average daily cost of care at the Johnson Unit, Sacred Heart's acute psychiatric care facility, where the average stay is 6.5 days
- \$220 is the daily cost of in-patient detoxification services at Willamette Family, Inc's Buckley Center
- \$134 is the daily cost for "housing" per inmate day at the Lane County jail

### **2011 Homelessness Highlights**

- 2,140 people counted (Unsheltered & Sheltered)
- 1,406 unsheltered people
- 190 homeless families
- 633 chronically homeless people
- 254 homeless veterans



## 2012 One Night Homeless Count HIGHLIGHTS

### **651 people in 445 households were counted in Lane County during the 2012 One Night Homeless Count**

**(The shelter count).** This number includes homeless community members who were counted in our local shelter and housing programs designated for people that are homeless including: emergency shelters, transitional housing and Safe Havens on January 25, 2012. Every other year, we include what's known as the "street count" which includes counted on the streets, under bridges, in parks, at food pantries, day access centers and churches. The next Street Count will occur in 2013.

### **Nine organizations including 23 programs participated in the count this year. Of the 651 sheltered people counted:**

- 392 individuals accessed Emergency Housing
- 259 individuals accessed Transitional Housing

**Total: 651 individuals counted in 445 households**

### **Highlights included:**

- 88 family households with children consisting of 285 people
- 347 households without children consisting of 358 people
- 78 homeless veterans

Other Homeless subpopulations

- 69 Severely mentally ill
- 51 Chronic substance Abuse
- 79 Chronically homeless people
- 85 Victims of domestic violence
- 6 Unaccompanied youth under 18

### **Homelessness - County-Funded Social Services:**

- 7,218 Individuals who were homeless sought social services through Lane County Human Services Commission funded programs July 2011- April 2012.
- 926 unduplicated individuals in 2,882 shelter beds were served at the Egan Warming Center during 15 nights of extreme weather at 10 faith-based sites.
- 2,285 homeless students attended public school in Lane County during the 2010-11 school year (Oregon Dept. of Ed.)

### **Cost of Homelessness (updated fall, 2010 Lane County HSC):**

Homelessness affects all Lane County residents because people without shelter require costly support services:

- \$312 is the average cost of a visit to the Sacred Heart Hospital Emergency Room at RiverBend
- \$737 is the average daily cost of care at the Johnson Unit, Sacred Heart's acute psychiatric care facility, where the average stay is 6.5 days
- \$220 is the daily cost of in-patient detoxification services at Willamette Family, Inc's Buckley Center
- \$134 is the daily cost for "housing" per inmate day at the Lane County jail