

Clackamas County Commissioners' Listening Session April 2, 2020 Summary Q&A

Topic: Sheltering concerns

Commissioners: Sonya Fischer
Ken Humberston

County staff: Jill Smith; Health, Housing and Human Services
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Dylan Blaylock, Public and Government Affairs

During the coronavirus pandemic, Clackamas County Commissioners are hosting digital listening sessions with the public in order to hear about community concerns with coronavirus impacts, centered on a given topic. The following is a summary of questions raised during the March 31, 2020 session, with answers (as of April 7).

Q: Clackamas Women's Services has been able to successfully meet housing needs with vouchers, however we think that there will be a surge in calls for quarantine sheltering over the next few weeks. Will hotels still be open and available then?

- The Emergency Operations Center (EOC) continues to maintain contact with our lodging providers. The EOC has access to rooms and has successfully placed at-risk people. We currently have two locations that are working with the EOC and agreements to place people who have county supported vouchers. We are working to expand these partnerships and encourage our lodging providers to contact eocoperations@clackamas.us if they would like to volunteer for this essential community service.

Q: It is very easy to see how in six months, people may not have recovered and be able to pay their rent. What might come at six months?

- We expect to have substantial federal funding coming in for vouchers and rent assistance, and we will have to prioritize.

There is a COVID Economic Advisory Council that you can contact. Information on the Governor's COVID-19 Economic Advisory Council is as follows:

<https://www.oregon.gov/gov/policy/Pages/jobs.aspx>

Contact: Leah Horner, Regional Solutions Director, 503-378-6502

leah.horner@oregon.gov

There are resources available. We encourage folks to be proactive and reach out to their landlord or mortgage company now and make arrangements in advance.

Q: Are we able to keep homeless people at the same location? It is difficult to get needed food and supplies to the unhoused community without addresses. Are there still sweeps happening?

- Efforts are being made to locate the at-risk houseless population in safe places. A team out of our Emergency Operations Center is coordinating housing options with lodging providers. A nonprofit partner has been secured to assist with meal deliveries when folks have been relocated. Sweeps are not happening during this emergency.

Q: Clackamas Service Center sees an increase in services beyond what they have the funding and staffing to meet. What can the county do to help?

- At this time we realize all of our nonprofit and agency partners are stretched thin. We want to first give a big “Thank You” to them all including our Clackamas Service Center. The county continues to coordinate and collaborate as best as possible to create efficiencies and serve as many at-risk folks as possible.

In the future, the county hopes to be able to offer financial assistance with the COVID relief funding from the federal government. We will know more as the situation continues to unfold.

Q: Northwest Family Services has a culturally-specific domestic violence shelter and they do not have the needed funds to put people into hotels. For those who provide shelter, what resources are available for more assistance?

- We encourage our partners to reach out to the EOC for assistance. You can email eocoperations@clackamas.us and we may be able to help with housing needs.

Q: What is the county doing about those in recovery that no longer have support?

- Nonprofits in Clackamas County, including those serving individuals with mental health or substance use disorder, are still open, serving current clients and are open to new clients. Most have moved to tele-health, telephone or virtual services including recovery groups. The state has loosened requirements around the use of tele-health for almost all services including peer services, groups and skills training as well as traditional treatment services. Clackamas County Crisis and Support 24/7 (503-655-8585) is also able to provide short-term crisis supports to individuals who need to bridge from a release from a correctional facility until they can be seen by a provider.

Q: The homeless in Lake Oswego are no longer able to go to the library, adult center or parks for shelter. This is a city-specific example, however does the County have any ideas?

- The EOC has placed portable toilet and handwashing stations in a variety of areas around the county. A few cities have also placed porta-potties in some of their high traffic parks. Continued access to these services is high on our list of priorities.

Q: The National Alliance on Mental Illness - Clackamas reports that there has not been enough mental health housing in best of times, even before COVID-19, and getting evicted has always been a problem. What is being done to find housing for those with mental health issues? Are people being evicted with mental health problems? How will this impact the creation of new housing?

- The statewide eviction moratorium covers everyone impacted by the public health emergency.

The county is moving ahead with several affordable housing projects in the queue with funding made available from the 2018 Metro Housing Bond. Clackamas County has committed to provide approximately 812 units from that funding stream. 212 units are underway on Otty Road in Clackamas right now and are planned to come online by July 1, 2020. 24 units of veteran-specific housing in Oregon City opened in the fall of 2019. And we are in the planning stages to redevelop and add units in the Holcomb area of Oregon City. The city of Milwaukie is moving ahead with the development of 200 to 600 units.

Q: Nonprofits are the next level of essential services after first responders. We are keeping children and families in congregate housing and none of us have personal protective equipment (PPE). What can the county do to help meet the need of providing second-tier essential service providers with access to PPE and medical supplies to protect our community and staff?

- The county's EOC team is facilitating the supply of PPE to emergency medical service providers and health providers that are providing critical health services to COVID positive, suspected positive, or medically fragile patients. PPE is being distributed in accordance with the Oregon Health Authority guidelines. PPE that comes out from the state and federal strategic stockpiles are prioritized for those providers described above. The EOC is also working to identify alternative sources of PPE for organizations that are supporting vulnerable populations in the county. As PPE is acquired for these efforts, the EOC Liaison and Operations sections will be disseminating information on accessing the supplies.

It is critical that partners try and place orders with their normal supply chain as it appears that some suppliers are starting to receive and distribute inventory.

If you need to submit a resource request to the County EOC, please follow the instructions and complete the applicable form found at:
<https://www.clackamas.us/coronavirus/resource-request>.

Q: How can I inform others of future listening sessions and also share this listening session with others?

- All listening sessions can be found on the county's website at www.clackamas.us/bcc and are archived to Clackamas County's YouTube channel.

Q: In February 2020, the Board heard a presentation from Business & Community Services regarding disposition of 13 properties in the County with an estimated value of \$817,000. Has the auction of these properties been postponed? Can proceeds be used for COVID emergency needs?

- In response to the COVID-19 pandemic and County closure to the public, the May 2020 Oral Public Auction of tax foreclosed properties was cancelled. As such, there aren't any tax foreclosed property sale proceeds.

In addition, the distribution and/or use of tax foreclosed property sale proceeds is very restricted. Per ORS 275.275, Subsection 3, net proceeds from the sale of tax foreclosed assets are to be returned to the taxing districts in accordance with adopted Property Disposition policies and procedures. The General Fund would only receive reimbursement monies from the sale of tax foreclosure properties if the General Fund funded the program (i.e. Property Disposition) which in the county's case, it does not. However, the county, as a taxing district, does receive a percentage of the distribution of funds from the tax foreclosures per ORS 311.390. Those funds could be used for COVID-19 emergency needs. Distribution to Clackamas County in 2019 was approximately \$50,000.

Q: What can County partners, such as Clackamas Service Center, do to support the county emergency efforts?

- We need our nonprofit partners more than ever now. Please, if possible to do your work safely, continue serving our community. We are organizing food deliveries and accepting homemade fabric facemask donations, among other things. For more opportunities to collaborate please contact EOC Operations at eocoperations@clackamas.us.

Q: Food insecurity has become a huge issue. What can the county do to help?

- EOC Operations is working on creating a food referral process with details on when, where and how to request food. Please watch the county website for updates <https://www.clackamas.us/coronavirus>.

In the meantime, the resources we have to provide our residents include:

- **Meals on Wheels:** Clackamas County Meals on Wheels is the County's program for serving homebound adults who might not otherwise have access to a nutritious daily meal. <https://www.ccmow.org>
- **Oregon Food Bank food finder tool:** The Oregon Food Bank updates its Food Finder tool twice a day with the latest information on available food sources (please call ahead). <https://www.oregonfoodbank.org/find-help/find-food>
- **Free food markets (flyer below):** Upcoming dates in Oregon City: Tuesday, April 7, Tuesday, May 5 from 10-11:30 AM Oregon City DHS, 315 S Beaver Creek Rd, Oregon City, OR 97045. This distribution is outdoors. Participants with a car will be offered a "drive through" option to limit contact.
- **Senior Centers:** Call your local senior center for available programs.
- **Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP):** This program offers nutrition assistance to eligible individuals and families. You can learn more on the Oregon Department of Human Services website to determine whether you are eligible for SNAP and then apply online to help keep food on the table. <https://govstatus.egov.com/or-dhs-food>
- **Clackamas County Resource Line:** Anyone in Clackamas County struggling to meet their basic needs can call 503-650-5622.

The Department of Health and Human Services is open and continue to work with folks applying for SNAP benefits. They remain open for business and want to do everything they can by phone and via online applications. They have added a food market at the County's Red Soils campus in Oregon City starting Tuesday, April 7.

Q: Are there conversations about anti-body testing? When can we expect information regarding better testing being available, and who has been tested?

- Testing is only available for at-risk populations who are showing symptoms of COVID-19. Regrettably we continue to have insufficient testing resources and are still waiting on more testing from the federal government. While we have heard in recent news that antibody testing may become available the county does not have any information about anticipated timeline when we would receive such resources.

We encourage the public to check our website <https://www.clackamas.us/coronavirus>, the Oregon Health Authority

<https://govstatus.egov.com/OR-OHA-COVID-19> or the Center for Disease Control <https://www.cdc.gov/> for regular information and updates.



Free Food Market

where?

Oregon City DHS
315 S Beaver Creek Rd,
Oregon City, OR 97045

when?

1st Tuesdays
(temporarily, during the
COVID-19 outbreak)
Upcoming dates:
Tuesday, April 7
Tuesday, May 5
10-11:30 AM

who?

Open to any person in need

Shopping at Free Food Market is simple:

- *This food is **free** and **anybody** is welcome*
- *No ID, name, or address needed.*
- *Please bring bags or boxes*

This distribution is outdoor. Participants with a car will be offered a “drive through” option to limit contact. Visit Oregon City DHS access **free**, fresh, and healthy fruits and vegetables and pantry staples for you and your family.

Questions?

Contact Oregon Food Bank
503.282.0555
rrshryock@oregonfoodbank.org



Mercado de Alimentos Gratuitos

¿dónde?

Oregon City DHS

315 S Beaver Creek Rd,
Oregon City, OR 97045

¿cuándo?

1er martes (temporalmente,
durante el brote de COVID-19)

Fechas siguientes:
Martes 7 de abril
Martes 5 de mayo
10-11: 30 AM

¿para quiénes?

Para todas las personas
necesitadas

Obtener alimentos en el Mercado de Alimentos Gratuitos es simple :

- *Estos alimentos son **gratis** y **todos son bienvenidos***
- *No se necesita presentar identificación, nombre ni dirección.*
- *Por favor, traer bolsas o cajas*

Esta distribución es al aire libre. A los participantes con un automóvil se les ofrecerá una opción de "servicio en carro" para limitar el contacto.

Visite Oregon City DHS para acceder a frutas y verduras frescas y saludables, y productos básicos de la despensa **gratis para usted y su familia.**

¿Preguntas?

Comuníquese con el Banco de Alimentos de Oregon
503.282.0555

rrshryock@oregonfoodbank.org