

CLACKAMAS COUNTY BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS

Sitting/Acting as (if applicable)

Policy Session Worksheet

Presentation Date: 10/31/17 **Approx Start Time:** 3:00 pm **Approx Length:** 1 hour

Presentation Title: Clackamas Housing Leadership Committee

Department: Health, Housing, and Human Services (H3S)

Presenters: Rich Swift, Health Housing and Human Services Director

Other Invitees: Jill Smith, Health Housing and Human Services Deputy Director. Chuck Robbins, Housing & Community Development Director, Vahid Brown, H3S Housing Policy Coordinator

WHAT ACTION ARE YOU REQUESTING FROM THE BOARD?

Consideration of a process proposal for the creation of a housing leadership committee that will develop and recommend policies to the Board of County Commissioners pertaining to the investment in the full continuum of housing need within Clackamas County.

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY:

At the Board's direction, the County has been working toward the creation of a transitional shelter community for houseless veterans. This work has resulted in and come from the highest degree of collaboration and support within and across County departments and divisions. Efforts toward creating the Clackamas County Veterans Village prompted a new focus and new evolution for working together differently to create solutions for and resolution of socio-economic injustice.

As Clackamas County works to confront a housing crisis affecting an ever increasing number of County residents, the Board of County Commissioners has solicited information from experts and housing practitioners about the nature and scale of the problem and models of policy approaches that have had success in other jurisdictions. The Board recently began a series of special work sessions focused on housing, including a session with Commissioner Pat Farr of Lane County and Marc Jolin of Multnomah County, who outlined the approaches taken in their respective counties to create inter-jurisdictional and community-wide housing groups that align efforts to develop and implement policy solutions for homelessness and a lack of affordable housing.

There have simultaneously been emerging synergies at the municipal level in Clackamas County to address the housing crisis, such as the Oregon City Homeless Solutions Coalition, the Milwaukie Housing Affordability Work Group, and technical advisory groups in Oregon City and Wilsonville to further Metro-funded policy and code analyses towards the expansion of equitable housing. All of these initiatives have stakeholder involvement that reach across broad cross-sections of their communities, and are testament to a growing sense of urgency across the County to confront the crisis in innovative and collaborative ways.

Commissioners have expressed interest in exploring the development of a similar effort in Clackamas County. As an initial step in that direction, and building upon current efforts across the County to address the crisis, we recommend the creation of a housing leadership committee that would convene in the near term and provide concrete proposals to the Board to address the County's significant housing needs. Such a committee might do the following:

- provide an opportunity for community education,
- stimulate people from broader community sectors into becoming housing advocates,

- make policy recommendations,
- generate broad based community buy in,
- and spur elected leadership to initiate bold decision making at the local levels.

A housing leadership committee could include representatives from the municipal housing groups. To ensure information sharing and alignment of housing work, it could also incorporate (or include representatives from) the currently existing boards and committees that provide recommendations on or implement housing policy, including the Housing Advisory Board (HAB), the Homeless Policy Council (HPC), and the Continuum of Care (CoC). The Housing Authority's development objectives and redevelopment plans came out of the HAB; the HPC produced the 10 year plan to end homelessness; and the Continuum of Care, which oversees the administration of federal funding for homeless services, is consistently ranked among the best performing CoC's nationally by Housing and Urban Development. The work of these groups should be acknowledged and meaningfully incorporated into the housing leadership committee.

To ensure broad community support and input for this work, the leadership committee should also involve members of a diverse stakeholder community, including people experiencing houselessness and housing insecurity. The business community, the housing development community, philanthropic and non-profit agencies, law enforcement, education, and health providers are all stakeholder groups that have been represented in, for example, the above-mentioned housing groups in Milwaukie and Oregon City. Examples of organizations and stakeholder communities that could be invited to be represented on the housing leadership committee include:

- The Clackamas Workforce Partnership Board
- Economic Development Commission
- Homebuilders Association/Foundation
- Housing Practitioners (e.g., NW Housing Alternatives, Proud Ground)
- Pacific Northwest Defense Coalition
- Clackamas County Business Alliance
- Military/Veterans from Camp Withycombe
- Businesses along Jennifer/212 (Warn Industries, Wright Health, property managers)
- Elected officials from Oregon City, Milwaukie, and other cities

Such an effort will require staffing, and the Board may consider hiring a consultant to assist in stakeholder outreach, committee facilitation, and policy proposal development. To ensure continued buy-in and commitment, the committee should be solutions oriented and given a mandate to produce concrete proposals.

The committee should be convened in the near future and be given a limited duration initially, in order to ensure the involvement of a broad spectrum of participants. The leadership committee could then have as part of its remit the drafting of bylaws and the crafting of a governance structure for a more permanent body similar to those created in Lane and Multnomah counties.

FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS (current year and ongoing):

Is this item in your current budget? YES NO

What is the cost? \$

What is the funding source?

STRATEGIC PLAN ALIGNMENT:

- How does this item align with your Department's Strategic Business Plan goals?

Ensure access to safe, stable Housing

- How does this item align with the County's Performance Clackamas goals?

Strategic Plan Alignment informing a strategy for the County to meet its goal of 2000 new affordable housing units by 2022.

LEGAL/POLICY REQUIREMENTS: As pertains to Performance Clackamas goals for housing

PUBLIC/GOVERNMENTAL PARTICIPATION: to be determined based on Board's decision.

OPTIONS:

1(a) Direct H3S staff to initiate the process to convene this committee immediately, hire a consultant/facilitator to assist staff in this, and retain existing County housing committees.

1(b) Direct H3S staff to initiate the process to convene this committee immediately, hire a consultant/facilitator to assist staff in this, transition the existing County housing committees not mandated by funders into supporting the work of the housing leadership committee.

2 Delay convening the housing leadership committee until after BCC housing sessions have concluded, bring together a housing summit to gauge community and elected partner interest, allow time for BCC invitations to stakeholder communities, and plan to start housing leadership committee convening in the spring 2018.

3 Retain existing committee structure, broaden Housing Advisory Board, (HAB) representation with external community partners, instruct H3S Admin to focus on the strategic alignment of county goals within the existing committee structure, insisting on regular BCC attendance.

RECOMMENDATION:

Staff recommend that the BCC pursue option 1(b).

ATTACHMENTS:

SUBMITTED BY:

Division Director/Head Approval _____

Department Director/Head Approval _____

County Administrator Approval _____

For information on this issue or copies of attachments, please contact Richard Swift @ 503-650-5694