



CITY OF ALBANY
CDBG Housing Taskforce
City Council Chambers, 333 Broadalbin Street SW
Friday, November 30, 2012
11:30 AM

MINUTES

Taskforce members present: Sharon Konopa, Theresa Conley, Tara Dixson, John Donovan, Donna Holt, Wanda Kinney, Terry Knoll, Ray Kopczynski, Frank Moore, Larry Nelson, Debra Powell, Dala Rouse, Joann Zimmer

Taskforce members absent: Paul Barnes, Danniell Butler, Bill Higby

Staff present: Anne Catlin, Lead Long Range Planner; Wes Hare, City Manager

Mayor Sharon Konopa called the meeting to order at 11:30 a.m.

Planner Anne Catlin introduced City Manager Wes Hare and taskforce members introduced themselves.

Konopa reported on a regional housing meeting that was convened by Oregon Housing and Community Services (OHCS). She said the state was seeking input on what the priorities are for our area and noted that workforce housing, transitional housing and senior housing were needed. The state is projecting more service and hospitality jobs for our region.

Catlin walked through the information distributed at the meeting provided by members and staff that included:

- Group Care/Living Facilities in Albany
- One Night Homeless Count for Linn County, January 2011
- Poverty data for Linn County compiled by OHCS
- Poverty data for Albany from 2009-2011 American Community Survey
- Housing Characteristics from 2009-2011 American Community Survey
- Housing-Related Needs of Seniors prepared by Cascades West Council of Governments (CWCOG)
- Info from School District and McKinney-Vento Act data and suggestions for needs for youth
- Special Needs Detail for Linn County
- Albany Area Habitat for Humanity (AAHfH) brochure on programs and residents served
- 2012 Linn County Median Family Income figures for Linn County
- Residential Property Incidents from Albany Police Department

IDENTIFYING EXISTING PROGRAMS/SERVICES AND NEEDS/GAPS

The taskforce members reviewed data they provided and discussed additional needs, gaps and resources.

Needs/Gaps:

Affordable Housing Needs

- Workforce Housing – housing costs, including rents, are going up; the number of renters is increasing due to foreclosures (Zimmer)
- Housing burden is affected by access to and costs of transportation
- Land availability for affordable housing, including owner-occupied housing built by Habitat for Humanity (Kinney)

- Section 8 vouchers in Linn County are high – 4,000 are on the waiting list, including some from out of state; only way to move off a voucher is when a person becomes self-sufficient; LBHA is constantly evaluating (Holt)
- Prioritize Vouchers for those most in need, for example: terminally ill, seniors and disabled, families with minor children, then individuals

Provider Needs

- Providers need skills, understanding the finances, etc. (Holt)

Senior Housing Needs

- Senior Housing support – with peer supported assistance to help keep in homes (Zimmer)
- Habitat's Senior Housing program – created because lots of calls from seniors (Kinney)
- Retirement facilities – independent facilities allows for care services; peer approaches (Zimmer)
- In-home health care is a need for seniors that can't live on their own (Conley)
- Help for seniors with minimal assets that don't qualify for Medicaid – help moving from independent to assisted living

Youth Needs

- Foster Home Needs – children don't fit into regular shelters
- "Host homes" for children and youth

Special Needs Populations

- AIDS population – Linn County and Benton County share a staff person to assist persons with HIV (Moore)
- Transportation Needs of persons with disabilities to services (Conley)
- Caring for individuals with unique needs (Conley)
- Veterans have a bus along I-5 corridor, but timing is not adequate (Conley)
- Memory care, assisted living for persons on Medicaid

Homeless Needs

- Helping Hands population is about 85 people nightly/40 clients are in programs
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Miscellaneous Suggestions/Comments

- Coordinated Care Programs – how can we ensure there will not be duplication of services? (Kopczynski)
- Linn County recently completed a Community Health Assessment; there is a regional planning group with independent councils for each county (Linn, Benton, Lincoln) (Moore)

Resources:

- CWCOC has Aging and Disabilities Resource Center with call center and options counseling. Positions funded to handle workload
- Cascades West Rideline – assists rural residents stay/age in place
- Screening and diversion – alternative placements and resources to reduce nursing home placements
- Housing Rehabilitation for Owner Occupied Housing – Habitat and Community Services Consortium

Police Incidents Map:

Catlin reviewed the map of residential property incidents prepared by the Albany Police Department staff from 1/1/2011 to 11/27/2012. She thought the map, along with maps of other data would be helpful in determining community development needs.

A few questions were raised about the data – do the figures include incidents when a car is pulled over by a residence and does the data include personal crimes.

Catlin will get answers for the next meeting.

NEXT MEETING

The next meeting date was tentatively set for January 25, 2013 from 11:30 a.m. to 1:00 p.m.

ADJOURN

The meeting adjourned at 1:00 p.m.