

**CITY OF SILVERTON
HOMELESS/HOUSING TASK FORCE MINUTES**

October 28, 2020, 6:00 p.m.

I. CALL TO ORDER

Chair Kyle Palmer called the meeting to order at 6:01 p.m. The task force members and staff were present through the virtual meeting platform Zoom. Chair Palmer explained the meeting is being held through Zoom in accordance with House Bill 4212.

Present	Absent	
X		Kyle Palmer
X		Jaime Fuhrman
X		Sara White
X		Helen Thomas
X		Jess Miller
X		Dana Smith (<i>departed at 7:22 pm</i>)
X		Jennifer Hannan
X		Sarah DeSantis
X		Hilary Dumitrescu (<i>arrived at 6:03 pm</i>)
	X	Karolle Hughes
	X	Joseph Schmaus

Staff Present:

Assistant to the City Manager/City Clerk, Angela Speier

II. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Member Dumitrescu made a motion to approve the minutes from the meeting held on September 16, 2020. Member Miller seconded the motion. There was no discussion and the motion passed unanimously (9-0).

III. PUBLIC COMMENT – None

IV. REVIEW COMMUNITY SURVEY RESULTS

Assistant to the City Manager/City Clerk Angela Speier reviewed the community survey results. The survey was open for 20 days and the Task Force received 196 responses. The Task Force members indicated overall the survey results were encouraging and identified areas where Sheltering Silverton and other nonprofits can provide more education to the community. Member White said Sheltering Silverton has tried posting educational materials on their Facebook page, but would be interested in other educational tools. Sheltering Silverton has data from their clients that disproves the prevailing myth that people they serve are not from Silverton. Chair Palmer said it has to be an ongoing educational campaign that is backed by other community members sharing facts. Member Smith asked if Sheltering Silverton could share data from their intake information that shows what percentage of individuals they have helped are from Silverton. She said citing numbers makes the argument more believable. Member Dumitrescu said Sheltering Silverton will be using clips from a video filmed about their work as an interactive way to educate and engage the community.

Member White said for the record there is no bussing. She said three or four times they have bought individuals Greyhound tickets in order to connect them with family in other cities or states, but Sheltering

Silverton and Silverton Area Community Aid (SACA) have never bussed anyone into the community. Member Miller said it was interesting seeing the comparison between the survey results and the work Sheltering Silverton is doing in the community. Member White said Sheltering Silverton will work on a fact sheet as part of the educational efforts. Chair Palmer would like to hear more about how Sheltering Silverton is moving people into stability in the educational piece which should be everyone's ultimate goal. Member Smith asked if housing vouchers are applicable to a tiny home, similar to what you would find in a square one village, where there is a sleeping loft and if it would be considered two rooms. Member White said she is not aware of a village like that in Marion County where housing vouchers have been used, but she thought they could be used in that situation. She said they are not allowed to be used in travel trailers for RV parks or rented rooms in larger homes.

Douglas Jenkins asked if it would be possible to use the people who provided their contact information in the survey as a base to create a program that could be used to educate the community. They could become a cohort who could then go out and train the community.

Members discussed ways to highlight the survey results, including a side-by-side graphic showing the survey response verses the reality that can be posted on social media and shown at the Palace Theater before movies. Member White said there has been talk in the past about doing a symposium or forum on homelessness in order to shine a light on poverty, domestic violence, human trafficking and homelessness in the community. She said this would have to be done outside of the winter season and likely post COVID-19.

V. TASK FORCE UPDATES

5.1 Sheltering Silverton update and proposal to purchase pallet shelters with CARES Act grant funding

Member White said Sheltering Silverton found out their funding for the winter shelter came through. They will be using the majority of those funds to place their clients in long-term hotel stays in Salem. She explained there is a screening process and to be qualified they must reside in the Silver Falls School District. Case management will be provided to the qualified individuals to move them through the services they will need to navigate. The Day Resource Center will begin operating out of a new location in Silverton on November 14, 2020. Anyone seeking services who do not reside within the Silver Falls School District will be referred to the Salem Warming Network.

Member Dumitrescu explained Oregon Housing and Community Services is distributing federal COVID-19 funding and the local region is expected to receive \$5.5 million. Sheltering Silverton is working with other agencies within the Continuum of Care to submit an application for the \$5.5 million. They are hoping a portion of this funding could be used to help them purchase a building to run their Resource Center out of.

Member Dumitrescu explained the idea of purchasing pallet shelters to be used for temporary housing. These shelters are extremely sturdy, have electricity and can house up to four individuals. They can be built in 20 minutes with no tools. Sheltering Silverton is requesting the Task Force make a recommendation to City Council to support using a portion of the City's CARES Act grant funding to purchase five pallet shelters that can be used for emergency purposes (i.e. fire evacuations), transitional housing or winter warming. Member Smith asked how these would fit into the City's Development Code. Member White explained Jason Gottgetreu, Community Development Director said one unit could be placed on five different church properties under the community service use. Member White said Hood River County is using pallet shelters in lieu of a warming shelter this year and organizations in Lane County are also using them. They are all being funded through CARES Act funding. Member Smith said the Cottage Grove City Council approved the pallet shelters to be placed on a City owned parking lot.

Member White said Sheltering Silverton will potentially have the ability to apply for some funding for a permanent building and the funding request would be stronger with a letter support from the City, Task Force and/or the City Council.

Member Smith made a motion to recommend City Council allocate CARES funds up to \$25,000 for Sheltering Silverton to purchase pallet shelters to be used in lieu of a warming shelter. Member Miller seconded the motion. There was no discussion and the motion passed unanimously (9-0).

5.2 Other updates

Member DeSantis said SACA numbers have been down since the pandemic due to people receiving more in SNAP benefits among other reasons. SACA is helping households with rental assistance. SACA will be opening back up to the public beginning next week for people to shop for food onsite and receive other services.

Member Hannan said distance learning has been challenging all the way around but especially for children in vulnerable populations. The school district is serving about 65 of their most vulnerable students at the Silverton Assemble of God Church, because their buildings are not open for limited in-person instruction. She said they are looking to expand the in-person limited instruction in the next few weeks. There are about 60 kids that they have not been able to contact at all. She said they are now engaging the help of the School Resource Officer to contact those students in person. The McKinney-Vento population ended last school year at about 85 students and this year it is over 125.

Douglas Jenkins said he would put together a draft proposal of what an educational cohort could look like and present it to the Task Force at its next meeting. The next meeting of the Task Force was scheduled for Wednesday, December 2, 2020.

VI. ADJOURNMENT

Member Miller made a motion to adjourn. Member Dumitrescu seconded the motion and Chair Palmer adjourned the meeting at 7:24 p.m.

Respectfully submitted by:

/s/Angela Speier, Assistant to the City Manager/City Clerk