

A Way Home for Tulsa

Leadership Council Minutes
March 9, 2021 | 1:30 pm | Zoom

Agenda

1. Welcome
 - a. Melanie Goldman-Stewart called the meeting to order.
2. Roll Call
 - a. Erin Velez called roll. Quorum present.
3. Year 2 Plan
 - a. Bridget DeJong from Homebase reviewed the Year 2 Strategic Plan goals and activities.
 - b. Presentation is included after minutes.
4. Lead Agency Report
 - a. Winter Shelter Update
 - i. 415 people and 50 pets were sheltered in hotels during the winter storm. We are slowly bringing people over to the consolidated hotel at 41st & Garnett.
 - ii. Services and partners are embedded in the hotel.
 - b. Hotel to Housing
 - i. Becky Gligo reported that 175 people have been moved into the hotel over the last five days, 50 more will be coming today, and the rest will be moved in over the next week.
 - ii. Some of the people who were housed in hotels during the storm chose to return to their encampment. We will still be working with them on housing.
 - iii. Upcoming activities include: TPS Job Fair, Morton Wellness Clinic, THA Housing Applications, VI-SPDATs, COVID Risk Assessments
 - iv. Looking to add community activities to keep people engaged.
 - v. We will be reaching out to AWH4T partners to talk about partnership opportunities.
 - vi. We only have the hotel through the end of May.
 - c. Data Report - [Reports & Data | Housing Solutions Tulsa](#)
 - i. Olivia Denton Koopman presented January data.
 - ii. 54 housing placements happened in January, which brings our total to 986.
 - iii. Kudos to agencies with high assessment percentages:
 1. MHAOK, Walker Hall - 100%
 2. City Lights, Hotel - 96%
 3. MHAOK, Overflow Shelter - 93%
 4. Salvation Army, Project Able - 86%
 5. Housing Solutions, Outreach Team - 85%
 - iv. Equity Dashboards have been added. Olivia and JT will be working on how these can be best worked into our online dashboards so that we can have deeper conversations.
5. Rental Assistance Update
 - a. Jeff Jaynes reported that Restore Hope now officially has a contract with the county for rental assistance.
 - b. \$7.6 million will be available for rental assistance. Another \$12M will be coming and

TULSA CONTINUUM OF CARE

- potentially more from the state.
 - c. Official launch will be Monday, March 15th.
 - d. Funds are for rental arrears back through March 13, 2020. Funds can also be used to pay up to 3 months forward at a time.
 - e. State funds are not geographically limited.
 - f. Utility assistance is for renters only.
 - g. Self-certification is possible, but people will still be asked to upload documents.
 - h. Working closely with LASO to provide tenants with access to attorneys.
 - i. No cap on assistance.
6. Public Comments
- a. Call your legislator to express concerns with HB1564, which would make evictions faster, easier, and more expensive to tenants.
 - b. Mack Haltom let the group know that the Tulsa Day Center is getting ready to reopen and expand day services.
7. Adjourn Meeting
- a. Melanie Stewart Goldman adjourned the meeting.

Attendance

Name	Representing	Category	Term	Y/N
Mark Hogan	City of Tulsa	Appointed	2 years	Y
Keri Fothergill	Tulsa County	Appointed	2 years	N
Jeff Hall, Chair	Tulsa Housing Authority	Appointed	2 years	N
Claudia Brierre	INCOG	Appointed	2 years	Y
Melanie-Stewart Goldman	Provider Agencies	Elected	1 year	Y
Mack Haltom	Provider Agencies	Elected	1 year	Y
Greg Shinn	Provider Agencies	Elected	2 years	Y
Jim DeLong	Participant Advisory Group	Elected	2 years	N
	Youth Advisory Board	Elected	1 year	N/A
Cory Pebworth	Business/Commerce	Invited	1 year	Y
Nancy Curry	Funders	Invited	1 year	Y
Greg Robinson	At-Large Representative	Invited	2 years	N
Donnie House	At-Large Representative	Invited	1 year	N
Jeff Jaynes	At-Large Representative	Invited	1 year	Y
Matt McCord	At-Large Representative	Invited	2 years	Y

DRAFT Year Two Implementation Plan for AWH4T Strategic Plan



Goal One: Stop Homelessness Before It Begins

- Reduce unnecessary evictions and support those who are, or might be, evicted.
- Improve discharge policies and supports to reduce the number of individuals that exit institutions and systems of care and end up in homelessness.

EVICTION PREVENTION FOCUS

Project Lead: Housing Solutions Tenant Resource Center

Project Partners: City of Tulsa Housing Coordinator

Metrics of Success: Being designed by Eviction Data Workgroup, includes number of successful mediations, and percentage of people served with prevention assistance that did not become homeless in the following months.

1. Capitalize on **policy-level opportunities** to reduce evictions.
2. Organize and amplify the **voice of tenants** in Tulsa.
3. Expand use of **Affordable Housing Wait List** to find appropriate units with quality landlords.
4. Maintain virtual **Early Settlement Mediation Program (ESMP)**.
5. Engage the Court to include information about **ESMP on the summons** (*Landlord Tenant Resource Center is already mentioned*).
6. **Expand use of technology and utility records to identify households at risk** of eviction and relay targeted eviction prevention.
7. Provide **expungement support** for people with criminal records or prior evictions.

DISCHARGE PLANNING FOCUS

Project Lead: Housing Solutions

Project Partners: Hillcrest Medical, Legal Aid, Youth Services Tulsa

Metrics of Success: For Medical Legal Partnership: benefits applied for, exits to positive housing, reduction in repeat visits to Hillcrest from high utilizers.

8. Launch **Medical Legal Partnership** and analyze the pilot's efficacy.
9. Create **corrections and health care inter-system task forces** for information-sharing and identifying potential adjustments to current policies, processes, and communication strategies.
10. Provide **training and information sharing opportunities for corrections, health care, or foster care staff** about the homeless system of care.
11. Apply for **Federal Youth Homelessness Demonstration Project** to access resources to support youth exiting foster care to access employment and housing.
12. Building from City Lights hotel, explore **expanding availability and variety of short-term housing** models for transition period between instability and independence.
13. Strengthen **mentorship and peer support programs and networks**, including the faith-based community.

Goal Two: Transform the homeless system of care to be more effective, equitable, and person-centered.

- Understand the need, allocate resources and support implementation at the system level
 - Provide services to reduce barriers to housing
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COORDINATED ENTRY SYSTEM (CES) FOCUS

Project Lead: Housing Solutions

Project Partners: Coordinated Entry Task Group, CES Access Points

Metrics of Success: 95% of people at CE access points assessed for VISPDAT; number of housing placements from CES; time from assessment to referral/placement

1. Audit and amend CES procedures
 - a. Change **documentation practices** and timeline
 - b. Include **progressive engagement** processes
 - c. Add **benefits applications**
 - d. Build out **diversion program**
2. Continue to **increase number of VI-SPDAT assessments** completed for 95% of people enrolled in the proposed Coordinated Entry access point programs
3. Add **housing-focused case manager** to CES
4. Add St Francis to Unite Us

STANDARDS FOCUS:

Project Lead: Housing Solutions

Project Partners: Providers

Metrics of Success: Number of providers with completed fidelity self-assessment

5. Each provider to complete **self-assessment of Outcome and Service Standards**, with no impact to agency or funding, to identify current status and community needs.
6. Provide training to funders about the Standards.

SYSTEM/SERVICES FOCUS:

Project Lead: Housing Solutions

Project Partners: Outreach Task Group

Metrics of Success: Outreach program metrics, overall system health insurance access, overall system benefits access

7. Complete **annual update of system analysis** and expand use of findings.
8. **Launch coordinated, housing-focused outreach**
9. Support efforts to improve **health insurance/Medicaid access** for people experiencing homelessness

10. Improve **benefits access** by including a benefits navigator on the outreach team and launching the Medical Legal Partnership
11. Establish processes to communicate with **Tulsa Police and Fire Departments** about program capacity and resources to support successful transitions and responses to trauma.
12. Create a **Tulsa Transit social service route**
13. Continue to explore **shelter alternatives**
14. Continue efforts to **implement diversion**, as relevant.

Goal Three: Increase Access to Housing

- **Revise policies to prioritize affordable housing.**
 - **Connect tenants to units.**
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LOCAL POLICY FOCUS:

Project Lead: Housing Solutions

Project Partners: City of Tulsa Housing Coordinator, Tulsa Housing Authority

Metrics of Success: Number of units funded by Affordable Housing incentives

1. Continued support and marketing of the City's Affordable Housing Plan by Leadership Council and other AWH4T representatives
 2. Implement "Ban the Box" Initiatives, beginning with requirements for landlord incentives in the Trust Fund
 3. Track units funded by Affordable Housing incentives, including TIF, Affordable Housing Trust Fund, and Downtown Revolving Loan Fund.
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LANDLORD RECRUITMENT FOCUS:

Project Lead: Housing Solutions Tenant Resource Center

Project Partners: City of Tulsa Housing Coordinator, Tulsa Housing Authority, Greater Tulsa Association of Realtors, Tulsa Apartment Association

Metrics of Success: Number of landlords receiving Trust Fund incentives, Number of project-based housing vouchers in use, amount of funding in Trust Fund

4. Expand unit inventory that will accept persons with varied backgrounds, beginning with requirements for landlord incentives in the Trust Fund
 5. Partner with THA to identify quality units that will accept housing vouchers and persons with varied backgrounds
 6. Fundraise for Trust Fund to reduce financial barriers to obtaining housing
 7. Expand the use of project-based housing vouchers
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HOUSEHOLD SUPPORT FOCUS:

Project Lead: City of Tulsa (Mayor's Office of Resiliency and Equity)

Project Partners: Housing Solutions, Business Community, Tulsa Public Schools (Jobs Pipeline Program)

Metrics of Success: Increases in income and employment across the homeless system of care (HMIS)

8. Work within City's Financial Empowerment Centers to have specific marketing/outcomes for people experiencing homelessness
9. To reduce barriers to exiting homelessness, coordinate volunteer efforts to assure availability of necessary household items (e.g. linens, cleaning supplies, furniture) at move-in.

Goal Four: Partner Across Tulsa to Build Solutions and Access Resources

- **Increase community support**
- **Increase state and federal support**

COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT FOCUS:

Project Lead: Housing Solutions

Project Partners: Participant Advisory Group, Youth Advisory Board, HMIS Task Group, Networking Task Group

Metrics of Success: Amount of private fundraising, producing quarterly reports, number of volunteer hours

1. Relentlessly push **information about how this community is responding** to homelessness to greater community.
2. Regularly communicate **plan progress** to community, including through dashboards on Housing Solutions website.
3. Coordinate and support **capacity building** to line up community donations of time, money, or other resources to end homelessness in Tulsa
4. Further **develop partnerships with faith-based organizations** (e.g. winter shelter call to action, street outreach coordination).
5. **Engage people who are experiencing or who have formerly experienced homelessness** in local response to homelessness (e.g. peer support, policy advocacy)

FUNDING FOCUS:

Project Lead: Housing Solutions

Project Partners: Philanthropy

Metrics of Success: Total income, including by private, local, state, federal (year over year, back 3 years to 2019)

6. Drive increased **inflow of federal, state and local resources** for ending and preventing homelessness.
7. Take steps to improve **Tulsa's competitiveness for federal funding** that supports responses to homelessness.