



Portland Housing Bureau

Portland Housing Advisory Commission

Tuesday, January 15, 2013

3:00 p.m. – 5:00 p.m.

Portland Housing Bureau

421 SW 6th Ave, Ste 500

Portland, OR 97204

✓ = PHAC public member action item

▶ = PHB staff member action item

Meeting Minutes

Members Present: Marc Jolin, Sarah Zahn, Andrew Colas, Shannon Singleton, Jesse Beason, Rey Espana, Christine Lau, Carter MacNichol, Deborah Imse, Elisa Harrigan

Members Excused: Carmen Rubio

Agenda Item	Discussion Highlights	Outcomes / Next Steps
Welcome & Review Meeting Purpose	Today's meeting will focus on the PHB budget. PHAC members were asked to fill out a Budget Advisory Conflict of Interest Form.	
Review Minutes	The minutes from November and December were reviewed and approved	✓ Minutes were approved
Budget Principles	PHAC was adjourned and the Sub BAC was convened. Commissioner Fish expressed thanks to PHAC for their service and urged them to slightly delay finalizing any decisions in light of the new mayor and city council coming onboard. The new approach being taken is called "zero based budgeting" and all of the bureaus have been asked to identify 90% of their budget as core and 10% as add backs to prepare for any potential cuts. This is the first time using this approach so there are a lot of unknowns. There is a \$25 million dollar budget deficit, \$10 million due to compression from creation of the library district, \$5 million due to the Department of Justice settlement and \$8 million from one time money being converted to ongoing. \$15 million was not foreseeable this time last year as circumstances have changed. PHAC needs to work to identify how programs are ranked and where cuts will be taken. There has been discussion of sharing the load with our jurisdictional partners and discussions have begun with the county's shared priorities around public safety and homelessness.	

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	Comm. Fish: As of Monday, February 4th, 2013 Commissioner Fish will no longer be the Commissioner in charge of the Housing Bureau. The Mayor is taking control of all the bureaus for the first three months of his term and will re-assign them after that as he sees fit. The city council has been asked to act as a board of directors and to look at the budget holistically. This will be an opportunity for PHAC to advocate for the things its constituents care about and craft a proposal that represents the best thinking. Traci: The recommended budget would normally be presented at this time but with all the change and unknowns the bureau is taking an extra week to ten days to finalize the proposal. City council needs to be educated on the add back package and the high level of cuts the bureau is being asked to consider. The add backs are actually core functions. The Strategic Plan is still the document guiding prioritization along with leverage and equity goals. The mayor has indicated that his priority is core services. PHB is also facing a \$2.2 million dollar cut in federal funding due to sequestration. All of PHB's programs will be affected by these cuts and the bureau will work to understand changes (Reset process) and strive to work better with partners. Jesse: PHAC will take the next couple of weeks to finalize a scenario by looking at the guiding principles and testimony and then recommend any changes to the bureau. Rey: What is considered core or less core, considering all the services are core. While the cuts that end up being identified will indeed be core, in order to follow the budget instructions given by the mayor's office prioritization is necessary.	
Public Testimony	<u>Veronica Bernier, Community Member</u>: There is currently a cold weather crisis and she is here to support the elderly and families in housing. Many NW seniors have been displaced by identity fraud and have faced eviction because of it. She wants to advocate for aging well in place and the creation of a no fault guarantee to prevent seniors from being evicted. <u>Bruce Jones, Cascadia BHC</u>: Prescott Terrace's homeless services division is faced with continued cuts and the prospect of closure. It provides mental healthcare, assistance with chronic homelessness, supports a diverse population of clients, and provides supportive housing and help for those with criminal backgrounds, addiction and trauma issues. It also provides training, therapy, emergency response and 24 hour residential care. If Prescott	

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	Terrace were to close many of its residents would return to homelessness, incarceration, addiction or trauma. PHB currently funds about \$100,000 but this money is spread across all of Cascadia's programs. <u>Cascadia Residents</u> <u>Brow</u>: Brow struggles with drug addiction and mental health problems, but once he was admitted into the Prescott Terrace program, his life was changed. <u>Ken</u>: After being homeless for two months, Ken was connected with the Prescott Terrace program and it saved his life. He suffers from bipolar and depression and Prescott provided a warm, safe place with great staff that treats the residents with dignity and respect. <u>Gerald</u>: Gerald has lived at Prescott Terrace for five years and had formerly been on the street. They help lots of people there and he is currently establishing a ministry to give back and help others. <u>Rashida</u>: Rashida was homeless for two years until an outreach worker found her and tried to get her help. She was skeptical at first, but finally accepted the help and was able to re-establish relationships with her family after suffering trauma and living on the street. She is very grateful and has benefitted greatly from the program. <u>Felicia Tripp, Portland Housing Center</u>: Felicia came to support homeownership. Homeownership funding has already been cut by 50% over the last few years and city funding to these programs is very important. If as little as \$100,000 was cut, it would eliminate that entire department at PHC. <u>Israel Bayer, Street Roots</u>: The Rose City Resource Guide serves the entire continuum of homelessness and is produced through funding from the county and the city. If this is ranked as a low priority for funding, how will it move forward strategically? If there are cuts to 211 or the resource guide there will be an increase in people coming directly to agencies for answers and assistance. More needs to be done with less. <u>Jen Matheson, NAYA</u>: Funding should be maintained for homeownership, education and foreclosure prevention. There has been a 50% cumulative cut in funding for these things over the last three years and those cuts have had a huge impact on the ability to help communities of color and keep people in their homes. Even a small cut to these programs	

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	would result the dismantling of many culturally specific organizations. Don't make the burden even heavier than it already is and show your commitment to equity. <u>Jaime Johnson, Human Solutions</u>: The Key Not a Card and Home Not a Bed programs are run through a partnership between several agencies. These programs help support PHB's equity agenda and from 2009-2012 98% of participants were still in housing after six months. These programs target families who have been homeless for six months or longer in the past three years, many have disabilities. Any further cuts would be extremely detrimental to this community. <u>Liora Berry, Cascadia Behavioral Health</u>: Cascadia's Homeless Services department took a \$500,000 cut in funding last year. The street outreach team and housing retention staff are both funded by money from the City. A portion of this money is used to keep Prescott Terrace open and is used to leverage other county funds and \$1.3 million dollars in McKinney funds. Access to housing is what keeps people experiencing mental illness in treatment.	
Budget Discussion	The cut scenario document contained in the packet illustrates the early input received. The information in last year's budget letter and input gathered at last month's PHAC meeting was used to inform the document. There is \$1.1 million less general fund and \$450,000 less CDBG. PHAC needs to solve for a \$1.5 million dollar cut between these two funds. Listed on the back page of the document is a menu of options. Staff was asked to propose cuts that follow the strategic plan and maintain core services as closely as possible. There are also additional federal cuts. Paul: What exactly would it mean if shelter services were reduced? Would that mean a shelter would be closed? What does that entail? Sally: It includes the shelter itself as well as some of the rent assistance that is provided to help keep people out of the shelters once they leave. It could also mean shelters close altogether. The guiding principles need to be revisited, are these still the principles that should be used moving forward? Should they be amended or added to? What is the process?	

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	There seems to be a disconnect between how the priorities are labeled and the use of the equity lens. Prevention services are ranked lower but over 50% of the impact on a cut to this service would affect communities of color. Access services also serve more communities of color. Over 50% of rent assistance is to communities of color and contractors are from communities of color as well. Andrew: The circumstances three years ago when these priorities were ranked have changed. For instance, because of the recession and the housing market crash, homeownership was ranked as a lower priority based on the circumstances that existed back then. But now, circumstances are not the same, the housing market has improved somewhat, should this be re-evaluated? How does all of this relate to the 10 Year Plan Reset priorities? Are there areas that should be looked at more or less based on that? Marc: These priorities are pretty well aligned with the 10 YP recommendations. Rey: There is a perception that the equity lens is disconnected and there needs to be a better explanation of what policies and strategies are being used and how they positively impact equity. Intentions need to be clear on that level. What is considered vulnerability needs to have an equity basis and there needs to be a critical discussion around the perceived impact on direct programs, mental health and the county's responsibility. Now is the time to revisit the topic and a good opportunity to have that discussion. There should be a review of Resolution A and the governance program. Comm. Fish: Resolution A was an attempt to decide city and county functions based on unique level of collaboration and shared values. Are there more efficient ways to provide services? Who has the resources? Marc: Maintaining capacity is a priority. Across the board, cuts to these programs will have a disproportionate adverse affect on communities of color. Should there be an assessment of who the impact falls on beyond communities of color? If certain programs are cut, people end up using other services at a higher cost to the city.	

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Budget Transmittal Letter	Elisa: Something to be added to make it clear that these programs are direct services, not future development and will have an immediate impact on top of existing cuts. Carter: Eliminate the third paragraph and add more emphasis on the importance of funding these programs. Comm. Fish: Show what the costs will be at the back end if these things are cut. Jesse: Tell PHB's story to council. Rey: Page 2, first paragraph, first sentence: "Current needs," show that the recommended budget is based on performance data; services are performing and meeting outcomes. Shannon: The term "progressive city" is an ideology that may not be shared by everyone and is unnecessary. The idea of "cultural competency" doesn't ring true and is highly debatable in the social services field.	
Next Steps	PHAC is ok with the guiding strategies. The budget is due to Mike on January 28th and to Claudio on February 4th. Internally the SubBAC will connect with Comm. Fish and management and collect feedback by next Thursday. This will be sent out via email to PHAC by the end of the week.	