

Health Commission | MINUTES

November 18th, 2021 | 11:00AM |
(Ad Hoc Housing Committee Meeting)

Present Members

Austin Strassle (Health
Commission Co-Chair)

Janis Deveney

Aaron Crossley

Marqueia Watson

Wajeeh Lion

Health Commissioners

Health Department Staff

Erica Taylor

John Santner

Absent Members

Tiana Caldwell

Kathleen Pointer

Samuel De Jong

Rebecca Amezcua

AGENDA ITEMS AND DISCUSSION

Welcome and Introductions.

Austin Strassle opens the meeting with introduction at 11:02am.

House America Initiative with Bruce Ladd and Tamara Wright

Housing America is an all-hands-on-deck effort to address the Nation's homeless crisis

- It is an initiative through the Housing and Urban Development (HUD) and the US interagency Council on Homelessness (USICH) which invites mayors, city and county leaders, tribal nation leaders and governors into a national partnership
- Housing America uses America Rescue Plan dollars to address homelessness through a Housing First approach
- House America has two goals:
 - o 1) Re-House
 - Using American Rescue Plan emergency housing vouchers, ESG-CV's, Rapid re-housing, HOME TBRA, and other federal and local resources by December 31st, 2022
 - o 2) Unit Creation
 - Using HOME-ARP funds, Treasury State and Local Fiscal Recovery Funds and other resources to build more affordable housing units
- All told HUD hopes that by the end of 2022, at least 100,000 households will be re-housed and at least 20,000 new units of affordable or supportive housing will be added to the pipeline
- In Missouri both Quinton Lucas and Tishaura Jones have joined the House America Initiative
- Through the various CARES Act and American Rescue Plan Funding programs there is a great potential impact
 - o Home Investment Partnership Program Tenant-based Rental Assistance ~ 22,000 individuals
 - o Public and Indian Housing Emergency Housing Vouchers~ 70,000 individuals
 - o Emergency Solutions Grant Coronavirus Rapid Rehousing fund~ 93,000 individuals
 - o HOME Investment Partnership Program, new permanent housing units~ 26,000 individuals
 - o In total, the potential impact of CARES Act and ARP funding on Homelessness could affect over 200,000 individual lives
 - Given that, there is still an unmet need of 251,000 individuals
- Homelessness Trends 2015-2020
 - o Nationally between 2015-2020 there has been a 3% increase in overall homelessness and in the Missouri Continuum of Care a 17% increase
 - o Both nationally and in the Missouri Continuum of Care there has been a decrease in veterans experiencing homelessness and families that are experiencing homelessness
 - o The large increase comes from individuals where nationally there has been a 14% increase and in the Kansas City region a 41% increase
 - o There has been a 236% increase in the number of individuals that are unsheltered in the Missouri Continuum of Care whereas only a 30% nationally
 - o 2020 represented the first time that the number of people experiencing unsheltered homelessness was greater than the number of individuals experiencing homelessness were shelter
- Implementation Support
 - o Tools and Resources
 - Housing and Urban Development (HUD) and the US interagency Council on Homelessness (USICH) shared 10 strategies "playbook"
 - o All Hands-on Deck Webinar
 - Starting in October various federal agencies will hold an all hands on deck call to discuss strategies/innovations to facilitate peer-to-peer sharing and identify common challenges
 - o Office Hours
 - Housing and Urban Development staff will convene regular "office hours" to respond to questions and challenges
 - o Individual Technical Assistance
 - Will provide individualized Technical Assistance sessions to those participants that need additional support

Approval of September meeting minutes

- **Motion:** Wajeeh Lion motioned to approve the October 21st, 2021 minutes. Second from Janis Devenly. The motion unanimously passed.

Old Business

Bill of Rights for the Unhoused Update/Discussion

- This committee is still in talks with Councilwoman Parks-Shaw on how to move forward this legislation forward
- Still waiting on the Law Department to approve the language

Additional Business

Special Committee on Housing Legislation

- Out of 19 Requests for Proposals (RFP) 3 plans were chosen
- Leading factors for the chosen proposals were:
 - o Timeframe- when the housing will be ready
 - o Care of women and children, and
 - o Social services/wrap around support
- The three initial plans selected were:
 - o Amethyst Place
 - Add 37 new affordable housing Units to the current location
 - Amethyst Place prioritizes care for women with substance dependencies with children where the end goal is family reunification
 - This is a longer-term plan with affordable housing units expected to come online in summer 2023
 - This proposal passed committee and is on the Tentative docket for the week of December 3rd, 2021
 - o Lotus Care House
 - Convert 2 vacant hotels into ~100 single room occupancy apartments
 - 39 flexible transitional housing units
 - Held in Committee until December 1st, 2021
 - o Hope Faith Project
 - Installing 30 pallet-style “tiny homes”
 - The Hope Faith Project withdrew their proposal
- The 19 proposals were tiered in that since the Hope Faith Project withdrew their proposal the fourth option will be considered which we do not know at this time

Update on the adopted Housing Trust Fund (HTF) guidelines Ordinance 210873

- The Housing Trust Fund Guidelines did pass City Council during the November 4th, 2021 Legislative session
- The Housing Committee did not get all the changes we advised on:
 - o City Council did move the 20-year affordability requirement to 30 years as a floor amendment from Councilwoman Bough
 - o The mixed-income projects at different affordability requirements the committee suggested was not adopted
 - o The requirement that at least 10% of funds be spent on units be at/below 30% AMI was also not adopted
- Next Steps: It will be important to follow the advisory board process
 - o The City manager has 120 days to establish a Housing Trust Fund Advisory board whose members shall be appointed by the Mayor and report back to City Council within 120 days

Cities Winter Preparedness Legislation

- Ordinance 210990 Passed out of the Joint Finance/Housing Policy Committee

- Appropriates \$650,000 from the unappropriated Fund Balance to contract with external agencies for winter preparedness
- It is not Just specific to LGBTQ it has to do with marginalization; we need to think more globally we already try to make people fit in little boxes and by adding additional barriers is the wrong direction when people simply need to be welcomed inside from the cold
- Ordinance 210993 Directing the city manager with the Unhoused Task Force to develop a standard operation procedure concerning encampments. The committee discussed the following:
 - There are ten camps that are on the list for remediation right now
 - By sweeps, we lose the progress that we are trying to make with people that live in camps
 - The Standard operating procedures is an easy first step
 - CDC encouraged cities to not sweep camps because of the health implications for the individuals but also the community at large because we are still in a pandemic
 - Sweeps prolongs people's houseless experiences
 - This committee will write a separate ordinance outside the Tenant Bill of Rights to focus on ending this immoral practice

Health in All Policies

- Request to instead be presented at the next Health Commission meeting on December 10th, 2021

Announcements

- Attorney Julie Anderson will be replaced by LaDonna Gooden as the new Chair of the Land Bank
 - [Kansas City Land Bank chair departs amid oversight failures - The Kansas City Beacon \(thebeacon.media\)](#)
- The next Ad Hoc Housing Committee Meeting is scheduled for December 16th, 2021 via Zoom
- The meeting was adjourned at 12:27PM