

Bitterroot Task Force on Homelessness and Housing

Meeting notes

February 21st, 2017

1. Tim gave an overview of Task Force history for the new people.
2. Our 4th draft Task Force Mission Statement was read and approved.

4th draft Mission statement Proposed by the Steering Committee:

The Bitterroot Task Force on Homelessness and Housing exists to alleviate the impact of homelessness and prevent housing insecurity by supporting and facilitating affordable and safe housing solutions – from emergency to permanent -- for Ravalli County citizens of all ages, abilities, and circumstances.

3. Vision Statements and Long Range Goals were read (see below).
4. Ray Hawk was not able to join us. Tim will find someone to train us at the March Meeting. The Task Force will then ask for the best approach to speak to the Commissioners via Budget Hearings. We will find a department Budget Hearing or ask for a special Budget Hearing.
5. Short Term Funding Project:
 - a. Make a proposal to the Ravalli County Commissioners to budget \$10,000 for emergency assistance to prevent homelessness and housing insecurity. This money would assist someone who currently rents with one month rent in order to prevent eviction. This helps keep people stable. HRC will administer the program.

Pam Gouse suggested an updated message. The Task Force approved it for the Steering Committee to finalize.

“Make a proposal to the Ravalli County Commissioners to budget \$10,000 for emergency assistance to prevent homelessness and housing insecurity. This money would assist someone who currently rents and is experiencing a curable / temporary / emergency financial shortfall with one month’s rent in order to prevent eviction. This helps keep people stable and is less expensive than rehousing. This proposal is based on a successful program currently in operation in another county with the help of HRC. HRC has volunteered to administer this program for Ravalli County.” [use of a slash between words indicates a final selection is needed from the Steering Committee]

b. To proceed, these are the action steps:

I. Build a strategy to speak to the Ravalli County Commissioners.

Invite someone to train us re: Budget Hearings.

Create a Resource Map.

Collect real life budget using minimum wage, expenses, and current rental costs.

Ask for the \$10,000.

Chris Hoffman is familiar with the homeless situation.

II. Craft a clear and effective message for the task force members to use.

What are the most important points we want them to know?

This makes sense economically and is about human beings.

Real life budget using minimum wage, expenses, and current rental costs.

Economic benefits to help with prevention.

This is about Human beings and housing. Stabilize folks so they don't go into services.
Ravalli County and the community have a problem.
This is a partnership between the Task Force, the County government, and human beings in need.
People facing eviction is the problem. One month rent is needed to prevent eviction.
Testimonies and real life stories/experiences.
Missoula County program is the example model.
All of this should be encapsulated in an executive summary to keep the message brief.

6. Needs Assessment Project:

Tim gave a short power point about census and other data, updated us on the Point in Time Survey, and the Drop Box contents to date. He also walked us through How-to use, access, and upload things to Drop Box. Tim will create a separate account for the Task Force and will invite the entire group. Files will be Read-Only. Currently, BitterrootCollectiveImpact.weebly.com

7. Montana Continuum of Care.

Jim Morton presented the idea that we form a Continuum of Care for Ravalli County. The Bitterroot Task Force on Homelessness and Housing will now continue to act as Continuum of Care. The Task Force agreed to have HRC and the Task Force will continue to build the HUD Continuum of Care Infrastructure, and HRC will apply for funding this summer.

8. Our next meeting plans.

a. Tuesday 9am to Noon. March 14th, 2017. Beki will facilitate.

b. What do we want to accomplish at the March meeting:

Invite someone to train us re: Ravalli County Budget Hearings. Tim will set this up.

Update the Task Force on the Focus Group Project

Main focus of the meeting: Resource/Systems Mapping. Notify everyone to bring documents and data on resources. Make sure those who can input on this Mapping Project will be at this next meeting, March 14th.

Ideal vision for the future ... Second *draft* Vision Statements

(The outcomes we seek, the results we are striving for – in an ideal sense, what we want to accomplish for and in our community)

The community as a whole

- All sectors of our community – local government, state government, non-profit organizations, businesses, and citizens – are on the same page about the status of housing needs and gaps, and committed to finding solutions.
- Local government regulations allow for and encourage innovative approaches to meeting the housing needs.
- There is a face on homelessness; the stigma is reduced. People understand it and have overcome their fear about people who are homeless.
- Neighborhoods with a broad range of incomes are a norm.

Citizens

- No one experiences homelessness; a safety net for people in emergencies exist in adequate numbers and capacity for men, women, and families.
- People can access housing with their current income; affordable housing is available.
- People can age in place with caregivers nearby, the necessary adaptations, and services are on-site or in close proximity.
- Housing exists for seniors and people of all ages who don't drive.
- There are housing options available for people coming out of incarceration.
- Supports are accessible to help people to avoid losing their current home or rental housing.
- Multi-income, un-related households can co-purchase and co-rent, are aware of the options to do so, and know how to go about it.

Housing stock

- The whole continuum of housing stock exists in adequate numbers.
- Emergency and short-term housing is available, and the local providers of such housing have sufficient capacity to provide it.
- Affordable housing is available to meet the needs; people with modest incomes can find and keep housing that costs no more than 30% of their income.
- New building incorporates accessible features that allow people to age in place. Universal design concepts are a norm.
- Housing is located with walk-ability and public transportation in mind.
- In any new construction, energy efficiency and sustainable sources are a norm.
- There are multi-generational, synthesized housing complexes that resemble the village look of housing. Neighborliness is encouraged through the design resulting in the sharing of perspectives, life skills and experiences.
- Auxiliary Dwelling Units (ADUs) are legal.

Long Range Goals, developed by the Steering Committee:

- a. Educate the Task Force about homelessness and housing insecurity in Ravalli County.
- b. Educate the public about homelessness and housing insecurity in Ravalli County.
- c. Develop the Task Force into an inclusive, cross-sector collaboration similar to a Continuum of Care Committee.
- d. Identify what is currently being done about homelessness and housing insecurity in Ravalli County. (Needs assessment)