



February 18, 2016

Dear Executive Committee and Coordinating Board Members:

When A Home for Everyone (AHFE) was created more than a year ago, one charge was to consider whether it would be desirable and feasible to consolidate the administration of homeless services in some form of "Lead Agency." We want to provide you an update on that work.

In response to the charge, we tasked a small group of staff from A Home for Everyone, the Portland Housing Bureau (PHB), and the Multnomah County Department of Human Services (DCHS) to present a range of options for the creation of a Lead Agency.

That group's preliminary viability assessment yielded a recommendation: The City of Portland and Multnomah County should consider creating a Joint City-County Office of Homeless Services, hosted at Multnomah County, reporting directly to the Multnomah County Chair and closely aligned to the Portland Housing Commissioner, that brings together the homeless services staff currently at PHB and DCHS.

The Joint City-County Office of Homeless Services would be responsible for supporting the governance of AHFE, overseeing policy development and implementation at the community and system of care levels, contracting, monitoring, reporting, and all HUD Continuum of Care related activities.

Creating a Joint City-County Office would maximize the ability of AHFE partners to reach the goals of preventing and ending homelessness by: (1) increasing consistency in the development and implementation of policy; (2) improving effective use of public staffing capacity; (3) reducing duplication and inconsistency in administration and contracting for partner agencies; (4) promoting greater transparency and public accountability; and, most importantly, (5) providing better outcomes for people experiencing homelessness.

Based on this initial staff assessment, we have convened a steering committee of key City and County staff to work out the legal, administrative and budgetary dimensions of a potential consolidation. That steering committee began meeting last week.

As an implementation timeline and work plan for a Joint Office is solidified, the Executive Committee and Coordinating Board will receive a full briefing. If you have any questions prior to that, please don't hesitate to contact us.

We thank you for all your contributions to the critical work of A Home for Everyone.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Deborah Kafoury".

Deborah Kafoury
Multnomah County Chair

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Dan Saltzman".

Dan Saltzman
City of Portland Commissioner