

**MINUTES OF A MEETING
OF THE
LOW BARRIER HOMELESS SHELTER TASK FORCE**

Held: September 29, 2022

A regular meeting of the Low Barrier Homeless Shelter Task Force was called to order on Thursday, September 29, 2022, at 10:00am at Indiana Government Center South, Conference Room 12, Cardinal Hall.

The following individuals were physically present at the meeting: Co-Chairs Tom McGowan and Deputy Mayor Jeff Bennett, and Task Force Members and designates Karen Holly, Rep. Justin Moed, Sen. Jack Sandlin, Tim Brown, Christine Blessinger, Dr. Kory Terry, Matt Rayburn and members of the staff from the Indiana Housing and Community Development Authority. The following individuals were present remotely, via Microsoft Teams: Task Force Members Rick Alvis, Rep. Cynthia Ledbetter, and Dr. Chelsea Haring-Cozzi.

Tom McGowan and Deputy Mayor Jeff Bennett served as Co-Chairs of the meeting and while had not yet established a quorum at the opening, called the meeting to order. Michael McQuillen served as Secretary.

1. Roll call of Task Force Members
2. Progress on the Housing Hub Concept – Co-Chairman McGowan briefly reviewed the schedule for meetings and timelines for the rest of the year for the Task Force including the promise of more specific goals at the coming October meeting.
 - * Overview of Phase 1 Primary Goals: Objective – a timely execution / complete Spring of 2023
 1. Create a Hub with partner agencies in one location to simply inherent barriers for the homeless population – Co-Chair Bennett updated the task force on Indianapolis efforts
 2. Convert Horizon House into the Hub of navigation services – Updates on the potential to increase their days/hours over a period of time – also the possibility of building out new space to accommodate more individuals – as well as the addition of outside services such as the BMV and medical services
 - * Overview of Phase 2 Primary Goals
 1. Create 42 interim housing pods for individuals and 8 family pods – Co-Chair Bennett described the accessibility, location, and locking, etc. features of the pods – the need to price out the use of these pods was discussed by both Co-Chairs
 2. Assess expansion of the facility through the acquisition of adjacent properties
 - * Estimates on ongoing operational costs to operate both phase 1 and phase 2 of the Hubs are underway – the need to be able to discuss exact measurements and pricing took place. Matt Rayburn pointed out that the communities of Bloomington and Lafayette were currently looking at similar homeless shelter plans. Rick Alvis described a visit to Lafayette to view their efforts. The challenge of “not in my neighborhood” concerns were addressed by Matt Rayburn as well as Medicaid waivers.
3. Permanent Supportive Housing Inventory Challenge – members discussed an overview of inventory shortfalls, Macro-Economic Challenges, and potential state incentives to spur more development – Co-Chair Bennett discussed the task forces intent to move quickly on these issues rather than in three to five year periods. Rep. Ledbetter mentioned the State of Indiana’s efforts in Diversity, Inclusion and Equity and the possibility of tapping that resource in this project.

4. Immediate Permanent Supportive Housing Options were discussed, including addressing current chronically homeless individuals on the street of downtown Indianapolis, the need for a master lease or purchase of an existing apartment building, and funding options. Rep. Moed asked if conversations were being held yet with state fiscal people to prepare them for potential dollar asks. Following a brief discussion, it was decided that the Governor's Office and other lawmakers would be briefed immediately on the situation. The need for enhanced Medicaid billing was also discussed by the members. Sen. Sandlin brought-up current COVID concerns and the situation of mental health issues of those who were temporarily housed over the past two years. Rick Alvis pointed out the importance of strong building materials to try and preserve the integrity of structures housing the homeless

5. A timeline for Year-End reporting by the Commission was discussed with an initial draft by October meeting which will include:
 1. Hub concept (Capital and Operating Cost)
 2. Immediate permanent housing options (Capital and Operating Costs)
 3. Consolidation of Homeless Outreach Services
 4. Permanent Supportive Housing support (Housing Recovery Fund)
 5. Incentives to increase permanent housing inventory

6. Open Discussion on plans to pull together year-end goals took place by the members, Co-Chair Bennett said that the plan is already being drafted and that the October meetings will be crucial in preparing information. Co-Chair McGowan stated that the August and September Minutes would be voted upon at the next meeting

7. Co-Chairman McGowan asked for other business, however, no other business was brought forward.

Meeting was adjourned at 11:18am.

Next Task Force Meeting Time and Location – October 26, 2022, at 10am at Indiana Government Center South, Conference Room 12, Cardinal Hall.