CALL TO ORDER – Mayor Larry Rich

City Councilors
- Beverly Cole
- Sheila Cox
- Bob Cotterell
- Alison Eggers
- Linda Fisher-Fowler
- Ashley Hicks
- Brian Prawitz
- Andrea Zielinski

DISCUSSION ITEM
1. Council Goal #6 – Explore Strategies to Address Issues Related to Unhoused Individuals Within the Community
   A. Local Agency Presentations
      6:05 p.m. – Roseburg VA Healthcare System (RVAHCS)
      6:25 p.m. – Dream Center
      6:45 p.m. – Peace at Home Advocacy Center
      7:05 p.m. – Roseburg Rescue Mission
      7:25 p.m. – Casa de Belen
   B. Informational Materials from Local Agencies
      1. Housing First Umpqua

ADJOURNMENT – 8:30 p.m.
Mission

Housing First Umpqua exists to reduce homelessness by increasing access to income, housing and services, resulting in a healthier community.

Housing First Umpqua works to accomplish our Mission by providing individual and systemic advocacy. This document focuses on the help HFU volunteers provide to individuals who are homeless, as well as those who are at risk of homelessness or inadequately housed.

HFU Individual Advocacy is focused on providing individuals help with accessing:

Income
  Employment and related services.
  Disability Benefits:
    Social Security Disability Insurance (SSDI) and/or
    Supplemental Security Income (SSI)
    VA Benefits

Affordable Housing
  Government Rent Subsidize
  Below Market Rate
  Market Rate Options
  All other shelter and long term housing choices

Homeless Services
  HUD Funded
  Other government agency provided or funded
  Non-profit non government funded charitable

Other Services:
  Health care
  Legal services
  Basic survival needs

HFU provides assessment and works to identify the needs in any of these areas, that are creating a barrier for the person to get off the streets. Our volunteers are trained in various program and advocacy requirements.
Housing First Umpqua Individual Advocacy Services

Assessment: Housing First Umpqua provides a comprehensive assessment of all factors that play a role in getting and keeping someone housed.

Income:
- Jobs--job skills, readiness,
- Disability Income; Determine potential qualifications for Social Security Disability & SSI, veterans benefits,

Housing:
- Availability
- Eligibility
- Barriers

Homeless Services:
- Current Availability
- Eligibility and
- Barriers

Any Other Services:
- Health care needs
- Mental health services
- Substance abuse resources

Assistance: Once we understand an individual's needs, we know best how to help them achieve the goal of permanent housing. Our assistance may be limited to:

- Information-Resource
- Working on reducing barriers to housing and services
- Referral to other program services and agencies
- Helping with Applications for housing and program services
- Helping them advocate for themselves, (or others they know)

Note: Everyone who comes to us for help can get the assessment and basic assistance. However not everyone can get our individual advocacy services. This can be due to the person's circumstances or the availability of a volunteer to adequately address their needs. HFU will always help an individual, or someone they know, do their own advocacy even if we do not have the resources to provide them an HFU advocate.

Advocacy: Due to the limits of our all volunteer program, our individual advocacy is currently limited to mostly helping people apply for disability benefits under the Social Security Administration.

Social Security Disability and SSI. HFU will provide individual case representation for people applying for Social Security Disability and/or Supplemental Security Income (SSI). Because we are limited by the number of advocates we have, HFU has established a priority of helping those most vulnerable who cannot be their own advocate and cannot find someone else to help them.

HFU uses the evidence based model SOAR to help people apply for these Social Security Administration programs. SSDI/SSI Outreach Access & Recovery (SOAR) was created by the
Substance Abuse & Mental Health Services Administration (SAMSHA), which is part of the US Department of Health & Human Services (DHHS).

https://www.samhsa.gov/homelessness-programs-resources/grant-programs-services/soar

How HFU Provides Help:
Office:
1614 SE Stephens #5, Roseburg, Oregon
   Walk In (no appointment needed): Fridays, 11 am to 4 pm
   Other Times by Appointment

Housing First Umpqua has a small office in the Senior Center building. We provide open drop in help one day a week, which is the free bus day. We also make appointments at the office at other times, including evenings & weekends.

Phone: (541) 236-5047
HFU provides phone access most days of the week via our online phone system. If folks don’t reach someone directly, a HFU volunteer will call back usually within a day.

Online:
There are a few ways to connect online to get Housing First Umpqua help:
Website:  www.housingfirstumpqua.org
Our website provides useful information for people who are homeless, as well as anyone interested in helping end homelessness in Douglas County. The website has an online portal to request our help.
Facebook:
To get the most updated information, check us out on Facebook. We share a lot of current information about what is working to end homelessness. We encourage comments and questions about local issues, as a way for our homeless and other neighbors to connect with Housing First Umpqua.

Page: @HousingFirstUmpqua
https://www.facebook.com/pg/HousingFirstUmpqua/about/?ref=page_internal

Page: @Homeless Not Helpless:
https://www.facebook.com/HomelessNotHelplessinOregon/

Online Appointment:
We can even do online appointments to meet with people when it is best for them. We use both ZOOM and Google Meet to do assessments, provide information and other assistance.

Outreach
Housing First Umpqua goes into the community where people are to help them. During the summer months, HFU volunteers will be in local public places, like parks, offering our assistance. For the specific locations and times, people can check us out on our Facebook pages: Housing First Umpqua and Homeless Not Helpless.
Gaps/Barriers:

- Lack of permanent income based affordable housing to get people housed.
- Lack of sufficient number of people helping individuals access income they may be eligible for like, Social Security Disability & SSI, as well as VA and other benefits.
- Lack of collaboration and coordination among housing, homeless and other services providers to make sure someone not just gets housed but stays housed long-term.
- Criminalizing or creating law breakers of people who have no home.

Note: These are only some of the most glaring problems.

What the City of Roseburg Can Do:
The city has an important role in eliminating barriers for homeless people to get housed. Although they have historically done little to actually improve the situation, we have the opportunity before us to change and start doing the right things. Here are some that can be started right now:

Assess what part of our local city budget is being used to address issues caused by so many people being homeless here. We need to honestly look at the money we are now using to fund law enforcement (police, as well as the cost of court), other emergency services.

Change local policy that treats homelessness as a law enforcement issue instead of the public health and social crisis that it is. No longer use "Prohibited camping" and other acts of living laws that create more barriers for homeless people to get off the streets. Look at the city budget to determine the amount of local tax dollars that are being used to police homelessness and/or the homeless. The enforcement of these laws and the constant moving people around is one of the biggest obstacles for people being able to access the services they need.

Create safe ground spaces in the city where people who are homeless can stay and provide sanitation facilities at these locations. This will facilitate keeping people off the riverbanks and in more manageable locations. It will also provide places for service providers to go to them, which can facilitate better delivery of services to the homeless.

Redirect resources to fund alternative intervention when problems arise among those who are homeless, instead of waiting for a crisis and the need for police to respond. Use homeless outreach/social workers who are culturally competent who can intervene.

Fund a local Public Advocate to help the homeless access the services and benefits they are eligible to receive. A PA can also help facilitate the badly needed collaboration among agencies to better coordinate services for folks who are homeless.

Reduce barriers to getting truly affordable housing that is based on a % of household income. This would include removing development fees and other obstacles for housing dedicated to ending homelessness, whether this is done as a larger project or ADU in a homeowner's backyard.

Establish an on-going city commission or committee that is tasked with helping to develop a comprehensive evidence based approach to addressing homelessness in Roseburg. Such a commission or committee should include members of the general public who are residents of this city, as well as folks who are homeless and their advocates. Priority should be given to implementing the recommendations that have already been made in the Roseburg Homeless Population Study conducted last year, including the Housing First model.