


- When We All have Homes -

Coos County 10-Year Homeless Plan

March 2009



Coos Bay Area Habitat for Humanity: New House with Volunteers - 2008

**Coos County Board of Commissioners
Coos County Courthouse
Coquille, OR 97423**

Coos County 10-Year Homeless Plan

Prepared for:

**The Citizens of Coos County, as represented by
The Coos County Board of Commissioners
And The Governance Committee of this Plan
Coos County Courthouse
Coquille, Oregon 97423**

**Oregon Coast Community Action
is the state-designated homeless agency for Coos County.**

Prepared by:



Oregon Coast Community Action
2110 Newmark Center
Coos Bay, Oregon 97420

Robert B. More: Director, Housing and Emergency Services Department (Project Coordinator)
Emily Summerfield, AmeriCorps VISTA Volunteer
Jason Yoshinaga, AmeriCorps VISTA Volunteer



P.O. Box 462
Coos Bay, Oregon 97420
Crystal Shoji, AICP – Facilitator and Planner

Funding and/ or in-kind assistance for this plan has been provided by the following: Oregon Coast Community Action (ORCCA); Bay Area Hospital, Community Development Grant; Grant number 90IC0091 from the Department of Health and Human Services' Compassion Capital Fund through South Coast Business Employment Corporation; Southwestern Oregon Community College; Shoji Planning, LLC.

Coos County Board of Commissioners
250 N. Baxter
Coquille, OR 97423



To the Citizens of Coos County:

The vision and strategies in this Coos County 10-year plan to end homelessness were developed beginning in January 2007. From the very start an effort was made to keep the process as open and inclusive as possible. Input from Coos County citizens was sought in public forums, in a questionnaire available at every library in the county, in three public focus groups on specific homeless issues, and at the ongoing Steering Committee meetings at which the strategies, goals and action steps were developed. Homeless people were also involved, participating in a survey of their situations and needs conducted in September of 2007, and participating in the focus groups. Local media have been supportive by informing the public as the Plan has developed, educating and offering opportunities for public participation.

Our 10-Year Plan is part of a national strategy to end homelessness by working on the most costly parts of the problem. We must work together to end the “revolving door” that cycles homeless people with mental illnesses through our hospitals, courts and jails. We must find the means to get homeless families off the streets and out of shelters and into housing where they can receive the services and supports they need to get stabilized. We must face the sad truth that we have hundreds of homeless youth in this county; and then we must work together to create the programs, services and facilities necessary to end their homelessness.

With the adoption of the Coos County 10-Year Plan to End Homelessness, *When We All Have Homes*, we will be ready to immediately begin the implementation of the plan, actively working to achieve our Year One priorities. Throughout the years to come as we achieve our goals, we will report to you the results and celebrate our successes.

Sincerely,

Nikki Whitty
Coos County Commissioner

Governance Committee

Chair

Nikki Whitty, Coos County Board of Commissioners

Co-Chair

Kevin Stufflebean, Coos County Board of Commissioners

Members

Betty Albertson, District Manager, Oregon Department of Human Services

Joseph Bain, City of Bandon

Bryan Baird, representing Coos County Juvenile Department

Roger Craddock, Coos Bay Chief of Police

Anne Flitcroft, Bay Area Hospital

Jeff McKeown, Mayor, City of Coos Bay

Ed Metcalf, Tribal Council Chair, The Coquille Indian Tribe

Terence O'Connor, Coquille City Manager

Bill Richardson, North Bend City Council

Steve Scibelli, North Bend Chief of Police

Mary Schoen-Clark, Chief Executive Officer, Oregon Coast Community

Action, and the Governor's Ending Homelessness Advisory Council

Carolyn Slyter, Tribal Council, The Confederated Tribes of Coos, Lower

Umpqua and Siuslaw Indians

Ginger Swan, Director, Coos County Mental Health

Arlene Roblan, Principal, Madison School, Coos Bay

Eura Washburn, Citizen

George Woodruff, Director of South Coast ESD

This document reflects the participation of numerous stakeholders and members of the public who participated in the planning process to develop a 10-year plan to end homelessness in Coos County. The plan is a living document that provides the "bones" for cooperative coordinated decision-making among agencies, organizations, and individuals that serve the homeless.

The 10-Year Homeless Plan Strategies Worksheets in Appendix A at the back of the document will be used to coordinate the implementation of the plan and to provide measurable outcomes to demonstrate success over time.

- When We All have Homes -

Coos County 10-Year Homeless Plan

Table of Contents

Chapter 1: Addressing Homelessness in Coos County

1.1	Introduction	1
1.2	One-Night Homeless Plan Count Summaries	2
1.3	Purpose and Vision	2
1.4	Causes of Homelessness in Coos County	3
1.5	Homeless and at risk of Becoming Homeless.....	3
1.6	Housing First Strategy.....	3
1.7	Stakeholders	4

Chapter 2: The Planning Process

2.1	The Planning Process	1
2.2	Organization Chart for 10-Year Homeless Plan	2
2.3	Steering Committee Meetings.....	2
2.4	Steering Committee Participants.....	3
2.5	Public Meetings Focus on Specific Needs	3
2.6	Public Meeting Participants.....	4
2.7	Survey.....	5
2.8	Web Site	5
2.9	Participant Input from Public Meetings	5

Chapter 3: Strategies for Implementation

3.1	Introduction to Strategies	1
3.2	Strategies Worksheets	1
3.3	Strategy #1: Data Information System.....	1
3.4	Strategy #2: Emergency Prevention Programs	2
3.5	Strategy #3: Mainstream Programs	3

3.6	Strategy #4: Supportive Service Programs.....	4
3.7	Strategy #5: Outreach.....	4
3.8	Strategy #6: Additional Crisis Beds.....	6
3.9	Strategy #7: Rapid Re-Housing.....	7
3.10	Strategy #8: Supply of Affordable Housing.....	8
3.11	Strategy #9: Homeless Teens	9
3.12	Strategy #10: Formerly Incarcerated or Institutionalized	11
3.13	Strategy #11: Homeless Mentally Ill	12
3.14	Strategy #12: Community Education	13
3.15	Strategy #13: Government Programs and Legislation	13
3.16	Strategy #14: Partnerships.....	14
3.17	Strategy #15: Ongoing Coordination, Planning and Oversight ...	15
3.18	Next Steps.....	16

Chapter 4: Annual Priorities

4.1	Developing Year-One Priorities.....	1
4.2	Year-One Priorities.....	1
4.3	Year-One Outcomes	3
4.4	Future Annual Priorities and Outcomes	3

Appendix A: Strategies Worksheets

Appendix B: Definitions and Acronyms

Appendix C: Background Data for Planning

Appendix D: Separate Document

- *Summaries of Meetings*
- *Survey Compilation*

Chapter 1: Addressing Homelessness

1.1 Introduction

Local efforts to provide solutions for homelessness began in Coos County in the 1970's, with the establishment of the first homeless shelter, Temporary Help in Emergencies House (T.H.E. House) in Coos Bay. The first "boom" of homelessness occurred in the mid- to late-1980's. Since that time a significant number of programs and services have been developed attempting to address the problem. Although some partnerships among them have occurred, for the most part there has been no planned coordinated effort.

Our current boom in local homelessness has coincided with the dramatic increase in property values during the early part of this decade, the consequent increase in rents, and the focus on the construction of up-scale housing to the exclusion of affordable housing for low-income people. The statistics of the annual One-Night Homeless Count bear this out for the South Coast; between the counts of 2005 and 2008 there was almost a 100% increase in the number of homeless individuals, a 39% increase in the number of homeless families and a 37% increase in the number of homeless children (see Section 1.2 One-Night Homeless Count Summaries). Part of this increase can be accounted for by better survey techniques, especially for counting unsheltered homeless. The overall increase is supported by a recent national report, *Homelessness Counts*, January 2009, Homeless Research Institute, that shows an increase in rural homelessness in Oregon of 36% between 2005 and 2007. At the same time, Oregon as a whole experienced only an 8% increase. Why this disparity?

Successful implementation of 10-year plans to end homelessness in Portland and other metro areas reduced their numbers of homeless people. Virtually all of Oregon's increase was in rural communities. Other aspects of Coos County homelessness appearing since 2000 include 1) the emergence of street begging, commonly known as panhandling; 2) the significant rise in the incidence of homeless mentally ill people cycling through housing, hospitals, courts, jails, and back on the streets; 3) the growing community realization that homelessness in our youth is on the rise and that we have no plan or adequate services to deal with the issue; and 4) situations where thousands of local low-income families are a paycheck away from becoming homeless, typically paying 50-70% of their income for rent.

1.2 One-Night Homeless Count Summaries

One-Night Homeless Count Summaries Coos and Curry Counties						
					2005 – 2008 Increases	
	2005	2006	2007	2008		
Individuals	170	127	244	315	145	85%
Families	38	28	41	53	15	39%
Numbers in families	[120]	[80]	[116]	[152]		
Children	65	33	74	89	24	37%
Source: Community Action						

1.3 Purpose and Vision

The purpose of creating and implementing this 10-Year Plan to end homelessness for Coos County is to create a roadmap that all service providers, local governments, and other stakeholders can follow together on the path to solving homeless problems and issues. Only by working together in a coordinated way can homelessness be overcome and the failed status quo of the last several decades ended. The strategies to ending homelessness that have emerged through this planning process have been developed by stakeholders and the general public coming together to accomplish collaborative planning. Implementation will require ongoing coordination among numerous participating organizations and community groups. The causes of homelessness are multidimensional, and solutions will involve social service agencies, educational and health care institutions, police departments, and civic organizations as well as individuals who volunteer their time and resources. The plan is a “living document,” and to ensure that it is actively used, measurable outcomes are necessary for all the strategies.

The vision for any community-based plan to end homelessness is rooted in the public’s acceptance that there is a serious problem to be solved, the public’s ownership in participating in the solutions, and accountability among all participants to record and report progress back to the public during the implementation of the plan. These same roots are part of our vision for *When We All Have Homes*. As the name implies, our vision is to encourage, nurture and grow community responses to homelessness such that homeless families will no longer have to live in cars or campgrounds, but will have homes of their own. Homeless youth will have a safe place to go to find comfort and encouragement, resources for their physical and mental needs, and most of all a pathway to having a home, whether reuniting with their families or living independently. And the mentally ill people who are homeless will have safe, decent, permanent housing and all the supportive services they need in order to remain stable in that housing. The vision for *When We All Have Homes*

sees the community responding to one of the most basic needs of all humans, and being determined to see that the need is met.

The vision to end homelessness is a compilation of the strategies that are presented within this document. Each topic to be addressed responds to a need that must be addressed for the broad-brush vision to be accomplished. Strategies will be accomplished collectively over time when individuals and organizations work together to take responsibility for the specific desired outcomes.

1.4 Causes of Homelessness in Coos County

The causes of homelessness are complex. Rarely does a household have just one issue causing them to become homeless. Multiple causes are the norm. Among them are, in no particular order: natural disasters, loss of employment, domestic violence, accidents and illness, permanent disability, high housing costs, substandard housing or housing unfit for human habitation, substance abuse and addictions, mental illness, and inadequate income. Virtually all homeless and at-risk households lack adequate money management skills.

In Coos County, the main cause is lack of affordable housing combined with factors such as low wages, unemployment, domestic violence, disabilities, mental health issues and substance abuse.

1.5 Homeless and at Risk of Becoming Homeless

In this document, the terms “homeless” or “at risk of becoming homeless” are treated equally. People with chronic problems like underemployment, disability, or substance abuse issues cycle between being homeless and at risk of being homeless. It’s a thin line that separates the two conditions for literally thousands of low-income households in Coos County. With most of them paying between 50%-70% of their income for rent, they are “one paycheck away” from becoming homeless.

1.6 Housing First Strategy

The Coos County 10-Year Plan endorses and adopts the national strategy of *Housing First*, and seeks to include this strategic approach in local strategies whenever feasible. The *Housing First* strategy can be summarized as follows: in finding placements for homeless individuals and families, they should be placed first in permanent housing settings with supportive services.

Placing homeless households in shelters should be a last resort option. Research has clearly demonstrated that for most households stabilization is achieved more rapidly when they are housed first (with accompanying services). Shelter stays are not as effective for stabilizing homeless households because they are still homeless at the

time they leave the shelter. Even if they are moving into permanent housing at that time, they will need to start all over again at becoming stabilized. *Housing First* moves them along the path to stability more rapidly.

1.7 Stakeholders

In a plan to end homelessness on the South Coast, we are all stakeholders. The problem of homelessness touches many lives, and the way that we respond to homelessness tells much about the culture and the values of our community. As expected in this plan, there are strategies that involve the numerous service agencies that helped prepare the plan. There is a strategy that deals with educating our community about homelessness so that the greater public understands how they can be involved in alleviating problems. Finally, there is a strategy about partnerships. This is because homelessness is a concern for all of the community, and problems can best be solved when there are many players from all walks of life working together on addressing various aspects of the same problem.

The causes of homelessness are multidimensional, and solutions will involve all of the social service agencies, educational and health care institutions, police departments, and civic organizations as well as individuals who volunteer their time and resources.

Chapter 2: The Planning Process

2.1 The Planning Process

The planning process was organized to include broad involvement from throughout Coos County. The Governance Committee that includes members from various communities who serve in leadership positions will review and adopt the plan. The job of the Governance Committee is to focus on those elements associated with adoption of a workable plan:

- Review the draft plan that had been organized through the involvement of general public and the Steering Committee.
- Invite further public input in order to adopt a final plan that represents the needs and wants of concerned citizens throughout the County.
- Assure that the plan addresses solutions that can be implemented to end homelessness in Coos County.
- Adopt the plan.
- Reconvene to carry out these same defined functions when revisions to the plan are proposed or delegate this responsibility to another group to oversee the plan.

The South Coast Homeless Council initially provided input as to how the process could be organized, and they will continue to be involved in coordinating the plan that is adopted.

The Steering Committee was organized to involve representatives of the numerous agencies and organizations that provide services to the homeless. An initial list of possible members was prepared for purposes of informing stakeholders about the planning process, but the Steering Committee was organized to include all who attended meetings to provide input concerning the plan. As a result, participants included some individuals who attended all steering committee meetings, and others who attended only one meeting to provide input on a specific topic. Some members of the governing committee also chose to be involved in one or more Steering Committee meetings. The role of the Steering Committee was as follows:

- Review information from the public committee meetings held to focus on three topics (described in the next paragraph).
- Provide input regarding areas of concern.
- Review alternatives and make recommendations for strategies to end homelessness.
- Synthesize information, and assure that the draft plan reflects the needs within the Coos County context.
- Make recommendations to the Governing Board.

Public meetings or committee meetings were held for focus groups on three topics that are of major concern in addressing homeless problems. Convening to address these three specific topics provided an opportunity to gather detailed information about specific concerns.

- Homeless Mentally Ill
- Homeless Teens
- Homeless Families

2.2 Organization Chart for 10-Year Homeless Plan



2.3 Steering Committee Meetings

There were five Steering Committee meetings. The summaries of the five Steering Committee meetings are included in Appendix D, which is a separate document. The dates and discussion topics of those meetings are as follows:

- **Introductory Meeting - September 17, 2009:** Participants discussed their involvement in the overall process and reviewed information prepared by other groups and organizations. They determined that they would like to approach their planning by assigning individuals and task force groups to gather and present information about a number of topics related to homelessness.
- **Second Steering Committee Meeting – October 22, 2008:** Individuals and task force work groups that were assigned to gather information shared the information about homeless youth, homeless mentally ill, and homeless

formerly incarcerated. The group also addressed specific topics that were organized from the input of the previous meeting and from the work groups.

- Third Steering Committee Meeting – November 24, 2008: Main topics of this meeting included transportation issues related to homelessness, participant response to *1st Draft Strategies for 10-Year Homeless Plan* based upon previous Steering Committee discussions, and participant response to various topics that were addressed by Lincoln County in their plan.
- Fourth Steering Committee Meeting – January 5, 2009: Topics of discussion included panhandling and homeless camping, review of specific items presented in draft strategies for 10-Year Homeless Plan, and determination of additional needed strategies.
- Final Steering Committee Meeting – January 27, 2009: This meeting was to review the draft plan and make recommendations concerning the plan.

2.4 Steering Committee Participants

Anne Abdy	Trish Jordon	Steve Sanden
Bryan Baird	Maggie Kirby	Steve Scibelli
Bruce Bennett	Dick Leshley	Leanda Sky
Ellen Bourne	Jeffrey McKeown	Carolyn Slyter
Jill Branscom	Judy McMakin	Melissa Sperry
Gary Brink	Cal Mitts	Max Stafford
Alice Carlson	Judy Moody	Richard Standiford
Kay Claybourn	Robert B. More	Emily Summerfield
Roger Craddock	Mary Nicholls	Nikki Whitty
Stacey Evoniuk	Katherine Parker	Roy Wright
Chris Flammang	Patty Sanden	Jason Yoshinaga
Stephanie Jakovac		

2.5 Public Meetings Focus on Specific Needs

Public meetings to focus on three topics related to homelessness were the first step in identifying the problems facing Coos County. The meetings were well publicized through the media. The three meetings identified problems that set the tone for further planning by the steering committee. Public input meetings on specific topics are summarized as follows:

- Homeless Families, July 31, 2008: While the kick-off meeting for the 10-Year Plan was held on February 7th, 2007 to help scope the process, this was the first of the three topic meetings where the public provided information to be incorporated into the plan. There was discussion about the current

situation in Coos County, including the root causes of homelessness, and what can be done to improve the situation for homeless families.

- Homeless Teens, August 19, 2008: Homeless teens were identified as “often invisible” to the general public, but not recognizing that there is a problem in the community can have long-term negative effects. At this meeting there was discussion about the current situation in Coos County relating specifically to the causes and solutions to teen homelessness. The highest priority identified by participants was the need for a teen shelter with an array of associated services.
- Homeless Mentally Ill, August 21, 2008: This is an emotional subject for those who have worked to cope with mental illness in their own families. Society must help the mentally ill because ignoring their issues can result in a host of criminal activities or disruptions within the community. There are, however, many examples where mentally ill people do live successfully in Coos County and elsewhere. Participants identified where assistance needs to be expanded, enhanced, duplicated, or adjusted to fit the needs.

2.6 Public Meeting Participants*

Barb Anderson	Cecil E. Johnson	Steve Pickering
Bryan Baird	Ellen Kendall	Denny Powell
Ellen Bourne	Maggie Kirby	Alexander Rich
Jill Branscom	Roger Langlie	Anna-Marie Slate
Gary Brink	Jan Long	Patty Sanden
Alice Carlson	Janine Mauchley	Steve Scibelli
Frank Carpenter	Jeff McKeown	Carolyn Slyter
Leona Casey	Judy McMakin	Leanda Sky
Chris Flammang	Cal Mitts	Emily Summerfield
Karen Gallagher	Judy Moody	Sue Walberg
David Geels	Robert B. More	Frosty West
Jaye G. Hill	Kristina Nelson	Nikki Whitty
Stephanie Jakovac	Mary Nicholls	Roy Wright

*Individuals on this participant list attended one or more of the three public focus group meetings that were held, and/or meetings of the Governance Committee for draft plan review. Names may have been left off this list due to not being on the sign-in sheet or human error in preparation of this document. Those who prepared the plan regret any errors or omissions.

2.7 Survey

An open-ended survey was provided to encourage the public to share their perceptions about homelessness and to suggest solutions. The survey was placed in all of the Coos County libraries to allow all citizens of Coos County to provide input. Fourteen completed surveys were returned and compiled. The compiled survey results are included in Appendix D.

2.8 Web Site

The draft plan and supporting information was placed on Community Action's web site prior to adoption by the Governance Committee to encourage further input. The plan will be maintained on the web site in the future so that all members of the community can access the plan and participate in carrying out the strategies. The web site can be accessed as follows: www.orcca.us/getinvolved.html

2.9 Participant Input from Public Meetings

Here are some of the perceptions about the causes of homelessness and the trends in Coos County that were shared by participants at meetings to develop this plan:

Lack of Affordable Housing

- There is lack of housing supply for low-income people.

Economic Reasons

- Lack of living wage jobs – low wages.
- There have been major cutbacks in commercial fishing, the forest industry, and in other basic sectors.
- The cost of utilities, food and gas contribute to a high cost of living,
- Lack of health care and health care insurance; too many medical garnishments.

Other Causes

- Lack of transportation that keeps people from getting to jobs and services.
- Court ordered child support is not always forthcoming.
- Mental illness.
- Substance abuse and addictions to alcohol and drugs, including prescription drugs.
- Lack of money management skills.
- Lack of income.
- Poor credit.
- Incarceration.
- Domestic Violence.

Participant Input from Public Meetings – Continued

Perceptions of Coos County that may contribute to Homelessness

- The cost of living is lower.
- The weather is mild.
- There is less crime.
- There is more opportunity.

Coos County Trends

- Coos County has high cost housing and high rents.
- Poverty is multigenerational, and there is increasing homelessness.
- While a number of assistance programs exist, there is a need for coordination of services to enhance access to the programs.
- Domestic violence is a major problem, and it contributes to families being homeless.
- Lack of medical care is increasingly a contributing factor for homelessness. Lack of dental care is also a problem for those who are homeless.
- State budget cuts are affecting services for the homeless.
- Access to childcare is a growing problem.
- There are many homeless families, and the number of crisis beds is limited.
- Evictions have increased.
- There are unprecedented numbers of people in housing crisis.
- Services for the problems of the mentally ill are scarce. The Nancy Devereaux Center has provided a family resource center with outreach to the mentally ill and a separate facility for housing the mentally ill. The center is temporarily closed due to lack of funding.
- Coos County lacks services and support systems for homeless teens.
- Veterans who come home from Iraq and Afghanistan may have unique problems such as brain injuries and post-traumatic stress disorder surfacing over a period of years. Current use of Reserves and the National Guard will have a multi-generational impact because now people above and below 50 years of age have been involved in the overseas war and peacekeeping efforts.
- Transportation is a major problem in Coos County where services are spread out, but public transportation is limited as to hours of operation and trip options.
- Lack of transportation is a barrier to other services and opportunities because housing, employment and services are all dependent upon transportation.
- Grant dollars provide opportunities, but ongoing operating dollars are needed to carry on grant- initiated projects.

- Communities within Coos County have different characteristics, and different responses to homelessness are needed in different locations. For example, the Bay Area has more visible homelessness on the streets, while rural areas are likely to have the mentally ill living in the woods. Bandon has a service economy with high housing prices. For the homeless living in Powers, transportation to services is a major problem.
- Local agencies report difficulty in coordinating resources that are available, particularly in knowing when crisis beds are open.



Chapter 3: Strategies for Implementation

3.1 Introduction to Strategies

This chapter provides strategies to be implemented for the future. The strategies are guidelines to be addressed throughout the 10-year planning period to eradicate homelessness. Some of the strategies can be implemented immediately, but most of the strategies are more complicated. Some will need further definition and study. Others can only be accomplished with collaborative approaches that will involve various partners working together.

3.2 Strategies Worksheets

Appendix A of this document includes *10-Year Homeless Plan Strategies Worksheets*. The worksheets provide the strategies that are within this chapter with action steps and/or other information that further defines the strategies or provides considerations for implementation. The worksheets will be used to facilitate further discussion and planning as proposed in Strategy #15 at the end of this chapter, *Ongoing Coordination and Planning*.

3.3 Strategy #1: Data Information System

- A. Assign responsibility and allocate resources to develop and maintain a web-based data information system (Homeless Management Information System or HMIS) to improve service to those at risk of becoming homeless and those who are experiencing homelessness.
- B. Develop the HMIS with the objectives of tracking and managing the needs of the homeless population, understanding the causes, serving as a clearinghouse, facilitating placements, understanding how long people remain homeless, allocating resources, providing for individual needs, and providing 24-hour service information.
- C. Understand how law enforcement on the beat can best utilize information to assist the homeless.
- D. Segment the system to organize information for various user groups.
- E. Provide a coordinated entry system that assists homeless individuals with access to available services and housing.
- F. Assure that data is up to date by including information from the January Homeless Count.

Discussion Regarding Data Information System

Many local agencies that provide homeless services participate in OPUS, a web-based computer application that supports the programs of the Community Resources Division of Oregon Housing and Community Services (OHCS). OPUS applications support Federal and state-funded homeless and energy-related programs and local service programs.

Accurate data can help service providers track the homeless to provide better services and to understand whether individuals are successfully exiting homelessness. The annual one-night homeless count gathers data on both sheltered and unsheltered homeless people. Agencies that receive HUD Continuum of Care funding are required to participate within the system. Not all local agencies are part of the Continuum of Care, so some important data is not included at this time. The local Homeless Management Information System should be organized so that information from the existing OPUS system can be fully integrated.

Community Action Connect is currently providing links to service providers; the expansion of links among providers will be a helpful component of HMIS, and also outreach to the homeless. It is envisioned that a nonprofit agency could organize the system to include a resource page. For example, the Shama House is involving clients in maintaining their web-based program, and this sort of involvement could be expanded. Much of the information will be provided through links, so it will be important to involve all partners and stakeholders.

The HMIS is envisioned as a long-term goal that can grow over time to include both Coos and Curry Counties.

3.4 Strategy #2: Emergency Prevention Programs

- A. Enhance emergency prevention programs to be more proactive and inclusive.
- B. Provide education and support for landlords who have renters that are at risk of becoming homeless.
- C. Utilize the Homeless Management Information System (HMIS) and other communications that can assist law enforcement with those who are homeless or at risk of becoming homeless.
- D. Provide transportation to support clients' access to services and programs that can alleviate homelessness.
- E. Enhance hotline assistance to the homeless.

- F. Organize on-line resources to assist in serving clients as outlined in Strategy #1: Data Information Systems, and Strategy #5: Outreach.

Discussion Regarding Emergency Prevention Programs

Rental, mortgage and utility assistance are the primary tools that help move the working poor from homelessness to permanent housing. The HMIS can help coordinate services for the homeless who enter the system so that they can quickly access available housing and services.

Subsidized housing is not decreasing, but some landlords are no longer accepting Section 8 vouchers due to bad experiences, government red tape, and reluctance to commit to long-term leases. Education of landlords provides support for landlords, and is the beginning of two-way communication that is necessary in order to maximize opportunities for housing those who are at-risk.

Community Action can frequently assist with deposits for Section 8 housing. A landlord can charge up to two-months rent up front - up to \$1,000. Deposits that are required grow commensurate with the individual risk disclosed by the tenant's application and background check. When people are high risk due to poor rental history, Community Action tries to find a willing landlord, and to educate the clients on a number of topics to help them succeed as a renter.

Case management, access to interveners, and transportation assistance can help prevent evictions or incarceration by providing the necessary information and support systems to help the homeless access programs and meet their obligations.

3.5 Strategy #3: Mainstream Programs

- A. Streamline access to mainstream programs in a timely manner.
- B. Develop advocacy to simplify access to programs.

Discussion Regarding Mainstream Programs

While many programs exist, accessing the programs can be a daunting task for those in need. The process can be lengthy and confusing. This strategy addresses the need for presenting a streamlined system that enhances access to the programs that are available. Streamlining the system will involve coordination of services, education of providers, and outreach to those who can benefit from the programs. These connections will be addressed within a number of the strategies that are included in this plan.

3.6 Strategy #4: Supportive Service Programs

- A. Support transitional housing.
- B. Provide countywide information to assist school workers in understanding the resources that are available that can assist with the McKinney-Vento Act, (Homeless Education for Children and Youth, Title 1, No Child Left Behind Act).
- C. Establish new programs for advocacy and assistance.
- D. Identify problem areas that are specific to Hispanic immigrants who are new to our community and determine where supportive service programs are necessary.

Discussion Regarding Supportive Service Programs

As with some other strategies, the benefits and resources that are available to the homeless are not always accessible when needed. Supportive services are essential. Transitional housing is a basic need. Support for school programs that serve the homeless will help those programs to be successful. While discussing the strategies for this plan, stakeholders pointed out the need for additional services that are could be categorized as advocacy.

For example, a basic problem is encountered when the homeless do not have the necessary ID to access the benefits that are available to them. Support in accessing proof of identity is necessary. Advocacy and assistance in establishing the necessary identity and the associated services can have a positive influence. Advocacy for social security benefits is a critical need, with most applicants being denied upon their first application. Advocacy by trained staff is needed to assist disabled people throughout the application process, ensuring that applicants are not denied for simple mistakes in filling out forms or for not providing required documentation.

Another side of advocacy is to provide support for groups and individuals who are carrying out programs that serve the homeless. This can be addressed through partnership activities within the community. See Strategy #14, Partnerships.

3.7 Strategy #5: Outreach

- A. Strengthen and expand outreach to those who are homeless and those at risk of becoming homeless by involving and educating the community, and by providing tools and connections.
- B. Expand the region's ability to effectively carry out the January One Night Homeless count (by federal requirement the last week in January).

- C. Provide outreach on the streets by developing and dispersing information that can assist the homeless in accessing services.
- D. Provide training opportunities for local law enforcement so that they can provide useful information and connections in outreach to the homeless.
- E. Provide a web-based resource system for the homeless to understand and access services.
- F. Expand resources and training so more schools can be involved in outreach.
- G. Organize for handing out coupon vouchers that can be exchanged only for food or specific goods at participating businesses.

Discussion Regarding Outreach

This outreach strategy differs from other strategies in this document in that it has a different focus than providing basic services or support services. This strategy is about organizing to tell the story about those services to the homeless and those at risk of becoming homeless. This strategy is to provide training and information to workers and volunteers where there are encounters with the homeless – on the streets, in the public libraries and in the schools.

Although this strategy is related to educating the community about homelessness, it is more focused on immediate action. The expectation of the outreach strategy is that members of the community who encounter the homeless will in turn provide a helping hand by educating the homeless about the services available. At the same time, when outreach takes place at facilities such as food pantries, the opportunity is there to provide food and blankets as well as resource information.

Panhandling, a common street activity needs to be addressed to minimize the activity while addressing the issues of the hungry and homeless. Panhandlers do include the mentally ill and those involved in drugs and alcohol, but there are also people who simply like to make money through panhandling. Successful panhandling activity survives because members of the public have an impulse to help other human beings when they are in distress. The activity presents problems for business in the vicinity, and the nature of the activity assures that panhandlers operate outside the organized system of service providers. Panhandling is protected as “freedom of speech” but our community’s strategies attempt to address problems related to homelessness without buying into panhandling as a solution to the problem.

Property owners have the right to get panhandlers off their property. Strategies that educate the public, and provide to assist the homeless on the street in ways other than responding to panhandling can help minimize the activity and maximize public

involvement in responding to homelessness and those strategies are addressed within this plan.

3.8 Strategy #6: Additional Crisis Beds

- A. Expand the number of crisis beds that are accessible both day and night for targeted populations.
- B. Expand resources supporting short-term transitional motel stays.
- C. Explore expanding opportunities for families at the Mission.
- D. Support expansion of the family shelter at the Women's Safety and Resource Center (WSRC).
- E. Establish detoxification (detox) beds and/or a non-medical detox center.
- F. Seek information about establishing a "wet shelter" involving, but not limited to the following:

Discussion Regarding Additional Crisis Beds

There is a shortage of crisis beds in Coos County for individuals in special populations, and for families. Families in crisis need the same services as individuals, but because of components involving different ages and sexes, there are additional concerns. A family shelter for emergencies is needed because existing facilities are not family-oriented.

Data is measured annually at the time of the One-Night Homeless Count, and is filed with HUD annually in a document called the Housing Inventory Chart (HIC). The local chart for 2008 includes the following unmet need for beds in all categories (only some of these beds are crisis beds):

- Shelters: 16 Family Beds, 7 Family units, 10 individual beds = 26 beds needed.
- Transitional Housing: 11 Family Beds, 3 Family units, 36 individual beds = 47 beds needed.
- Permanent Supportive Housing: 40 Family Beds, 18 Family units, 50 individual beds = 90 beds needed

From the HIC above, we estimate that the crisis beds that are needed from shelters include the 16 family beds and the 10 individual beds targeted for domestic violence victims. Additionally, the permanent supportive housing beds include 10 family beds and 10 individual beds that would qualify as needed crisis beds.

The development of detox beds and/or a non-medical detox center has many specific aspects that are not generally understood with a number of players, and specifics as to who can be involved and at what point. Coos County Corrections, the hospital, and mental health all get involved, yet there is often no clear pathway to resolving problems for the long term. More information and discussion is needed concerning this topic to determine whether the need for detox facilities is a problem related to homelessness.

Coos County does not currently have a wet shelter. Wet shelters are expensive to operate due to the high levels of staffing that are needed and other aspects. It is possible that a wet shelter could be connected with a detox center in the future. At any given time, a wet shelter could likely serve more than a dozen people. A need exists, but there has been no determination of specific options to address the need, or whether the benefits would outweigh the costs.

3.9 Strategy #7: Rapid Re-Housing

- A. Expand resources for Rapid Re-Housing so that people who come into shelters or are on the streets or living in vehicles can be rapidly moved to permanent housing. Resources need to include the ability to work with such households for up to 90 days to get them stabilized in their new household setting.
- B. Identify landlords who are willing partners by working with the Rental Owners Association of Southwestern Oregon.

Discussion Regarding Rapid Re-Housing

Community Action is awaiting word on a federal grant application for Rapid Re-Housing; this could provide \$100,000 in new renewable funding for family housing in Coos County. “Housing First” is a goal of this plan because it places the focus on getting the homeless into their own housing, rather than in shelter, temporary or transitional facilities. This focus is based upon the theory that homeless people are better able to respond to interventions and social services when they are in their own homes. With permanent housing, families are more likely to gain control over their lives and proceed to build their lives with confidence. Rapid Re-Housing is the new preferred alternative to systems that can prolong the length of time that families remain homeless, in shelters, or in other temporary situations.

3.10 Strategy #8: Supply of Affordable Housing

- A. Create an adequate supply of affordable housing based upon a phased plan that addresses the need over time.
- B. Develop Oxford House recovery housing following national Oxford House guidelines.
- C. Explore the potential to develop an Oxford House type model for homeless youth with common areas and individual rooms and a housemother/father.
- D. Develop an apartment complex like People's Place, with 4-plexes for homeless mentally ill, scattered-site leasing like the Coos Oregon Leasing & Services (COOLS) project.
- E. Improve substandard housing.

Discussion Regarding Supply of Housing

Apparently there is some controversy regarding the supply of affordable housing in Coos County. Social service workers and “helping agencies” routinely report large numbers of households who are having housing crises due to lack of affordable housing choices. On the other hand, the Housing Authority reports that there are enough units available charging rents within their Fair Market Rent schedule to absorb all the Section 8 Vouchers they have to offer. Records from Community Action's Housing Assessment program show about 1000 households per year reporting housing crises. A substantial majority of these households pay between 50-70% of their income for rent. This data appears to confirm the shortage of affordable housing. At the same time it could be argued that the issue is not a shortage of housing units, but inadequate income from wages or disability benefits. This is a moot point, with progress in finding “living-wage jobs” for the area being a chronic problem, and virtually no ability at the local level to increase disability payments. Clearly, both housing and income must be addressed. While housing development is within the scope of this plan, job creation is not; there are a number of other community organizations and partnerships responsible for that issue.

A primary resource for the development of an adequate supply of affordable housing is through the state housing agency, Oregon Housing & Community Services [OHCS]. OHCS offers a number of grants and loans on an annual competitive basis. An expansion of state resources is currently being considered by the legislature, HB2436, also known as the Housing Opportunity Bill. If passed, this bill is expected to generate as much as \$100,000,000 to support the affordable housing needs of the state.

In addition, the Federal government is currently considering a Federal Housing Trust Fund, and the President has indicated that he will include support for this in his 2010 budget.

At the local level, governmental bodies can support the development of affordable housing by donating surplus land, by waiving or reducing systems development fees for affordable housing projects, and by updating local codes and ordinances.

In Coos County, both tribal governments have established affordable housing programs. The Coquille Tribe and the Coos, Lower Umpqua and Siuslaw Tribes both have developed units of their own housing and have rental assistance vouchers for use by tribal members.

3.11 Strategy #9: Homeless Teens

- A. Develop drop-in centers with emergency beds that will serve teens that are homeless or at risk of becoming homeless.
- B. Provide programs for youth who are homeless or at risk of becoming homeless.
- C. Involve youth in organizing for teen connections to services.
- D. Involve partners to improve homeless teen connections to services.
- E. Identify housing for individuals who are being discharged into society from foster care and those who are leaving the foster care system after their 18th birthdays.
- F. Support the development of the Oxford House model addressed in Strategy #8 for permanent housing for older youth.
- G. Seek available grant funding from the State Commission on Children and Families to carry out identified strategies to end youth homelessness.

Discussion Regarding Homeless Teens

There are many reasons for youth homelessness; like all homelessness, the cause is often a combination of factors. While it is often convenient to categorize homeless teens as rebellious youth, family situation that are less than ideal are also prevalent. While many homeless youth have drug or alcohol addictions, drug and alcohol problems can also exist within nuclear family situations. Homeless youth may have been abused, neglected or abandoned by their own families. Absent parents, parents with multiple jobs or with mental illness, and family breakup due to the divorce of parents or death are all causative factors.

There are a number of situations that exist that contribute to the existence of homeless teens. It is not unusual for parents to operate in a survival mode where they are not necessarily cognizant of all of the behaviors of their offspring. On the other hand, some parents may receive financial benefits for youth, whether or not the youth actually remain in the home; in such cases, getting the child to stay home may not be a high priority.

Many homeless youth in Coos County appear to be “couch surfers” who live apart from their own families, moving from place to place. Youth who run away from home experience the exhilaration of their first freedoms because they do not have sanctions, and they do not have to answer to an authority figure. For teenage girls, the freedom from authority and the enticement of a relationship that provides a home and food can lead to increased sexual activity and further risks and complications. Some assistance for homeless teens is available in Coos County, but a more coordinated, planned effort is needed.

Here are some relevant comments from the public meetings where teen homelessness was discussed:

- Teens Unlimited is a group that does outreach in Coquille and the Bay Area. Formerly homeless teens participate in public presentations. Solutions to their concerns need to be considered and implemented.
- A private home for girls currently exists in the Bay Area. At Mary’s House on the Cape Arago Highway, young adult women support each other.
- Some youth are working on their own, getting educated, and surviving, but they can “fall through the cracks.” Support systems need to be in place.
- Youth employment is an important component: Alternative Youth Association (AYA) was successful in employing youth with the Copy Center in the past. A program in Portland called “New Avenues for Youth” employs young people. Aspects of New Avenues for Youth could serve as a model for Coos County. One individual in Coquille has worked with Teens Unlimited to involve youth in working on computers. This program and others could be expanded.
- Schools in Coos County provide summer meals for teens.
- The Church of the Nazarene has a new gymnasium/activity center that they would like to share with the community.
- Bandon has a youth center, but it is not geared towards homeless youth.
- Homeless teens are often invisible to the public, and there are perceptions that many are involved in illegal drugs.
- Private businesses and civic groups have provided recreational teen gathering places and activities from time to time throughout Coos County.

The long-term goal is for drop-in teen centers that provide shelter, services, and access to services that currently exist. Homeless youth need temporary safe places to stay. By recognizing the many components that could be involved in a teen center or

centers in Coos County, this plan lays the foundation for developing such a center. The strategies provide an array of needed services to be incorporated in the drop-in teen center(s). All of the functions and services included in this strategy can be developed over time with or without the drop-in teen center that is envisioned. The strategy recognizes a number of needs to be addressed over time, and opportunities for providing the described services can be addressed in a number of settings, provided there continues to be a focus to serve homeless teens.

3.12 Strategy #10: Formerly Incarcerated or Institutionalized

- A. Identify housing for individuals who are being discharged into society from corrections facilities and hospitals.
- B. Support and expand current resources, and identify additional crisis beds and supportive permanent housing throughout Coos County for individuals who are being released from prison.
- C. Provide ongoing case management to assist with employment, housing, management of medications, transportation, utilities, credit counseling, arrangements for payments of fines, drug testing and reinstating social security benefits.
- D. Support the Oxford House that is being developed in the Bay Area.

Discussion Regarding Formerly Incarcerated or Institutionalized

Those who are discharged following incarceration face many barriers to future success. They need additional support and follow-up to be successful. Carrying out the goals and objectives outlined in this strategy will help build a discharge program that does not result in homelessness. As with other strategies addressed in this plan, case management is key. Driver's license suspensions, for example, are common among those who have been incarcerated, and the lack of driving privileges can cause problems related to employment and utilization of services. Addressing transportation and other issues will alleviate homelessness of the formerly incarcerated.

3.13 Strategy #11: Homeless Mentally Ill

- A. Provide more permanent supportive housing.
- B. Provide outreach to the mentally ill so that they can utilize systems that are in place for housing, transportation, proof of ID, education and case management.
- C. Pursue funding to provide more non-treatment services to the mentally ill.

Discussion Regarding Homeless Mentally Ill

The mentally ill and their families struggle with problems that are often not openly discussed within our society, and not easily categorized. Consequently, there is a lack of understanding and a lack of support from the community. Those struggling with mental illness benefit from support, encouragement and understanding, and assistance that can be provided on “their terms.” For these reasons, the basis of programming to assist the homeless mentally ill involves case management, outreach, personal connections and non-treatment services.

Permanent affordable rental housing with the support services necessary for those with severe mental illness, substance abuse, or HIV/AIDS is essential. Permanent supportive housing includes most types of independent living situations such as single room occupancies (SROs), subsidized Section 8 apartments, other subsidized rentals and shared living arrangements. Permanent supportive housing can be for a few months or for several years or for a lifetime.

Once housed, the homeless mentally ill individuals may be provided support services in their homes and at other locations throughout the community. Case management and supportive housing is crucial because mental illness can exacerbate societal problems including, but not limited to substance abuse, illegal camping, interactions with business that result in business complaints, criminal trespass or individuals starting fires or acting out in response to voices or other stimuli. Another side of the problem is that the mentally ill can be exploited. For example, the receipt of a social security check could result in an offer of “help” that ends up creating a situation of financial and even emotional abuse.

The Nancy Devereaux Center has provided non-treatment services and interactions in the past, but the center is now closed due to lack of funding. It is important for non-treatment services to be reinstated. Coos County Mental Health has a number of responsibilities for mental health, but it is important to recognize that the agency’s mission is not to be proactive around housing and income issues.

3.14 Strategy #12: Community Education

- A. Organize a Speakers Bureau related to homelessness for Coos County.
- B. Provide education to the community regarding causes and solutions for homelessness.
- C. Educate children for understanding and tolerance.
- D. Organize focus groups in the community to address homelessness.
- E. Publicize nationwide vigils for homelessness in the local media.

Discussion Regarding Community Education

Ongoing community education about homelessness is important because all sectors of the community must partner to eradicate homelessness. Promoting understanding of homelessness and how it occurs is extremely important if there is to be lasting impact. Understanding and tolerance reduce antagonism and take away the fear factor.

Education about homelessness, the causes and trends, and ways that the community can participate to end homelessness should include involvement with individuals and groups of all ages and walks of life throughout the community. All service providers and stakeholders will need to incorporate educational aspects. With many players taking on specific assignments, there will be enhanced opportunities for community at large to identify with the problem and participate in ending homelessness.

3.15 Strategy #13: Government Programs and Legislation

- A. Support programs and funding that will decrease the incidence of homelessness.
- B. Expand public transportation services.
- C. Support local comprehensive plan, zoning, and public works ordinance amendments that will encourage increased affordable housing.
- D. Advocate with congressional representatives and with HUD to revise the Fair Market Rent (FMR's) standards for Coos, Curry, and other coastal communities.
- E. Advocate with congressional representatives, with HUD, and with local Public Housing Authorities to restore the government payment of deposits in the Section 8 Voucher program.

3.16 Strategy #14: Partnerships

- A. Work with Tribal governments in developing solutions.
- B. Work with veteran's organizations in problem solving for providing veteran services.
- C. Work with businesses and professionals in the private sector to increase opportunities for the homeless.
- D. Work with Waterfall Clinic to better coordinate resources for prescription drugs and medical assistance.
- E. Determine projects that faith-based organizations and civic clubs can oversee and/or fund, and provide information concerning those potential projects.
- F. Work with Southwestern Oregon Community College and/or other institutions to develop Geographic Information Systems (GIS) for transportation services, for affordable housing and subsidized housing concentrations, and other overlays for access to service providers and community amenities.
- G. Partner with community organizations to provide education about homelessness, and advocacy to involve the community in meeting the needs.
- H. Support and where appropriate, partner to expand community programs that serve the homeless.
- I. Develop community advocates to help the developmentally disabled, mentally ill and elderly navigate the system.

Discussion Regarding Partnerships

Partnerships can be promoted to provide increased opportunities through a merging of visions and resources. These partnerships can involve local, tribal, state and federal government agencies, established service providers, faith-based organizations, businesses, community and civic organizations, educational institutions and others. Partnerships may be forged for the purpose of task oriented problem solving, program development, to meet an expressed need, or for educational purposes.

This plan is a partnership plan because it proposes to end homelessness by coordinating and connecting the efforts of many to accomplish what no single organization can do alone. The success of the plan will be dependent upon ongoing communication and coordination of these providers. For example, the HMIS

proposed in Strategy #1 will be successful because of partnerships among service providers and agencies.

While it may be redundant to have this strategy specifically devoted to partnerships, it is important to note that successful partnerships must involve organizations and programs throughout the community, whether or not they have been specifically described within this plan. The partnerships within this section represent a sampling of the many opportunities that can be pursued and enhanced through partnerships. Schools, nonprofits, faith-based organizations and businesses need information and support so that they can continue to be effective in programs that assist those at risk of becoming homeless and those who are homeless. Projects carried out by civic organizations, faith-based organizations and other volunteers need to be recognized and integrated so that the benefits are maximized.

3.17 Strategy #15: Ongoing Coordination, Planning and Oversight

Coordinate ongoing services and continue to coordinate and plan for the future.

Discussion Regarding Ongoing Coordination and Planning

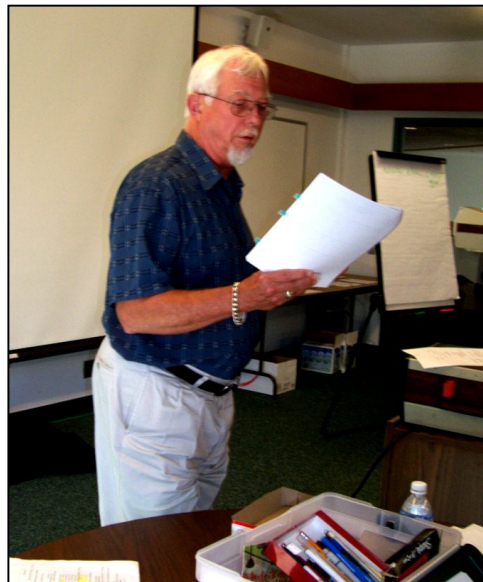
This strategy is focused on implementing the strategies of the 10-Year Homeless Plan and maintaining the effort necessary to achieve success. Following the adoption of the Plan, implementation priorities must be set for the first year by the Governance Committee, and evaluation of progress based upon measurable outcomes must occur at the end of the year. In succeeding years, similar priorities will be set and progress measured and reported annually. Oversight will be by the Governance Committee or its delegated appointees, who will meet at least annually to hear the progress reports. The priority strategies will be carried out by the organizations and stakeholders most involved in the issues, and coordination will take place through the regular meetings of the South Coast Homeless Council. By continuing this model, momentum will be maintained, outcomes will be reported, and progress towards ending homelessness will be demonstrated.

Assigning responsibilities for update and maintenance of the plan on an annual basis will assure that the plan is a “living document.” Having measurable outcomes related to the strategies ensures that progress can be quantified and measured. Ongoing discussion of activities and concerns related to the plan on a regular basis will provide support for amending the plan where strategies have been accomplished or where they are no longer relevant for other reasons. The forum provided by the South Coast Homeless Council will offer opportunities for ongoing coordination and problem solving and recognition where strategies have been carried out.

3.18 Next Steps

Utilizing the expectations set forth in Strategy #15 and the accompanying worksheet, the South Coast Homeless Council will take responsibility for organizing and convening stakeholders to oversee implementation and maintenance of the plan. Individual stakeholders will accept and/or designate responsibilities for specific strategies and action steps on an annual basis so that outcomes can be quantified when work has been completed.

Amendments to the plan will be approved by the Governance Committee or its delegated Oversight Committee, and will be considered at the time of the annual reports. The plan will be amended where strategies have been accomplished, or where they are no longer relevant for other reasons. When new concerns and problems are identified these will be added to the plan so that planning is an ongoing regenerative process. This will provide ongoing opportunities for problem solving and coordination, and celebrating all successes that help to alleviate homelessness.



Chapter 4: Annual Priorities

4.1 Developing Year-One Priorities

At the final meeting of the Steering Committee, stakeholders recommended priorities for year-one implementation of the Coos County 10-Year Homeless Plan. The intention was to provide the recommended priorities to the Governance Committee for their review and approval of the direction that the year-one implementation would take. Other stakeholders provided further input following the meeting.

Stakeholders who participated in the Year-One Priorities discussion included the following:

Brian Baird	Coos County Juvenile Dept.
Jill Branscom	ORCCA Housing Coordinator
Alice Carlson	Alternative Youth Activities Director
Frank Carpenter	Oregon Employment Dept.
Terry Edwards	E.L. Edwards Realty II
Diana Hull	D-13 Homeless Liaison
Trish Jordan	Coos County Mental Health
Tom Mills	Oregon Employment Dept.
Judy Moody	Women's Safety & Resource Center
Robert More	ORCCA Director, Housing & Emergency Services
Patty Sanden	D-9 Homeless Liaison
Steve Sanden	Bay Area First Step Director
Jason Yoshinaga	ORCCA Homeless VISTA

4.2 Year-One Priorities

The recommendations for year-one fell into two broad categories that could be categorized as “low-hanging fruit,” and “building foundations for longer-term results.” Here are the recommendations:

A. Recommended strategies and action steps to be achieved in Year-One:

- Annual Homeless Count: Develop and implement a phased preparation plan culminating in the next count, January 2010. Outcomes: a) Post-count evaluation of the effectiveness of the process; b) One-Night Homeless Count report for 2010.
- Homeless Youth: Create and distribute a resource guide specifically designed for this population. Outcomes: a) report of numbers and

locations guide was distributed; b) anecdotal reports of effectiveness of resource guide.

- Homeless Youth: Develop a coordinated approach among Coos County School Districts for homeless liaison staff, and apply for a McKinney-Vento Homeless Education Grant. Outcomes: a) report of successful establishment of consortium; b) report of success of grant application.
- Panhandling: Create and distribute a resource guide for use by police departments, service providers, and local businesses. Outcomes: a) report of numbers and locations guide was distributed; b) anecdotal reports of effectiveness of resource guide.
- Panhandling: Develop and implement resource vouchers available for sale to the public to give to panhandlers (rather than giving money). Outcomes: a) report of numbers and types of vouchers used during the year, and the sources of the vouchers; b) anecdotal reports of effectiveness of vouchers; c) reports from police departments of any reduction in the incidence of panhandling.
- Panhandling: Implement a public education campaign focused on creating public acceptance for giving resources rather than money to panhandlers. Outcome: a) reports from police departments of any reduction in the incidence of panhandling.
- Permanent Housing for Homeless Mentally Ill: Expand available subsidized rentals and accompanying services (federal funding has been awarded for this project and implementation will begin July 1, 2009). Outcomes: a) report from ORCCA, CCMH and HMIS of any reduction in the incidence of homeless mentally ill; b) report from ORCCA of number of homeless placed in permanent housing who have remained for at least 6 months.
- Permanent Housing for Disabled Homeless: Expand available subsidized rentals and accompanying services (federal funding has been awarded for this project, known as a Samaritan Project; implementation will begin July 1, 2009). Outcomes: a) report from ORCCA, Samaritan Partnership, and HMIS of any reduction in the incidence of disabled homeless; b) report from ORCCA of number of homeless placed in permanent housing who have remained for at least 6 months.
- Homelessness Prevention and Rapid Re-Housing of Homeless Households: Expand services to keep at-risk households housed, and to re-house homeless households using the Housing First Strategy (the

federal stimulus package will provide funds for this activity, beginning some time in 2009). Outcomes: a) report from ORCCA and HMIS of numbers of households prevented from becoming homeless; b) report from ORCCA of number of homeless placed in permanent housing who have remained for at least 6 months.

B. Recommendations for strategies and action steps requiring a longer-term approach:

- Homeless Mentally Ill and other Disabled Homeless: Convene a working committee to evaluate and coordinate local resources currently available for social security advocacy. Outcome: Interim progress report.
- Homeless Mentally Ill and other Disabled Homeless: Convene a working committee to research other resources, both local and out of area, to support the creation of a locally based social security advocate. Outcome: Interim progress report.
- Homeless Youth: Convene a working committee to begin the process of developing a Drop-in Day Center for homeless youth (though it is complicated, this project appears to generate widespread energy and support). Outcome: Interim progress report.

4.3 Year-One Priorities Outcomes

This section is reserved for Year-One Priorities Outcomes to be incorporated into this document following annual review.

4.4 Future Annual Priorities and Outcomes

This section is reserved for Year-Two Priorities. When Year-Two Priorities have been added, and the Two-Year annual review has been carried out, a section for Year-Two Outcomes will be added to this document, etc. to continue throughout the life of this plan.

By incorporating all annual priorities and outcomes on an ongoing basis, the document will serve as a “living” document that guides the future while maintaining a record of those activities that contribute to implementing this Coos County 10-Year Homeless Plan.

Appendix A: Strategies Worksheets

Coos County 10-Year Homeless Plan Strategies Worksheets

Strategy #1: Data Information System

Strategy #1: Data Information System			
	What is to be accomplished?	Who?	When?
Strategy 1.A Assign responsibility and allocate resources to develop and maintain a web-based data information system (Homeless Management Information System or HMIS) to improve service to those at risk of becoming homeless and those who are experiencing homelessness.	a. Determine information that is needed.		
	b. Review existing programs in other communities.		
	c. Organize the web-based program for Coos County.		
	d. Train participating organizations.		
	e. Maintain the program as an ongoing responsibility.		
	f. Determine options for Funding the HMIS.		
	Other:		

Coos County 10-Year Homeless Plan Strategies Worksheets

What is to be accomplished?		Who?	When?
Strategy 1.B Develop the HMIS with the following objectives.	a. To track and manage the needs of the homeless population.		
	b. To understand the causes.		
	c. To serve as a clearinghouse that will facilitate placements.		
	d. To facilitate placements in crisis situations.		
	e. To understand how long people have been homeless.		
	f. To allocate resources appropriately.		
	g. To provide information about individual needs.		
	h. To provide 24-hour service information with a phone component and a resource contact.		
	Other:		

What is to be accomplished?		Who?	When?
Strategy 1.C Understand how law enforcement on the beat can best utilize information to assist the homeless:			

Coos County 10-Year Homeless Plan Strategies Worksheets

	What is to be accomplished?	Who?	When?
Strategy 1.D Segment the system to organize information for various user groups.	a. Provide information that can only be accessed by caseworkers.		
	b. Provide information for organizations that provide services.		
	c. Provide education and contacts for the general public including partners and volunteers.		
	Other:		

	What is to be accomplished?	Who?	When?
Strategy 1.E Provide a coordinated entry system that assists homeless individuals with access to available services and housing.			

	What is to be accomplished?	Who?	When?
Strategy 1.F Assure that data is up to date by including information from the January Homeless Count.			

Coos County 10-Year Homeless Plan Strategies Worksheets

Strategy #2: Emergency Prevention Programs

Strategy #2: Emergency Prevention Programs			
	What is to be accomplished?	Who?	When?
Strategy 2.A Enhance emergency prevention programs to be more proactive and inclusive.	a. Rent, mortgage and utility assistance.		
	b. Case management.		
	c. Landlord intervention.		
	d. Lender intervention.		
	e. Prevention of evictions.		
	f. Rapid re-housing for homeless people.		
	g. Food and supplies.		
	h. Access to all programs.		
	i. Transportation services.		
	J. Counseling Services.		
	Other:		

Coos County 10-Year Homeless Plan Strategies Worksheets

	What is to be accomplished?	Who?	When?
Strategy 2.B Provide education and support for landlords who have renters that are at risk of becoming homeless.	a. Provide landlords with information and education.		
	b. Provide for communication among case managers, interveners and landlords to alleviate crisis situations that result in evictions.		
	Other:		

	What is to be accomplished?	Who?	When?
Strategy 2.C Utilize the Homeless Management Information System (HMIS) and other communications that can assist law enforcement with those who are homeless or at risk of becoming homeless.	a. Provide access to case managers or specific case management information.		
	b. Provide access to interveners.		
	c. Provide access to specific information that can be helpful to law enforcement in placing homeless people in crisis beds.		
	Other:		

Coos County 10-Year Homeless Plan Strategies Worksheets

	What is to be accomplished?	Who?	When?
Strategy 2.D Provide transportation to support clients' access to services and programs that can alleviate homelessness.	a. Provide case management to help coordinate transportation scheduling.		
	b. Incorporate transportation for medical and dental appointments.		
	c. Utilize Geographic Information Systems (GIS) for coordinating transportation services.		
	d. Organize a partnership with a nonprofit and Yellow Cab Taxi Co. to access grants available to transportation providers to provide for vouchers for transporting people with disabilities to and from work sites.		
	e. Contract to coordinate for multiple pickups through Yellow Cab online services.		
	Other:		

	What is to be accomplished?	Who?	When?
Strategy 2.E Enhance hotline assistance to the homeless.	a. Identify all hotlines.		
	b. Provide strategies to address gaps.		
	Other:		

Coos County 10-Year Homeless Plan Strategies Worksheets

What is to be accomplished?		Who?	When?
Strategy 2.F Organize on-line resources to assist in serving clients as outlined in Strategy #1: Data Information Systems, and Strategy #5: Outreach.	a. Managing finances.		
	b. Community Credit Counseling Services.		
	c. Dealing with relationship problems.		
	d. Mediation services.		
	e. Umpqua Coastal Housing Center.		
	Other:		

Strategy #3: Mainstream Programs			
What is to be accomplished?		Who?	When?
Strategy 3.A Streamline access to mainstream programs in a timely manner.	c. Connections with statewide Homeless and Runaway Coalition.		
	b. Medicaid services.		
	c. Food and nutrition.		
	Other:		

Coos County 10-Year Homeless Plan Strategies Worksheets

What is to be accomplished?	Who?	When?
Strategy 3.B Develop advocacy to simplify access to programs.	a. Screening and case management.	
	b. Employment services.	
	c. Access to housing.	
	d. Access to childcare.	
	e. Assistance with financial management.	
	f. Mental health services.	
	g. Programs for independent living skills to help transition the mentally ill, those leaving foster care, the formerly incarcerated, and emancipated youth back into the community.	
	i. Drug and alcohol treatment services.	
	j. Public health services.	
	k. Transportation services.	
	l. Access to social security programs.	
	m. Programs for parenting.	
	n. Access to telephones.	
	Other:	

Coos County 10-Year Homeless Plan Strategies Worksheets

Strategy #4: Supportive Service Programs

Strategy #4: Supportive Service Programs			
Strategy 4.A Support transitional housing.	What is to be accomplished?	Who	When
	a. Support existing transitional housing.		
	b. Consider new transitional housing.		
	c. Utilize Bay Apartments on Anderson Avenue, which is transitional housing for the mentally ill, and other models for developing transitional housing.		
	Other:		

Strategy 4.B Provide countywide information to assist school workers in understanding the resources that are available that can assist with the McKinney-Vento Act, (Homeless Education for Children and Youth, Title 1, No Child Left Behind Act).	What is to be accomplished?	Who	When
	a. Research possibility of collaborative pooling of funding for in-service.		
	b. Develop partnerships with educational institutions.		
	c. Organize for in-service training.		
	d. Provide for quarterly or semi-annual meetings among McKinney-Vento school workers. Other:		

Coos County 10-Year Homeless Plan Strategies Worksheets

What is to be accomplished?		Who?	When?
Strategy 4.C Establish new programs for advocacy and assistance.	a. Establish assistance for accessing proof of identity – typically Driver’s Licenses and ID Cards. - Identify partners for resources, to organize assistance, and assign responsibility. - Integrate proof of identity assistance with existing programs and with HMIS.		
	b. Establish a social security “navigator, fixer, advocate.” - Identify partners for resources, to organize assistance, and assign responsibility. - Integrate social security advocate with existing programs and with HMIS. d. Work with Coos County Courts to allow for limited driver’s license privileges of individuals who lose their licenses. Make use of existing models from other communities (strategy applicable to local infractions for local jurisdictions only). -Establish communications with the Coos County Courts concerning options and issues, and provide assistance to implement this strategy where feasible. - Research models from other communities. Other:		

What is to be accomplished?		Who?	When?
Strategy 4.D Identify problem areas that are specific to Hispanic immigrants who are new to our community, and determine where supportive service programs are necessary.	a. Work through businesses that hire a number of Hispanic workers (i.e. tree planting) and/or the Coos County Health Department to initiate communication with the Hispanic community.		
	b. Identify volunteer leaders within the Hispanic community to facilitate communication and establish partnerships.		
	c. Other:		

Coos County 10-Year Homeless Plan Strategies Worksheets

Strategy #5: Outreach

Strategy #5: Outreach			
What is to be accomplished?	Who?	When?	
Strategy 5.A Strengthen and expand outreach to those who are homeless and those at risk of becoming homeless by involving and educating the community, and by providing tools and connections.	a. Oregon Coast Community Action.		
	b. Law enforcement.		
	c. Faith-based organizations.		
	d. Food banks.		
	e. Public schools.		
	f. Youth organizations.		
	g. Oregon Commission on Children and Families, Department of Human Services and other State agencies.		
	h. Coos County Mental Health, Coos County Commission on Children and Families, Coos County Health Department and other County agencies.		
	i. Nancy Devereaux Center.		
	j. Shama House.		
	k. Businesses.		
	l. Improve service coordination among all organizations that provide service to those at risk of becoming homeless and to those experiencing homelessness. This is addressed in various strategies.		
	m. Bay Area Hospital/Home Health care.		
	n. Area Agency on Aging.		
	o. Other:		

Coos County 10-Year Homeless Plan Strategies Worksheets

What is to be accomplished?	Who?	When?
Strategy 5.B Expand the region's ability to effectively carry out the January One Night Homeless count (by federal requirement the last week in January).		

What is to be accomplished?	Who?	When?
Strategy 5.C Provide outreach on the streets by developing and dispersing information that can assist the homeless in accessing services.	a. Involve those who have contact with the homeless such as law enforcement, food banks, shelters, downtown businesses, and others. b. Disperse information including a compact weatherproof emergency resource guide for the homeless. c. Involve community volunteers from faith-based, civic organizations and others. d. Provide emergency service information on dumpsters in commercial areas. Other:	

What is to be accomplished?	Who?	When?
Strategy 5.D Provide training opportunities for local law enforcement so that they can provide useful information and connections in outreach to the homeless.		

Coos County 10-Year Homeless Plan Strategies Worksheets

What is to be accomplished?	Who?	When?
Strategy 5.E Provide a web-based resource system for the homeless to understand and access services.		

What is to be accomplished?	Who?	When?
Strategy 5.F Expand resources and training so more schools can be involved in outreach.		
a. Provide support for recognizing and reporting homeless youth.		
b. Provide information and connections for the school personnel to coordinate with service providers.		
Other:		

What is to be accomplished?	Who?	When?
Strategy 5.G Organize for handing out coupon vouchers that can be exchanged only for food or specific goods at participating business.		
a. Seek grants for vouchers.		
b. Provide vouchers on the streets during the January Homeless Count.		
c. Educate the public about the coupon vouchers as a preferred response to panhandling.		
d. Involve businesses and the general public in providing the vouchers to panhandlers.		
e. Provide information to the media on an ongoing basis.		
Other:		

Coos County 10-Year Homeless Plan Strategies Worksheets

Strategy #6: Additional Crisis Beds

Strategy #6: Additional Crisis Beds			
	What is to be accomplished?	Who?	When?
Strategy 6.A Expand the number of crisis beds that are accessible both day and night for targeted populations.	a. Target various populations including, but not limited to families, unaccompanied youth, mentally ill and people with disabilities or other such specific groups that may be identified.		
	b. Additionally, provide emergency housing that is available with a minimum of “red tape” for those who are homeless as a result of low paying jobs, and not due to mental illness or addictions.		
	c. Provide a group home for families with services and resources.		
	Other:		

	What is to be accomplished?	Who?	When?
Strategy 6.B Expand resources supporting short-term transitional motel stays.			

	What is to be accomplished?	Who?	When?
Strategy 6.C Explore expanding opportunities for families at the Mission.			

Coos County 10-Year Homeless Plan Strategies Worksheets

What is to be accomplished?		Who?	When?
Strategy 6.D Support expansion of the family shelter at the Women's Safety and Resource Center (WSRC).			

What is to be accomplished?		Who?	When?
Strategy 6.E Establish detoxification (detox) beds and/or a non-medical detox center involving, but not limited to the following:	a. Bay Area First Step.		
	b. Coos Crisis Resolution Center.		
	c. Address coordination of services.		
	d. Address transportation concerns.		
	e. Address Bay Area Hospital's involvement for necessary medical treatments associated with detox.		
	Other:		

Coos County 10-Year Homeless Plan Strategies Worksheets

	What is to be accomplished?	Who?	When?
Strategy 6.F Seek information about establishing a “wet shelter” involving, but not limited to the following.	a. Coos County Corrections.		
	b. Bay Area First Step.		
	c. Research models from other communities.		
	d. Provide information for further discussion during ongoing coordination and planning.		
	Other:		

Coos County 10-Year Homeless Plan Strategies Worksheets

Strategy #7: Rapid Re-Housing

Strategy #7: Rapid Re-Housing			
What is to be accomplished?	Who?	When?	
Strategy 7.A Expand resources for Rapid Re-Housing so that people who come into shelters or are on the streets can be rapidly moved to permanent housing. Resources need to include the ability to work with such households for up to 90 days to get them stabilized in their new household setting.			

What is to be accomplished?	Who?	When?	
Strategy 7.B Identify landlords who are willing partners by working with the Rental Owners Association of Southwestern Oregon.			

Coos County 10-Year Homeless Plan Strategies Worksheets

Strategy #8: Supply of Affordable Housing

	What is to be accomplished?	Who?	When?
Strategy 8.A Create an adequate supply of affordable housing based upon a phased plan that addresses the need over time.	a. Utilize the new Neighborhood Stabilization Program available through HUD to acquire housing that is in foreclosure and sell it to qualifying low-income purchasers.		
	b. Support efforts to gain federal, state and other funding to develop additional units.		
	Other:		

	What is to be accomplished?	Who?	When?
Strategy 8.B Develop Oxford House recovery housing following national Oxford House guidelines.			

	What is to be accomplished?	Who?	When?
Strategy 8.C Explore the potential to develop an Oxford House type model for homeless youth with common areas and individual rooms and a housemother/father.			

Coos County 10-Year Homeless Plan Strategies Worksheets

What is to be accomplished?	Who?	When?
Strategy 8.D Develop an apartment complex like People's Place, with 4-plexes for homeless mentally ill and scattered-site leasing like the Coos Oregon Leasing & Services (COOLS) project.		

What is to be accomplished?	Who?	When?
Strategy 8.E Improve substandard housing.		
a. Educate the community about the need for housing.		
b. Strengthen code enforcement.		
c. Provide landlord incentives.		
Other:		

Coos County 10-Year Homeless Plan Strategies Worksheets

Strategy #9: Homeless Teens

Strategy #9: Homeless Teens			
Strategy 9.A Develop drop-in centers with emergency beds that will serve teens that are homeless or at risk of becoming homeless.	What is to be accomplished?	Who?	When?
	a. Develop a drop-in center in the Bay Area where there is greatest need as a priority. When the drop-in center is established and stable, consider the feasibility of expanding drop-in centers in other Coos County communities.		
	b. Review existing programs in other communities. Support the drop-in center that is under development in Coquille.		
	c. See that centers provide on-site management.		
	d. Provide transportation throughout Coos County for teen access to the centers.		
	e. Use existing models such as a drop-in center like Station 7 in Eugene (the Looking Glass program concept).		
	Other:		

Coos County 10-Year Homeless Plan Strategies Worksheets

What is to be accomplished?		Who?	When?
Strategy 9.B Provide programs for youth who are homeless or at risk of becoming homeless.	a. Provide coordination of services to make them accessible to teens.		
	b. Do not differentiate between those who are homeless and those who are not.		
	c. Provide crisis beds.		
	d. Provide day care for teens with children.		
	e. Provide access to Job Corps and military recruiters.		
	f. Provide clothing closets for youth.		
	g. Provide mail pickup, laundry services and lockers.		
	h. Provide access to information about where to obtain birth certificates.		
	i. Provide options for birth Control and STD protection.		
	j. Operate programs out of the drop-in center when it is developed.		
	Other:		

Coos County 10-Year Homeless Plan Strategies Worksheets

	What is to be accomplished?	Who?	When?
Strategy 9.C Involve youth in organizing for teen connections to services.	a. Foster two-way communication with youth throughout the county.		
	b. Involve youth in providing solutions for homelessness among teens.		
	Other:		

Coos County 10-Year Homeless Plan Strategies Worksheets

What is to be accomplished?	Who?	When?
Strategy 9.D Involve partners to improve homeless teen connections to services.	a. Involve and coordinate among school districts.	
	b. Explore strategies to pool Title I funding available in various districts for services to teens.	
	c. Involve Teens Unlimited.	
	d. Involve the faith community.	
	e. Involve the business community.	
	f. Provide strategically located signs about the existence of the drop-in shelter, the shower, and other services.	
	g. Utilize outreach to bring youth into the center.	
	h. Provide for personal relationships that will be key to changing behaviors.	
	i. Provide a 24-hour teen hotline. Involve the Women's Safety and Resource Center and others.	
	j. Explore United Home Care as an option for helping to get the youth into the job market.	
	k. Provide incentives for youth to remain involved in completing their education.	
	l. Identify options for elements to begin the program.	
Other:		

Coos County 10-Year Homeless Plan Strategies Worksheets

What is to be accomplished?	Who?	When?
Strategy 9.E Identify housing for individuals who are being discharged into society from foster care and those who are leaving the foster care system after their 18 th birthdays.		
What is to be accomplished?	Who?	When?
Strategy 9.F Support the development of the Oxford House model addressed in Strategy #8 for permanent housing for older youth.		
What is to be accomplished?	Who?	When?
Strategy 9.G Seek available grant funding from the State Commission on Children and Families to carry out identified strategies to end youth homelessness.		

Coos County 10-Year Homeless Plan Strategies Worksheets

Strategy #10: Formerly Incarcerated or Institutionalized

	What is to be accomplished?	Who?	When?
Strategy 10.A Identify housing for individuals who are being discharged into society.	a. From corrections facilities: Establish protocols agreed upon by community partners in the justice system and social services as part of a discharge-plan that is aimed at minimizing homelessness.		
	b. From hospitals: Establish protocols agreed upon by community partners in the medical community and social services as part of a discharge-plan that is aimed at minimizing homelessness of those who are mentally ill or disabled.		
	Other:		

	What is to be accomplished?	Who?	When?
Strategy 10.B Support and expand current resources, and identify additional crisis beds and supportive permanent housing throughout Coos County for individuals who are being released from Prison.	a. Current resources: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - THE House. - South Coast Gospel Mission. - People's Place. - WSRC. - Bay Area First Step (BAFS). 		
	b. Identify willing landlords and provide education and support.		
	c. Develop a loan program or access to other energy assistance programs for initial assistance with utilities.		
	Other:		

Coos County 10-Year Homeless Plan Strategies Worksheets

What is to be accomplished?		Who?	When?
Strategy 10.C Provide ongoing case management that will assist with the following:	a. Incorporate advance planning for a smooth transition back into society.		
	b. Employment.		
	c. Housing.		
	d. Management of medications.		
	e. Transportation <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Expand bus runs between the Bay Area and Coquille. - Involve caseworkers to gain privileges for use of limited driver's licenses when local courts have jurisdiction. 		
	f. Utilities.		
	g. Credit counseling.		
	h. Consolidation and arrangements for payments of fines, working with Donna Buckles.		
	i. Drug testing.		
	j. Reinstating social security benefits.		
	Other:		

What is to be accomplished?		Who?	When?
Strategy 10.D Support the Oxford House that is being developed in the Bay Area.			

Coos County 10-Year Homeless Plan Strategies Worksheets

Strategy #11: Mentally Ill Homeless

Strategy #11: Mentally Ill Homeless			
	What is to be accomplished?	Who?	When?
Strategy 11.A Provide more permanent supportive housing.	a. Work with local developers, community development corporations, and service providers to create additional units of permanent supportive housing targeting the homeless mentally ill.		
	b. Increase the opportunities for property management companies to partner with service providers to house mentally ill renters.		
	c. Develop protocols and resources to strengthen the partnerships between landlords and case managers to keep mentally ill tenants stable in times of crisis.		
	Other:		

	What is to be accomplished?	Who?	When?
Strategy 11.B Provide outreach to the mentally ill so that they can utilize systems that are in place for housing, transportation, proof of ID, education and case management.	a. Involve the ecumenical faith-based community in providing solutions.		
	b. Foster mentoring and relationships, using established models. For example, Bay Area First Step clients are involved with some churches.		
	c. Communicate and coordinate among the agency providers and volunteers.		
	d. Involve K-Lite in communication.		
	Other:		

Coos County 10-Year Homeless Plan Strategies Worksheets

What is to be accomplished?		Who?	When?
Strategy 11.C Pursue funding to provide more non-treatment services to the mentally ill.	a. Provide funding assistance for situations of extreme poverty such as “zero-income” households.		
	b. Provide situations for mentoring and friendship, including a telephone tree for follow-up.		
	c. Provide regular lunches.		
	d. Identify resource agencies that can serve as payee representatives for the mentally ill.		
	Other:		

Strategy #12: Community Education			
What is to be accomplished?		Who?	When?
Strategy 12.A Organize a Speaker Bureau related to homelessness for Coos County.	a. Provide contacts and topics in a listing.		
	b. Maintain and update the list on a regular basis.		
	c. Publish the list and provide copies to libraries.		
	d. Include the list on web sites through links.		
	Other:		

Coos County 10-Year Homeless Plan Strategies Worksheets

What is to be accomplished?		Who?	When?
Strategy 12.B Provide education to the community regarding causes and solutions for homelessness.	a. Provide information with a focus on accepting people as they are rather than promoting zero tolerance.		
	b. Educate the community about opportunities to be involved in alleviating homelessness within the community.		
	c. Educate the community about alternatives to panhandling.		
	d. Educate the community about brush removal and other property maintenance as a deterrent to homeless camping on private properties.		
	e. Personalize presentations to the greatest extent possible for greater impact.		
	f. Determine avenues to reach portions of the community that are not involved in service clubs.		
	Other:		

What is to be accomplished?		Who?	When?
Strategy 12.C Educate children for understanding and tolerance.	a. Utilize information that is available from national sources for educating youth about homelessness.		
	b. Provide stories about homeless youth to personalize presentations.		
	c. Educate the homeless liaisons for schools about homelessness.		
	Other:		

Coos County 10-Year Homeless Plan Strategies Worksheets

What is to be accomplished?			Who?	When?
Strategy 12.D Organize focus groups in the community to address homelessness.				

What is to be accomplished?			Who?	When?
Strategy 12.E Publicize nationwide vigils for homelessness in the local media.				

Coos County 10-Year Homeless Plan Strategies Worksheets

Strategy #13: Government Programs and Legislation			
	What is to be accomplished?	Who?	When?
Strategy 13.A Support programs and funding that will decrease the incidence of homelessness.	a. Support legislation that provides funding for homelessness prevention, for crisis beds, for permanent supportive housing, and for program services such as case management.		
	b. Support legislation for the mentally ill and their families to be eligible for the Oregon Health Plan.		
	c. Support legislation for veterans and their families to be eligible for the Oregon Health Plan.		
	d. Support efforts to increase local, state and federal funding for public transportation.		
	e. Support programs that provide connections to job training and placement.		
	Other:		

Coos County 10-Year Homeless Plan Strategies Worksheets

What is to be accomplished?		Who?	When?
Strategy 13.B Expand public transportation services.	a. Support efforts to increase funding for reorganization to expand routes and hours of public transit provided by Coos County Area Transit (CCAT).		
	b. Support additional funding for Dial-A-Ride.		
	c. Support a tax base for public transportation.		
	Other:		

What is to be accomplished?		Who?	When?
Strategy 13.C Support local comprehensive plan, zoning, and public works ordinance amendments that will encourage increased affordable housing.			

What is to be accomplished?		Who?	When?
Strategy 13.D Advocate with congressional representatives and with HUD to revise the Fair Market Rent (FMR's) standards for Coos, Curry, and other coastal communities.			

Coos County 10-Year Homeless Plan Strategies Worksheets

What is to be accomplished?		Who?	When?
Strategy 13.E Advocate with congressional representatives, with HUD, and with local Public Housing Authorities to restore the government payment of deposits in the Section 8 Voucher program.			

Strategy #14: Partnerships			
What is to be accomplished?		Who?	When?
Strategy 14.A Work with Tribal governments in developing solutions.	a. Cooperate in accessing federal funds.		
	b. Explore options for utilizing Tribal government dental services at reduced rates.		
	Other:		

What is to be accomplished?		Who?	When?
Strategy 14.B Work with veteran's organizations in problem solving for providing veteran services.	Other:		

Coos County 10-Year Homeless Plan Strategies Worksheets

	What is to be accomplished?	Who?	When?
Strategy 14.C Work with businesses and professionals in the private sector to increase opportunities for the homeless.	a. Appropriate responses and public education on panhandling.		
	b. Dental care.		
	c. Affordable housing units for sale and for rent.		
	d. Motel stays for emergency situations.		
	e. Funding and banking institutions.		
	Other:		

	What is to be accomplished?	Who?	When?
Strategy 14.D Work with Waterfall Clinic to better coordinate resources for prescription drugs and medical assistance.			

	What is to be accomplished?	Who?	When?
Strategy 14.E Determine projects that faith-based organizations and civic clubs can oversee and/or fund, and provide information concerning those potential projects.			

Coos County 10-Year Homeless Plan Strategies Worksheets

What is to be accomplished?	Who?	When?
Strategy 14.F Work with Southwestern Oregon Community College and/or other institutions to develop Geographic Information Systems (GIS) for transportation services, for affordable housing and subsidized housing concentrations, and other overlays for access to service providers and community amenities.		

What is to be accomplished?	Who?	When?
Strategy 14.G Partner with community organizations to provide education about homelessness, and advocacy to involve the community in meeting the needs.		

Coos County 10-Year Homeless Plan Strategies Worksheets

What is to be accomplished?		Who?	When?
Strategy 14.H Support and where appropriate, partner to expand community programs that serve the homeless.	a. Food cupboards.		
	b. Existing shelters and drop-in centers.		
	c. Clothing banks.		
	d. Mentoring programs for youth, formerly incarcerated and mentally ill.		
	e. Food, clothing and gifts at Christmas.		
	f. Meals.		
	Other:		

What is to be accomplished?		Who?	When?
Strategy 14.I Develop community advocates to help the developmentally disabled, mentally ill, and elderly navigate the system.	a. Consider a partnership with RSVP.		
	b. Assure that community advocates understand how to provide preventative up-front work with involved agencies.		
	c. Computer Training.		
	Other:		

Coos County 10-Year Homeless Plan Strategies Worksheets

Strategy #15: Ongoing Coordination and Planning

What is to be accomplished?		Who?	When?
Strategy 15.A Coordinate ongoing services and continue to coordinate and plan for the future.	a. Organize a network of service providers to serve as a community resource for problem solving and sharing information in order to improve service coordination for the homeless.		
	b. Assign a convener to invite participants to suggest agenda items, coordinate the agenda and facilitate the meeting.		
	c. Utilize the Roseburg model (see Max Stafford).		
	d. Establish a regular meeting place.		
	e. Determine whether to meet monthly or quarterly.		
	f. Devote at least one meeting annually to coordination and information-sharing regarding progress related to strategies of the 10-year plan.		
	g. Review the 10-Year Homeless Plan formally on an annual basis, and determine where updates are appropriate.		
	h. Assure that responsibility for implementing aspects of the plan are assigned on an annual basis and that there are measurable outcomes reported.		
	i. Assure that the 10-year plan is updated and distributed to all participants as a result of the review and assignments for implementation.		
	j. Provide notice to the media regarding accomplishments of the 10-year Homeless Plan.		
	Other:		

Appendix B: Definitions and Acronyms

B.1 Definitions

Homelessness

- A. **Chronically Homeless**: A chronically homeless person is an unaccompanied ***individual*** with a disabling condition who has either been continuously homeless for a year or more or has had at least four (4) episodes of homelessness in the past three (3) years. To be considered chronically homeless, persons must have been sleeping in a place not meant for human habitation (e.g., living on the streets) and/or in an emergency shelter during that time.
- B. **HUD-assisted programs**: A homeless person is someone who is living on the street or in an emergency shelter, or who would be living on the street or in an emergency shelter without the program assistance. A person is considered homeless only when he/she resides in one of the places described below:
- In places not meant for human habitation, such as cars, parks, sidewalks, abandoned buildings (on the street).
 - In an emergency shelter.
 - In transitional or supportive housing for homeless persons who originally came from the streets or emergency shelters.
 - In any of the above places but is spending a short time (up to 30 consecutive days) in a hospital or other institution.
 - Is being evicted within a week from a private dwelling unit and no subsequent residence has been identified and the person lacks the resources and support networks to obtain housing.
 - Is being discharged within a week from an institution, such as a mental health or substance abuse treatment facility or a jail/prison, in which the person has been a resident for more than 30 consecutive days and no subsequent residence has been identified and the person lacks the resources and support networks needed to obtain housing
 - Is fleeing a domestic violence housing situation and no subsequent residence has been identified; and the person lacks the resources and support networks needed to obtain housing.
- C. In addition, HUD defines some situations, which are not deemed homelessness:
- In housing, even though residents are paying an excessive amount for their housing, the housing is substandard and in need of repair, or the housing is crowded.
 - Living with relatives or friends.
 - Being discharged from an institution that is required to provide or arrange housing upon release.

- D. Homeless Youth: The term homeless children and youth means individuals who lack a fixed, regular, and adequate nighttime residence. This definition also includes:
- Children and youth who are sharing the housing of other persons due to loss of housing, economic hardship, or a similar reason.
 - Children who may be living in motels, hotels, trailer parks, shelters, or are awaiting foster care placement.
 - Children and youth who have a primary nighttime residence that is a public or private place not designed for or ordinarily used as a regular sleeping accommodation for human beings.
 - Children and youth who are living in cars, parks, public spaces, abandoned buildings, substandard housing, bus or train stations, or similar settings.
 - Migratory children who qualify as homeless because they are children who are living in similar circumstances listed above.

B.2 Acronyms

BAH – Bay Area Hospital.

CCMH – Coos County Mental Health.

EHA – Emergency Housing Account: Flexible funding for homelessness from the State general fund.

FMR – Fair Market Rent: The arbitrary rent-plus-utilities standard set by HUD for each county in the country. The standard is set for all sizes of rental units. Federal subsidies cannot exceed the FMR standard.

GIS – Geographic Information Systems: The computerized technology used, for purposes of this document, to map housing and other demographics related to homelessness.

HIC – Housing Inventory Chart: The HUD form locales use to report shelter, transitional housing, and permanent housing information and unmet needs.

HMIS – Homeless Management Information Systems: The data collection systems in use throughout the nation that collect and report the flow of homelessness.

HUD – Housing & Urban Development: The federal housing and homelessness agency.

OHCS – Oregon Housing & Community Services: The State agency responsible for housing and homelessness programs.

OPUS – Opus, not an acronym: The HMIS system in use throughout rural Oregon, and residing at OHCS.

ORCCA – Oregon Coast Community Action.

SCHC – South Coast Homeless Council: The partnership organization responsible for coordinating the implementation of the Coos County Ten-Year Plan.

Section 8: The HUD voucher program that provides housing subsidies to low-income households. The vouchers are used in the rental market and cannot exceed the FMR's.

SRO – Single Room Occupancy: A type of rental housing most common in older hotels, where the bathroom and cooking facilities are shared space.

WSRC—Women's Safety and Resource Center.

Additional acronyms may be added over time as deemed helpful.

Appendix C: Background Data for Planning

Appendix C.1Demographics

Demographics for Coos County Homelessness: look for links and resources on the Ten-Year Plan web page: www.orcca.us/getinvolved.html. Resources listed on the website: One-Night Homeless Counts, September 2007 Street Survey, Housing Information Chart [HIC], League of Women Voters/Coos Commission on Children and Families Homeless Youth Survey.

Appendix C.2 Information about Homeless Youth

Look for links and resources on the Ten-Year Plan web page: www.orcca.us/getinvolved.html. League of Women Voters/Coos Commission on Children and Families Homeless Youth Survey, Oregon Department of Education Homeless Youth Reports (by school district).

Appendix C.3Public Survey Compilation

Located on the Ten-Year Plan web page: www.orcca.us/getinvolved.html

Appendix C.4 National Alliance to End Homelessness [NAEH]

Located at: <http://www.endhomelessness.org/>



- When We All have Homes -

Coos County 10-Year Homeless Plan

March 2009

Appendix D – Under Separate Cover

- Survey Results Compilation
- Summaries of Public Input Meetings
- Summaries of Steering Committee Meetings