



**WORK STUDY SESSION OF THE
ROSEBURG CITY COUNCIL**



AUGUST 3, 2020 – 6:00 PM

Electronic Meeting

Public Access:

City website at <https://www.cityofroseburg.org/your-government/mayor-council/council-videos>

Facebook Live at www.Facebook.com/CityofRoseburg

Charter Cable PEG Channel 191

CALL TO ORDER – Mayor Larry Rich

City Councilors

Beverly Cole

Sheila Cox

Bob Cotterell

Alison Eggers

Linda Fisher-Fowler

Ashley Hicks

Brian Prawitz

Andrea Zielinski

DISCUSSION ITEM

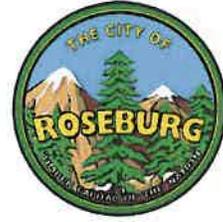
1. Council Goal #6 – Explore Strategies to Address Issues Related to Unhoused Individuals Within the Community
 - A. Local Agency Presentations
 - 6:05 p.m. – House Representative Gary Leif with Mike Fieldman
 - 6:35 p.m. – Rogue Retreat - Matthew Vordestrasse, Heather Hassett and Chad McComas
 - 7:05 p.m. – Parole and Probation - Joseph Garcia
 - 7:35 p.m. – Circuit Court Judge Simmons and Municipal Court Judge Mahan
 - 8:05 p.m. – City Police Chief Gary Klopfenstein and City Prosecutor Jim Forrester
 - B. Follow-up from Local Agencies
 1. Attached Agency Responses

ADJOURNMENT – 9:00 p.m.

***** AMERICANS WITH DISABILITIES ACT NOTICE *****

Please contact the City Recorder's Office, Roseburg City Hall, 900 SE Douglas, Roseburg, OR 97470-3397 (Phone 541-492-6866) at least 48 hours prior to the scheduled meeting time if you need an accommodation. TDD users please call Oregon Telecommunications Relay Service at 1-800-735-2900.

To: Roseburg City Council
From: Amy L. Sowa, City Recorder
Date: July 31, 2020



On July 20, 2020, five local agencies presented information to the City Council about the services they provide for the unhoused in Roseburg. These agencies were:

- Roseburg VA Healthcare System (RVAHCS)
- Dream Center
- Peace at Home Advocacy Center
- Roseburg Rescue Mission
- Casa de Belen

Following the meeting, Council was asked to forward any follow-up questions they had for these organizations. The questions were then forwarded to the individual agencies to respond.

Attached are responses from the Dream Center, Peace at Home, Roseburg Rescue Mission and Casa de Belen. Kevin Wagner from the Veteran's Administration (VA) is working with other members in his organization to respond to the questions directed to their agency. Those responses will be provided to the Council in the next week or two.

Attachment

Questions with Agency Responses

**Questions and Answers:
Agencies who Presented on July 20, 2020**
(Responses from the VA will be provided in a future packet.)

Dream Center – Tim Edmondson

1. What limits your capacity to serve more people than the 100 who visit you daily?

For us to serve more than 100 a day we need a better location. A building we can operate from ground level. We now operate from a basement. We have to carry food boxes up the stairs and delivery them to the public.

We are looking for such location.

2. What can you do to prevent the claim that drug deals and drug use happen at the Dream Center or the Warming Centers?

To the second question, we don't encourage or put up with any type of drug activity at the Dream Center.

We serve drug addicts every day though. Drug deals happen all over our town. I am sure it happens near the Dream Center. However, it happens near the Mission also, and the courthouse, and the post office. If I see something happening those involved are 86ed for a period of time.

As for the Warming Center it is obvious that the person accusing us has never been to one of our Warming Centers. We open at 7pm by 9pm we have served dinner, took down all the tables, set up cots and everyone is down for the night.

At 5am we wake everyone up, put the cots away, set tables back up, serve breakfast, and everyone is out by 7am.

We house an average of 50 to 60 people for 12 hours, 8 of which they are sleeping. The people have been exposed to cold weather for an extended period of time by the time we have a Warming Center they are exhausted from the elements. We only open when temps are below 30 degrees.

There is no party going on.

We are not trying to end homelessness in Roseburg, we are trying to show people God loves them. We feed the hungry and put clothes on the backs of the people who are not able to do for themselves. The Mission doesn't like us because they charge for their clothes and we serve better tasting food.

That last part was meant to be funny.

Questions Regarding Onward Program:

Roseburg City Council,

My name is Kimetha Stallings. I'm responding to the questions sent to the Dream Center regarding Onward because I am founder of Onward Roseburg. I will take this opportunity to introduce this new nonprofit incorporated in February 2020. We filed for 501c3 status in June 2020 and haven't received approval yet. Please visit the website www.onwardroseburg.org

I've been volunteering at the Dream Center regularly for years. I still play an active role on their outreach team and I hope to keep my morning shift at the warming center if a location is secured. Last April, I began offering extended services at the Dream Center when they were serving meals inside. That is how the idea of Onward Roseburg began to solidify.

Our mission statement: Onward Roseburg uses outreach, advocacy, and referrals to empower people experiencing homelessness and reduce common barriers that prevent personal development.

I consider outreach to be the time I spend with people experiencing homelessness to build trusting relationships. Outreach brings care to those who feel the most outcast and a connection to reliable, knowledgeable help.

Advocacy is the helping portion when technology and skill comes together to get things done. People can ask me to help with anything. I've scheduled DMV appointments, searched for a relative on Facebook, filed a dispute with a bank after a debit card was stolen, ordered birth certificates, and more.

Advocacy is also assisting in the process of applying for Social Security disability benefits, signing up for Section 8 and public housing, completing housing applications, making appointments with health care providers, and I've accompanied people to the doctor to advocate for their care. Lately I've been helping a lot of people get their economic impact payment.

I make good referrals because I have become familiar with the services available in our community. I regularly attend networking and goal setting meetings where professional relationships are maintained. We keep each other updated on our programs with any changes or additions.

3. What would it take to train more people to support the Onward program?

The first lesson for helping people is spending time with them. Potential helpers can participate with the Dream Center outreach team to get a sense of the population and start to build trust with them. Helpers are not authority figures. Nor are we judges or advisors. Helpers learn from the people experiencing homelessness who share their stories and identify their goals.

Helpers wanting to assist others navigate the system to achieve their goals would learn well through job shadowing and practicing under supervision with the resources made available to trainees.

Anyone who wants to assist in the applying for disability benefits I would require a specific online course to be completed. This provides the basic knowledge of the process. I can add to that by sharing what I've learned in my four years of practice.

4. What support could Temitha use to do a better job or reach more people?

My name is Kimetha, pronounced similar to Temitha or Tabitha.

Onward wants what everyone wants, for those who live outside to be inside, independent, and contributing to the community. Onward's goals are to see improved health in the people we serve, increase the population's contribution to the community, and reduce the stigma attached to homelessness. I have a number of programs yet to be realized to achieve these goals.

The work I do is futile without some basic needs made available to the people I serve. For example, a home for someone who is homeless is unattainable without income from a job or disability benefits. Some barriers to finding work are identification, address, email, access to phone and internet. I can help with these. They also need showers, laundry, and storage.

There are many disabled individuals who have Social Security income and many who need to apply. These folks get their name placed on a years-long wait list for affordable housing. Lately, I've been contacted by two women who checked on their status on a housing waitlist to find out they were no longer on the waitlist. These disappointments and frustrations are more than a person can bear when every day is a struggle to survive.

Neither work nor housing comes easy for people with a criminal history. Roseburg has ineffective and unconstitutional policies that criminalize the unhoused. Enforcement of these policies use critical city resources that could be better utilized, namely our police and court system who are hired to address crime. Citations do not get paid. Most importantly, citations do not get people off the streets. We need to decriminalize acts of living by providing a variety of living spaces for people experiencing homelessness. Haven't we learned that we cannot punish people out of homelessness?

There will not be one solution that will work for everyone. We need to expand options beyond a Christian shelter and criminalization of acts of living. We need a family shelter, low barrier shelter, no barrier encampments, parking for those living in vehicles, Conestoga huts, tiny homes, permanent supportive housing, and affordable housing. Each of these will serve a different segment of the population.

Mental illness, including substance use disorder, is a contributor to homelessness, but not the only one. Services to address mental illness are not reaching the unhoused. I come in regular contact with people on the streets who would benefit from professional intervention. I have never seen a mental health professional on the streets. That is where it needs to happen—where the people are and where their possessions are. Professional outreach to create trusting relationships is essential to getting people engaged in services. Telehealth is seeing an increase in funding now in response to COVID-19. This method is a better approach for people living outside than requiring them to make appointments in an office. But connection has to happen first.

Onward will start writing grants when our 501c3 application is approved so we can implement some of the programs identified to achieve our goals. In the meantime, more volunteers are needed, donations are always welcome, and there are vacancies on our board of directors. Onward does not have an office because we have very limited revenue. More than anything else, people experiencing homelessness need hope and purpose. Right now the future looks bleak and the present is dangerous. They need a light at the end of the tunnel, something to strive for.

City leaders, and our community as a whole, can help our homeless neighbors find health and happiness by seeking a greater understanding of their situation, cease creating barriers to their personal development, and create supportive spaces where they can take steps to move forward.

Kimetha Stallings
Onward Roseburg
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kimetha@onwardroseburg.org

Roseburg Rescue Mission – Lynn Antis (See Attached)

1. If the Mission is the best way for people to access the services that are most effective in your opinion, what do you suggest we do to ensure more people access the services at the Mission?
2. What are the barriers people cite to not use your services? I hear 1) that's where the pedophiles stay (which I do not believe). 2) they had their things stolen at the Mission, or 3) get beat up in the dorms there?
3. Do you believe it is possible to launch and operate a low barrier shelter program with accountability that comes from an organization willing and capable to operate it?

Peace at Home – Melanie Prummer

1. How much support for - or how many more - homeless services does PaH need?
2. How do we help increase longer stays and support for your clients?
For longer stays and support to help address barriers for PaH folks we are looking to purchase transitional housing. The shelter model is challenging and we hope to empower people to have control over their lives and independence sooner than later (keep shelter stays as short as possible 30-60 days). While we are always evaluating our shelter services to be low barrier is can still be challenging for folks to live with others whom have experienced trauma and have complex needs. We are currently trying to raise \$210,000 to purchase housing (these efforts have been impacted by current events and we are concerned we will not meet our target goal by the deadline, January 31, 2021). We may have the opportunity to purchase 1-3 units in the next 6-8 months. Our goal is to provide supportive services beyond shelter to increase the chances for success in the long-term – promote resiliency and prevent future homelessness.
3. Would it help you to have more Peer Models?
I believe it would help to have local training for traditional health workers and on-going supports for these folks. If we have several agencies successfully utilizing Peer workers (Community Health Workers) we may be able to address gaps. These peer workers can also inform leadership in our community – I believe it can be a great feedback loop for those of us not working on frontlines to understand what is happening to our most vulnerable and underserved communities. Peace at Home seeks to find ways to get feedback, this could be a community value and approach we adopt. We hope to collaborate, learn and grow. We are interested in learning more about other models. PaH currently has two CHW's – Co-Located at Mercy and South River. The project has funding through September 2022 and we have had support from UHA to address basic needs.
4. Is there a draft ordinance we could consider to help with landlord/tenant requirements such as the maintenance issue you mentioned?
I do wonder if there is an ordinance for individuals who are elderly or people with disabilities who need accommodations under their lease e.g. cannot do yard work, change their smoke detector etc. I am afraid if these clients ask for help from landlords there maybe retaliation, ignored, etc. In addition to managing housing for Peace at Home I am also a private landlord of 20 Units in the Roseburg city limits. Thus far, it has not been a burden for my husband who is the property manager to support our more fragile, vulnerable tenants with property management responsibilities that they physically cannot do. This would be great conversation to have to see what the solution may be with the help of the City.

Casa de Belen – Kivonna Coccia

1. Does your board of directors support the MARC concept?
My board of Directors are open to ideas that equate to Casa de Belen's mission being accomplished in a meaningful and sustainable way. My intent during the presentation was to voice my knowledge on national best practices utilized to solve homelessness and tie those into an overall encompassing solution of what it may look like in our community. Feedback from the community and yourselves followed by extensive planning and collaboration would be required to finalize details.

2. Who owns the building?
Casa de Belen owns the building in its entirety.

3. Are you suggesting the city buy it or is there another financial model to discuss?
I am not suggesting a purchase from the city. I feel strongly in "it takes a village," and the MARC idea would require individuals from multiple community facets to come forward and strategically plan for its success. For example, this could be the first and main project of a Homelessness Solutions Committee.

As I'm sure the council has understood throughout this process, this challenge is extensive and contains so many working parts. It did not transpire in a day, nor will it be solved in a day.

4. Do you think it is realistic to have representatives from each organization maintaining consistent office hours in the model you suggested?
Absolutely! It can manifest in many different ways. I keep going back to the "mall" vision because individuals from different organizations would simply continue the work they're already doing but perhaps at the MARC, this appears much more realistic than asking organizations to change any of their operation procedures.

It could essentially look like a schedule of similar organizations. For example, on Tuesdays and Thursdays: UCAN, Neighborhood Works, HADCO and Housing First may commit to being at the MARC office to assist in housing. We could provide clients with the weekly schedule so that they have a knowledge of when they can access services; would still have clients all being sent to the MARC.

This would actually accomplish the "hand up, not hand out" balanced approach. A client showing up to MARC for housing on Monday and receiving the schedule would then have to show initiative and come back on Tuesday for housing assistance; BUT when they show up on Monday, they are able to eat, take a shower and obtain some new clothes. Providing some basic needs and a bit of self esteem.

Worst case scenario- Clients hygiene and sanitary has increased and client increases his health outcomes in the form of food. All of these being benefits to the community as a whole.

Best case scenario- All of the above plus empowerment to return the next day, apply for housing and start a path toward being a productive member of society.

I often view this topic as an iceberg, we sometimes only see and focus on the part (people) sticking out of the water. Please remember that the majority of individuals are under the water and unseen. IF you saw any of the 40 children that were just living at Casa de Belen walking down the street, they would not look homeless, they would look like a kid with a backpack going to school. There are hard working people living in cars and working full time jobs that we do not see. Should we not be focusing on melting away at the unseen portion of the iceberg, which overtime causes the top portion to resolve?

To those with nothing, hope is everything.



Roseburg Rescue Mission

A Beacon of Hope for the Homeless

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July 29, 2020

Roseburg City Council

Response to Questions from Council Following 7/20/20 Presentation

1. The single, biggest problem Roseburg Rescue Mission has is getting men into the Mission, then into our Program. The increase in drug use, clean out of campsites, now the coronavirus have reduced our number of people to help run our operation. The low barrier Warming Center causes men to leave the Mission, drink and use drugs, then go there. A full-time low barrier shelter would cause such a shortage of manpower that we would have to reduce services. The first thing we would stop doing is running our Dayroom during the day, putting transient men out on the street. Not only are low barrier shelters failed experiments in large cities, in our small city it would hurt the services we already have and cause the opposite effect expected.
2. I have been asked to run a low barrier shelter. I cannot. I believe that the City is considering a low barrier shelter, a place with no required religious services or screening for drug and alcohol use, so that police officers can tell people to go to it or get arrested. Our very purpose is religious. For us to run a shelter contrary to our purpose and that would cause people to leave our shelter to go to a hopeless shelter would be an act of self-destruction for us.
3. The problem is drugs and enforcement.
 - A. Re-evaluate the City's legal counsel regarding the 9th Circuit Court of Appeals ruling a couple of years ago. My understanding is that the essence of that decision is to not arrest anyone for loitering or camping on public property. Cities in our circuit have interpreted the word "arrest" differently. For Roseburg I think, "arrest" means putting handcuffs on a person. Other cities are cuffing, stuffing in a patrol car and booking people, because their definition of "arrest" does not happen unless a person is actually put in a jail cell.
 - B. Fund and work DINT to stop drugs.
 - C. Work with courts to get sentencing.
 - D. Work with the county jail to fund jail beds. Stop other law enforcement agencies from taking our jail deputies by offering signing bonuses and higher salaries.
4. Make it harder to camp. Do not provide porta-potties or portable showers. At the Council Presentation, the Dream Center boasted that 50% of their food boxes are going to unhoused people. About 10 years ago when the Mission was doing food boxes for this same area, there was a requirement to prove an address, as in having mail. Stop the Dream Center from also handing out clothing and camping equipment that litters our city. The Dream Center is enabling the street drug

08/03/2020

culture to flourish. They are not a faith based organization, because they had to sign an agreement with the USDA to receive food (that the Mission refused to sign), agreeing to not speak, pray, preach or hand out literature of a religious nature. Their federal 501(c)3 cannot be for religious purposes, because they receive government grants.

5. Roseburg Rescue Mission accepts sex offenders without discrimination at our Men's Shelter. Better here than camping on our streets or in parks. Women convicted of a sex offense against a minor cannot access services at our Samaritan Inn for the protection of our children. Men have no reason to be afraid of a possible pedophile. On the contrary, its the sex offender that may be somewhat shunned by other men. Any kind of inappropriate behavior is reported, because our clients will not tolerate it. We have a very secure baggage room where clients staying in our dormitory sign each bag in and out of a locked room. At night, their street clothes and hygiene items are put in plastic crates with their bed number on it and locked in a box room by the dorm. Program members have private lockers or rooms. Occasionally, someone will leave an item in our Dayroom or Courtyard and it might be taken. People are not getting beat up here. We have supervisors on duty 24/7 and clients report any behavior that might lead up to a fight. Campers make excuses to not go to the Mission.
6. The City was presented with the idea of multiple social service organizations having offices and/or beds at Casa De Belen. When I have the resources to hire additional staff and invest in facilities, it will be for on-site use where my clients are at, not at a remote location. A more workable model, like the City of Klamath Falls, is for the City to purchase property for a social service campus of independent organizations that buy into it. The Jerry Bruce Community Campus in Roseburg is too remote, does not allow overnight stay, and has Head Start that prevents some men clients from going there.

Respectfully



Lynn Antis
Executive Director