

PUBLIC SAFETY COORDINATING COUNCIL

MINUTES

TUESDAY,
September 28, 2021

11:30

ZOOM VIDEO CONFERENCE

MEETING CALLED BY	Eric Guyer
ATTENDEES	Joshua Aldrich, Trevor Arnold, Dave Bellamy, Stacy Brubaker, Scott Clauson, Melissa Cochran, Dave Dotterer, Doug Engle, Eric Guyer, Beth Heckert, Justin Hon, Justin Ivens, Tyler Lee, Jennifer Lind, Lorenzo Mejia, Raphaelle Miller, Gilda Montenegro-Fix, Robert Mountain, Jennifer Mylenek, Michael Parsons, Jazmin Ramirez, Kelly Ravassipour, Mark Reagles, Nate Sickler, Randy Sparacino, Rita Sullivan, Matt Vorderstrasse, A. John Watson, Brittany Whitmire, Kim Whitney

- Eric Guyer opened the meeting at 11:30
- Opening Remarks: Eric Guyer welcomed everyone to the September PSCC meeting.

Agenda Topics

ROGUE RETREAT SERVICE RESPONSE FOR THE UNHOUSED

DISCUSSION
<p><i>Justin Hon, Project Manager, Rogue Retreat</i> <i>Matt Vorderstrasse, Development Director, Rogue Retreat</i></p> <p><u>Rogue Retreat</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 21 Years of Service • The mission of Rogue Retreat is to create opportunities for the homeless to have hope. Rogue Retreat is a 501(c)3 non-profit organization that envisions a community where people who have been homeless have a place to call home and are empowered to strengthen the quality of their lives. <p><u>Everyone Deserves</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Compassion • Encouragement • Opportunity • Honesty • Respect <p><u>The Urban Campground, Medford</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Urban Campground with 60 campsites opened in Aug. of 2020 in partnership with the City of Medford, Livability Team, St. Vincent DePaul, Jackson County and many more. • The expanded campground will be comprised of 145 total sites (35 Pallet Shelters, 50 Rigid Tents, 60 Tent Sites). <p><u>Kelly Shelter</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Kelly Shelter began in the basement of a church as a seasonal shelter in 2017. • It was able to provide 54 individuals a safe and warm place to sleep in the evenings for a period of 90 days a year. Rogue Retreat would operate the shelter during the winter • December of 2019 the Kelly Shelter opened up as a full time, year-round shelter. Rogue Retreat partnered with ACCESS to accomplish this important step. • Today the Kelly Shelter is able to shelter 64 individuals under its roof on any given day. People are also allowed to have their animals with them when staying at the shelter • <p><u>Hope Village</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Hope Village officially opened on October 31, 2017 with 14 Tiny Houses. • Today Hope Village has 34 Tiny Houses and will be adding an additional 4 more. • Most people will stay in the village anywhere between 4 to 6 months, or more, depending on their needs. <p><u>Shared Housing</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Heather's Haven (Women's Recovery House) • Harold's Haven (Men's Recovery House) • Amy's Haven (Women's Medically Assisted Treatment Housing) • Cindy's Haven (Recuperative Housing for the medically fragile) • Summit House

Rogue Retreat Apartments

Rogue Retreat operates 44 apartments. 23 of the apartments have a subsidy attached to them and the participants are responsible for paying 30% of their adjusted gross income. Rogue Retreat others 21 units are offered on a sliding fee scale.

- Manzanita Apartments
- Grape Street Apartments
- Riverside Apartments

In response to the housing crisis caused by the recent Almeda Fire, Rogue Retreat and the City of Medford applied for the Turnkey Project Grant. As a result, Rogue Retreat will now be running the Redwood Inn as a housing option for those displaced by the fires. In total this will create 47 new units.

Clean Sweep

- Providing meaningful employment support for those experiencing homelessness, and meaningful partnerships with local businesses.
- Our Blue Bag Bottle Drop Fundraiser Bags help support the work of Clean Sweep.

Thrift Shop

Hours: Mon-Fri 10am-6pm

Sat-Sun 10am-4pm

10% Off Discount Days: Monday – Seniors

Wednesday – Military

Friday – Students

Why Shop Here?

Shopping at the Thrift Shop by Rogue Retreat helps change lives. All proceeds from the Thrift Shop support the Homeless Supportive Housing/Shelter programs of Rogue Retreat. The Thrift Shop also acts as a job training program for Rogue Retreat participants that are in need of developing meaningful work experience. Shop where your dollars make a difference. Shop at the Thrift Shop by Rogue Retreat.

Foundry Village

- The first tiny house village in Josephine County.
- The site location is at the intersection of Foundry and Fry St in Grants Pass, Oregon.
- The 17 tiny house unit village is projected to be built and operational by the Fall of 2021.

Jazmin asked for clarification on the operational date of the Foundry Village, Matt responded that the slide on the PowerPoint should say Fall 2021 not Fall 2020.

Regarding the Urban Campground, Eric asked if the presenters could share some of the things they have learned throughout the development of the campground and what they have learned about the intake process. Justin replied that the intake process is done through coordination between Rogue Retreat and the Livability Team. Justin stated that the campground is not for everyone, and the guests who want to be there are there. The questions asked during the intake process are highly important because they allow the staff to connect clients to the best services and allows clients to keep moving forward.

Eric commented that Rogue Retreat has a dedicated staff that truly treats guests like guests. They have been able to take a group of individuals that traditionally have not been able to live in a group living situation and Rogue Retreat has had amazing results. Justin commented that a major thing is getting staff with lived experience. Matt added that inadvertently these programs operate like a continuum, with the Urban Campground they are able to meet clients where they are at and that is when they can begin the wraparound supportive services.

Beth Heckert complimented Justin and Matt on the work they have done. Regarding the Hope Village, she asked about the capacity and what is keeping them from adding more. Justin replied that the property site is the hindrance they face in adding any more sites.

Jennifer Lind expressed her appreciation for the work they are doing. Jennifer commented about financial sustainability, and posed a question "How do we build a funding model that can support that work without it constantly relying on prayer-based fundraising?" If there is sustainability and stability it allows Rogue Retreat to grow on the successes at a different rate.

Matt responded they have recently been in conversation on that topic with ACCESS. They have talked about the need for the community and the COC to come together to identify how to leverage community support and create a long-term sustainable revenue pool that way they do not have to rely on grant-funding or fundraising. The funding model they have for these programs right now is not sustainable but they recognize that as a community they need to come together to create a sustainability plan to keep these services going. Jennifer thanked Matt for this comment, this is very important work and long-term it will be challenging to fund on a Medicaid budget so it is really about collectively coming together to support the work in a stronger fashion.

Eric commented that he would love to see the same ability for that Medicaid funding to provide sustainability for these programs. Jennifer commented that they put in over a quarter of a million each year, so they are doing this, but it is really about how to back it in a stronger fashion.

Jennifer Mylenek expressed her appreciation on behalf of CASA and she asked Justin and Matt how Rogue Retreat is benchmarking in Oregon. Justin replied that a lot of communities have been reaching out to Rogue Retreat to see how they operate. Jennifer commented that she is aware they already receive state funding but there could be an opportunity in replication, and in counseling advisement through the state. Matt expressed he would like to connect further with Jennifer about this.

Gilda Montenegro-Fix commented that Justin had mentioned that some housing structures cannot have children at the sites so she wanted to hear more about this. She also asked about diversity in general, such as racial and ethnic diversity and the LGBTQ population, and if there are any religious components that could be a barrier to this population. Justin replied that Rogue Retreat helps everyone in any of their programs. At the Urban Campground they do not allow children because they do not conduct background checks on any guests. At the Kelly Shelter they do allow children because they do conduct background checks. At the Hope Village they do not allow children because the housing units are not equipped to support children as there is no electricity. At the apartments they do allow children. In Ashland, they are going to structure the sites to be family-friendly.

Matt stated the organization is led by faith but they are not a faith-based organization. There is no religious exposure within the program that is forced. Matt also added that due to the Alameda fires they ended up serving a larger population of the Latinx population than they had in the past, so this led to Rogue Retreat investing more in bringing in culturally competent staff that are bi-lingual to create those cultural bridges. They also want to go deeper into DEI [Diversity, equity and inclusion] work to make sure they are more reflective of the community they serve.

Eric thanked Justin and Matt for their presentation.

Other Sites Coming Soon

- Ashland Urban Campground
- Talent Gateway Project
- Grants Pass Campground

Contact Information

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MINUTE ADOPTION – JUNE & JULY

ERIC GUYER, CHAIR

DISCUSSION

No suggested revisions were identified for the June and July minutes. Chief Clauson provided a motion to adopt, seconded by Commissioner Dave Dottererr. A roll-call vote was requested, all were in favor, and none were opposed. The June and July minutes were officially adopted.

NEW MEMBER APPLICATION – NATHAN OLSON

ERIC GUYER, CHAIR

DISCUSSION

Gilda Montenegro-Fix provided a motion to recommend Nathan Olson's membership to the board for approval, seconded by Jennifer Mylenek. A vote was requested, all were in favor, and none were opposed. Nathan Olson's new member application will move forward to the board.

Next Scheduled PSCC Meeting: October 26, 2021
Meeting Adjourned: 12:24 pm