

**Aging Readiness Task Force  
Meeting #2 – June 17, 2010  
Clark County Public Service Center  
Hearing Room #680  
2:00 – 4:00 P.M.**

Member Attendees: Cory Bolkan, Jesse Dunn, Dexter Garey, Steve Goff, Bob Holdridge, Roger Jarvis, Erica Kelley, Colleen Kuhn, Todd Martin, Kathy McLaughlin, Ed Rankin, Lisa Rasmussen, Jada Rupley, Marti Sanders, Erik Schott, Mike Teefy, Bud Van Cleve, Robert Watkins, Jim Wilson, Karin Woll, Jan Wyninger

Members Absent: C.T. Thurston, Erica Dahmen, Gail Haskett, Kathy McLaughlin

Guests: Roy Johnson (VHA), David Kelly (SWAAD), Klaus Micheel (SWAAD), Jim Quintana (CTAN), Lynda David (RTC), Vanessa Gaston (Community Services), Pete Monroe (Community Services), Vicki Vanneman (Parks), Mitch Kneipp (Washougal), Jennifer McDaniel (Washougal), Rocque Merritt, Kate Griffith

Staff: Bill Barron, Oliver Orjiako, Colete Anderson, Jacqui Kamp, Mary Beth O'Donnell

Jesse Dunn, Task Force Chair, opened the meeting at 2:00. He asked that the group go around the table and introduce themselves and their affiliation in the community.

Bill Barron, County Administrator, said he would be representing Commissioner Marc Boldt today as he could not be present. Commissioner Boldt was attending the Washington State Association of Counties meeting outside of Chehalis. He sent his apologies and good wishes for a productive session. A personal note from Commissioner Boldt was distributed to each task force member present.

Jesse called for a motion to approve the minutes from the May 20 meeting. There were no additions or corrections. Motion to approve carried; minutes unanimously approved.

The objective of this meeting is to prepare for the September 16 housing workshop to be held at Clark College Tech Center campus. The focus will be on the priority questions around which the workshop will be framed. There will be time for public comment. Jesse reminded the group of the meeting protocols as shown in their notebooks.

One of the key elements to an aging readiness plan for a community has to include housing. Staff met with some stakeholders representing the housing issue which resulted in the formulation of possible questions that might be asked at the September 16 workshop. The 10 questions were included in the handouts to the group. The questions were compiled after reviewing the Portland State University study on age-related shifts in housing and transportation demand. The 2006 information for the Portland metro area was very close to being reflective of what's going on in Clark County. The scope of the workshop will be to fine tune it.

Colete Anderson asked the group to take a few minutes to read through the questions and number them in order of importance/priority, one being the highest

and ten the lowest. The goal is to narrow the list down to about five questions by the end of today's discussion to be used at the September workshop.

Results of the task force votes were tallied as shown below. (Questions are attached at the end of this document for reference.)

#1: 1	#6: 1
#2: 5	#7: 1
#3: 2	#8: 1
#4: 7	#9: 2
#5: 0	#10: 9

Discussion began with Question 10, what kind of lifestyle do you want and where do you want to live?

Points of discussion:

- The encompassing question is really what you prefer vs. what is realistic. Only 10% can actually afford a single family home or a nice, gated community. Regardless of where you want to live, can you afford it?
- Aging is a continuum; needs change as you age. What is perfect at age 65 may not be at 80-85. It's not one size fits all.
- There is a gross shortage of subsidized housing in our community. There is a waiting list of 1,000 and they are not adding any more to that. Some people have been on the list for 6-8 years. We do not know how many in the county would qualify for subsidized housing.
- 8,000 people in the county are on Supplemental Security Income (SSI) which means they live on less than \$675 per month. There are 60,000 people on Social Security and 34% of which 90-100% of their income is Social Security. Focus should be on developing a community where everyone has a chance to live rather than a community in which only people of income can live.
- We need to find out what the income is of people in our community so we can meet the needs of that group. If we're going to maximize our senior population five-fold in the next 20 years, there's going to be a significant amount of people on the very low end of the spectrum. We need to look at housing or the opportunity to have housing for them. Good topic for the workshop.
- The first question to ask ourselves is where we are now, where are we going and how will we get there? Where are the people that don't fit into those easy categories other than just income numbers, do they live in homes they can afford? Are they in places they can no longer afford and have to move? That element is an important part of successful planning.
- Not all children of elderly are going to stay close in their area. Families grow and move away and parents are left behind, or parents move and no longer have children available to help them. How do they maintain their housing and access to the community? Living independently becomes so important to a senior with the services that allow them to do that.
- We need a data base or we can't move into talking about what we want or need. Getting more data is needed specifically because of the number of people in this room who represent people who need housing. In our current economic situation the focus becomes the definition of affordability and that requires statistics.

- It would be useful to front load the questions with some answers for the workshop for discussion purposes and so everyone would know what exists and what we need to do next. We should connect people with county programs that they may not know exist.
- We can access 2008 census data to identify a good portion of the questions and break it down from there. We can't determine whether a person is financially able to stay in their home, but we can tell how many single family homes are in Clark County and their size and how close they are to certain activity centers like a grocery store or church. The data base hasn't been received by the county's GIS but when it has we'll have all that information to share.
- Mike Teefy suggested contacting DSHS and SS as they can identify people by zip codes. They have information that the county doesn't. As an example, the number of SSI recipients that live in certain zips indicates where people live and their respective income. Also look into data available on a national level such as preferences of seniors and what the trends are.
- It's difficult to choose the most important question because all are extremely relevant and we don't want to neglect any areas. Figure out a way to gather information from the community to make recommendations in a general sense rather than very specific things that might take a lot of time for a group this size to evaluate and work on.
- Suggestion for flow of discussion: Start with Question 10, what do we want and what do we like? Then, what is reality? Where do people live if they don't live in their own homes (specialized housing)? Lastly, regardless of where you want to live and where you're going to live, can you afford it?
- Comment made that most programs in the county are driven by grants, either federal or state. It's difficult to develop a new program without that grant money. The federal government will be involved at some point. What are they going to do and how can we have some influence on them? How will we connect with them? How do we choose those things that could qualify for funding? What kind and level of service is the county willing to provide? Look at the nuts and bolts questions on how we make it work.
- Dave Kelly asked if there might be a way to put questions into groupings. Recategorize questions starting with 1, 10 and 7; they are self-directional questions about choice, housing and how they work. Questions 2, 3 and 5 talk about government planning; whether or not it's implied that government would intervene and do something in terms of creating laws, zoning or adjusting items that might be of impact. Questions 6 and 8 are about planning and developers; private sector questions how to facilitate answers associated with housing. Question 9 is about services that have to be available if we're going to follow the mantra "aging in place". When the stakeholder group met they talked about these conceptually then applied them to questions. Would it be viable at all to take the singular questions and put them back into conceptual thought?

#### Discussion about the workshop format:

- Begin with a welcome speech by the facilitator framing the question of why we have a task force and why we're here. The facilitator will lay out 5 or 6 things to focus on in order to arrive at a series of solutions. Commissioner Boldt will say a few words followed by a keynote speaker for 15 minutes on housing, what we think we know and framing the environment. At that point everybody will be at a table with a taskforce member who will facilitate the

discussion and a scribe. Each table will discuss the first question at the same time within their group for 15 minutes. Follow up with table by table report to the larger group for 15 minutes. We will ask that each scribe not repeat what has already been said. Allow 30 minutes total per question. The Facilitator will have to manage the time. Repeat this process for the second question and so on.

- Important to have questions that provide the necessary feedback that will ultimately form the task force recommendations to the BOCC.
- We're talking about two populations, those with means and those without. There will be people from different economic statuses attending.
- Attendees will want to know that as they get older, their wants and needs are being heard and planning will be done around that. Important for the speaker to bring out what the choices are for senior housing now and in the future so people who come can give some input as a group.
- Suggestion for question 10, frame it "given what you know about your anticipated income around retirement, what are you thinking about in terms of how you want to live? Do you want to continue living in your own home? Given your resources, would you be more interested in living in a senior community?" It needs to be more narrowly focused on what they know their circumstances to be as opposed to assuming what they are. Consider best and worst case scenarios.
- Consider physical limitations in the equation, what would they anticipate as an acceptable living situation as they may incur dementia, or fall and break a hip. What type of community would they want to live in?
- Maybe we want to ask "are you planning for retirement?" Some people really can't at this time. We don't want to make the public feel bad because they don't have a chance to think about it.
- There's an opportunity to allow everybody to get on board with what all needs are in the community instead of just advocating for one. Folks who have means will have to consider those that don't, and vice versa. We're in this together as a community.
- If we're asking what the ideal situation is, are people going to be able to think outside the box? New ideas like inter-generational communities, co-housing, a universal community situation for everyone. Since we're socialized to think about separating and segregating in age-segregated retirement communities, do we need to present some of that information before asking them, now what are your ideas, these are all the ideas or options out there.
- Interject in the questions: What are the expectations of aging in place? Does that mean services need to come to you? Or do you age in place where there are services? Look at it from the service perspective as we plan for this community in the future. Economically it makes more sense to have aging in place where there are services.
- How involved are other family members? In Europe and old days it was accepted that families stayed together. Can we build In-law apartments? Consider the changes that will take place if having a live-in senior: utilities, diets, laundry, pets, mobility, privacy, financial impact. How serviceable is your current home if you were wheelchair bound? Work that into the discussion somehow.
- Put the question into a theme then have sub-questions or bullet points connected to the question. Frame the question so that it leads to a solution. Begin with the end in mind. Put the themes in a format that the government, private sector, or private citizens can consider as actionable outcomes to what the group says.

Oliver and staff felt there was enough information to rework the questions. Staff will refine them and send out to the group via email before the workshop.

Colete introduced Alan Boguslawski from Clark County Community Development. Current Planning is in the process of updating development codes and are proposing changes to the definitions on retirement housing, assisted living, etc. They have been running some changes through the Planning Commission and will go to hearing next Tuesday, June 22. The PC asked that the Aging Task Force provide their thoughts on some of the proposed changes. The BOCC hearing is July 27 to adopt the changes so there is not much time left to weigh in on the proposed changes.

Alan reviewed the synopsis of changes:

- Ensure adequate onsite outdoor recreation space for residence as part of site plan development for retirement housing facility
- Adequate mobility and transportation for residents will be provided
- Commercial Service uses for residences to be incorporated
- Mitigate potential offsite impacts to neighbors of retirement housing developments
- Flexibility of housing types for different levels of care, for convenience and to help reduce health care and moving costs
- Provides for facilities to be appropriately located in various zones for the benefit of the community as a whole

To summarize, a variety of development codes would be brought up to state standards and come into the 20th century by definition. What we've had is 1950's language. We're asking for open space and connectivity to adjoining properties with the theory that most people in assisted living, unless they can drive their car or have family to take them places, or take the bus, are basically house bound.

Colete will email the group with the details. Please, offer your comments and email back to her and she will forward them on to the PC. Or, attend the hearing Tuesday night at 6:30 and let them know what you think.

Bill Barron said this is a wonderful coincidence that the BOCC is looking at updating this section of the code right now when we have this group in place. The commissioners want to hear from the people who know best about these things and here you are. This is a wonderful opportunity to weigh in on this especially as it relates to your knowledge about what the environment of these facilities should be. This will be the local law in the unincorporated areas (not the city) for placing these facilities, where they go, what they look like, how many acres they should be, etc.

There was discussion and explanation about terms of our code and how it applies to various facilities.

A comment was made that this code adoption was, in a way, pre-empting our workshop. It would be nice to have the housing conference before this. Bill explained, Batch 1 is a number of changes to the code and this part is a small section of that. Given the input from this group, the commissioners could possibly be influenced to pass everything on except this part because we want the task force to populate it with more information. Bill encouraged the task force to

forward their comments and tell the Board you'd like them to hold up on this part.

There was no public comment.

The next meeting will be the September 16<sup>th</sup> workshop at Clark College Tech Center. We will convene early at 2:30 to get organized for 3:00 meeting. As facilitators, the task force will receive documents ahead of time. Some of the members may be gone and cannot attend.

Dave Kelly announced that SWAAD will be holding a forum that same day from 8:45 A.M. to 2:00 P.M. in the same facility. Everyone is invited to attend then break until the workshop starts. He will send out an email with details.

The meeting adjourned 3:50pm.