



Human Services Commission

2021 ANNUAL REPORT

Enabling Legislation and/or Bylaws

The Human Services Commission (HSC) ORS 190 Intergovernmental Agreement form of governance was established in 1972 to regionally coordinate the administration of human services jointly funded by the Cities of Eugene and Springfield and Lane County through the County Department of Health and Human Services. This entity is responsible for regional health and human services. In 1981, the federal Community Action Anti-Poverty Program, which had been administered separately by the County's Social Services Division, was folded into the fund. In 1984, with the beginning of the Community Development Block Grant program, the cities integrated the allocation of public service funds for social services.

The HSC Board is administered by seven members consisting of public officials under an ORS 190 Intergovernmental Agreement between the cities of Eugene and Springfield and Lane County. Membership is based on the proportion of general fund contributions. Representatives include at least one elected representative from each jurisdiction. The City of Eugene has three seats and Lane County and the City of Springfield each have two public officials seated on the Board. (LM 3.568)

Scope and Function

The function of the Human Services Commission is to provide recommendations to the Board of County Commissioners in the following areas:

The HSC provides advice to the Board of County Commissioners and the Eugene and Springfield City Councils on community needs and priorities for human services. Its tasks include: assisting in the development of an intergovernmental human services plan and budget, assisting in planning, review and evaluation of services in the intergovernmental human services plan; assisting in evaluation of proposals to provide services, providing for citizen participation in the planning process for community human services, and making recommendations to units of local government regarding their specific human services proposals.

Membership

Human Services Commission meetings are open to any county or city employee and members of the public. The HSC membership in calendar year 2021 was officially comprised of the following members:

Commissioner Pat Farr, Lane County
Commissioner Laurie Trieger, Lane County
Councilor Claire Syrett, City of Eugene
Councilor Matt Keating, City of Eugene
Ryan Moore, City of Eugene Budget Committee member
Councilor Kori Rodley, City of Springfield
Councilor Marilee Woodrow, City of Springfield

Staff Contacts

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Meeting Frequency

The Human Services Commission met on the following dates in 2021:

- January 25, 2021
- February 22, 2021
- March 15, 2021
- April 19, 2021
- May 17, 2021
- June 21, 2021
- July 19, 2021
- September 20, 2021
- October 18, 2021
- November 15, 2021

Committee Topics of Note/Accomplishments

The Human Services Commission heard and discussed the following topics:

- Emergency Shelters
- Homeless Prevention
- Data Exploration
- Lane County Managers and Financial Updates
- Homeless Access Centers
- Rental & Energy Assistance
- Renter's Rights
- Human Services Fund Proposed Budget
- Workforce Programs & Nonprofit Workforce Needs
- Strategic Planning & Commission Work Plan
- Vaccine Requirements for Staff (Jurisdictional)
- Youth Services & Domestic Violence Services
- Inclement Weather & Winter Shelter Developments
- Sponsors Inc. Employment Training Program
- Funding Policy Consultation
- Human Resource Recruitment & Retention of Staff

Focus Areas

The HSC will focus on the following objectives in the upcoming year:

- RFP process for expiring contracts
- Review options for future human services revenues
- Implement TAC recommendations and homeless service system improvements
- Track relevant legislation at the local, state, and federal levels
- Begin a Charter Review Committee and Charter Review Process

Challenges and Strategies

The following are the greatest challenges before the HSC and the strategies planned to overcome them:

- Funding to cover the full cost to administer grant-funded and locally-funded human service programs continues to be a challenge for contracted nonprofits.
- The COVID-19 pandemic has affected the human services workforce, social service volunteer labor pool, while exacerbating the already existing need for immediate service provision in the community.