Community Advisory Board Requests

The Multnomah County Sex Trafficking Collaborative Community Advisory Board (CAB) shares the following list of requests to the ongoing housing crisis as it relates to people who have experienced sex trafficking.

- Commit to listen to the voices of those who are impacted by trafficking.
- Commit to create trauma informed support transitioning into non-shelter sustainable housing.
- Commit to cultivate sex trafficking awareness, across Oregon.

Voice

We request individuals who have experienced trafficking are at the table when allocating funds to existing and/or new services, including and not limited to: emergency services, shelters, housing options, and other culturally responsive services.

We request that allies and accomplices listen to non-dominant communities and use the information provided to influence current systems in anti-racism, culturally responsive, and trauma informed care.

We request that the systems center Black Indigenous and People of Color's (BIPOC) voices in decision-making efforts, specifically when building new programs, services, and facilitates that serves folks that are disproportionately impacted and marginalized in current services.

We request that Culturally Specific Programs drive advancing the workforce and healthcare, workforce, and housing services for trafficked communities.

Shelter Services

We request that shelters prioritize delivering the following culturally responsive, comprehensive shelter services and activities: psychological support, medical care, professional development, life skills, and other supportive services.

We request that shelters gives high quality training to staff, pays them a livable wage, and keeps the whole person in mind, including beyond their time at the

shelter. This includes, hiring individuals with lived experience to provide peer support.

Funding

We request immediate flexible funding to help reduce barriers for individuals who have experienced sex trafficking, so they can get equitable access to culturally specific resources.

Funding allocated to provide a site-based shelter for individuals who are experiencing sex trafficking.

We request funds are prioritized: (1) To hirer culturally responsive housing navigators to support those who experience sex trafficking and (2) To dedicate system staff to liaison with landlords, property managers, and developers to share education and build relationships.

Policy

We request that regular funding allocation audits are conducted on system based programs. Once it is apparent that the system based programs are not having quality outcomes and where there are equity disparities, we request the Continuum of Care reallocate and/or divert funds to culturally specific programs with higher outcomes.

We request that a policy that requires the same level of scrutiny of outcome measures to law enforcement and other system based programs as culturally specific community based programs are held to.

We request that local government offices:

- Implement equitable and inclusive language;
- Create policies to require inclusive rental criteria;
- Adjust the Permanent Supportive Housing (PSH) Recipient Income Capacity;
- Advocate for anti-trafficking policy measures, including 2021 Senate Bill 274.

Engagement

We request leadership to receive training on how to work best with survivors. Training should include: (1) activities to work with those with trafficking lived experience and (2) to actively identify culturally specific and trauma-informed opportunities for change work.

We request system engagement with a variety of communities and organizations. Specifically, (1) grade schools and colleges to increase quality education to our youth and young adults and (2) religious organizations, for support of those who have experienced sex trafficking.

We request the local government create space and time from the media to publicize the current issues, including a system based public statement of accountability for ways in which the system has failed individuals that have experienced trafficking.

We request a response of your commitment to the above items by contacting us at sex.trafficking@multco.us.