

I would like to also respond to this issue. I requested John's help to clear up some issues with the implementation of ORS 446.265. SquareOne Villages, which I direct, constructed Opportunity Village Eugene (OVE) under 446.265 in the summer of 2013. OVE has 29 huts, all constructed without electricity, but which are well insulated. We have been through 6 winters now so have quite a bit of experience with this. There is no question that these huts provide a significant improvement over sleeping on the street and have improved the quality of life for our villagers. They also have heated space (a large yurt) where they can choose to sleep on especially cold nights if they desire. Most choose not to do so, preferring their own bed with extra blankets than sleeping in the common area. Many also heat up a hot water bottle or some other device to take to bed with them. (We have electricity and microwaves in the village, just not in the sleeping cabins.) I recently conducted workshops in Madras and Redmond to discuss our work with community members and discussed this issue with them. Providing a source of heat in the colder climates of central Oregon would certainly be preferable and possibly even essential, but it does add significant costs to any such project. I think there might be some creative ways to solve this problem in central Oregon, possibly using a RV style hookup for power on colder nights or providing heated common space like we do at Opportunity Village, which would still be affordable for communities without sufficient resources to build a more traditional, heated shelter. HB2916 will make ORS 446.265 more flexible and useable for all Oregon communities that are looking for creative solutions to the shelter crisis that is in almost every community of this state. Many thanks to John for his assistance on this issue!

Dan Bryant
Executive Director
SquareOne Villages

On Mar 19, 2019, at 11:19 AM, John VanLandingham <JohnVL@oregonlawcenter.org> wrote:

2. Rep. Helt asked whether the huts, pods, yurts, or tents which HB 2916 would authorize as transitional housing accommodations would provide any protection from Central Oregon's well-known cold winters. I think an honest answer is, "not much, but maybe a little." A typical hut or tent has no or minimal insulation and no heat source or electricity. But huts do provide shelter from the wind and rain (or, in Bend's case, snow) and can be locked or secured so that a homeless person can safely store a sleeping bag there for use at night. And that's better than sleeping in a car or doorway where the car or one's stuff must be moved daily. In addition, typically a transitional housing accommodation has a central common area with water, bathrooms, cooking facilities, meeting space, and heat. Note also that this law is optional with local governments; Bend does not have to allow a

transitional housing accommodation, and if it did, it could consider other steps to address the cold temperatures.