

Mid-Willamette Valley Homeless Alliance

CoC Point-In-Time (PIT) Count Workgroup

October 19, 2020 | 11am - 12:00pm

MINUTES

PIT Count Workgroup attendees noted present with an "x"

DJ Vincent , Chair	x	Matt McWilliams , City of Independence	
Sara Webb , Community Action Agency		Julie Conn-Johnson , SKSD McKinney-Vento	
Robin Winkle , Shangri-La	x	Tricia Frizzell , Community Action Agency	x
Adam Menning , Chemeketa CC		Andrew Copeland , Keizer Police Department	
Linda Strike , Community Action Agency		Wendy Roberts , SKSD Federal Programs	x
Gretchen Bennett , City of Salem	x	Lt. Treven Upkes , Salem Police Department	x
Eddie Maestas , Salem Housing Authority	x	Staff:	
Ben Crosby , City of Keizer	x	Carla Munns , Consultant MWVHA	x
Guests			
Shain Oleson, MWVCAA HOME		Danielle Warner, Jackson Street Youth Services	
Maya Jaramillo, Family Promise Intern		Suzie Stuvland, CAA East Central Oregon	
Doug Odell, Family Promise		Shelly Ehenger	
Gretchen Bennett		Denae Overman, PSU Intern	
Shawnn Hartley, OHCS		Ryan Pollard, MWVCAA HOME drop in shelter	

1. Welcome and Introductions

DJ Vincent, Committee Chair

Chair DJ Vincent welcomed guests and members. Lieutenant Treven Upkes was approved as a new member of the PIT Count Workgroup at the October MWVHA Board of Directors meeting.

2. Workgroup Administration: September Meeting Minutes

Eddie moved to approve the September Meeting Minutes. Robin seconded. Motion passed unanimously.

3. Impact of Wildfires

The workgroup discussed the potential impacts of Oregon wildfires on the 2021 PIT Count and how to include those who are now homeless due to wildfires.

St. Francis Shelter is keeping a current list of families identifying as wildfire evacuees. The list of those families needing housing will be given to MWVCAA for housing. Seven key sites in the Santiam Canyon have been identified and utilized for volunteer efforts and food distribution. DJ requested contacts for those who may be open to volunteering for the PIT Count who are serving the canyon. Tricia noted the Santiam Teen Center as an opportunity in Stayton. Discussion included noting the importance of community outreach and education leading up to the Count to locate those living on farms, properties, living unsheltered throughout the canyon, etc.

4. Incentivizing Participation

Count donations were stored at MWVCAA for the 2020 PIT Count event. Requests for donations can begin earlier than January. MWVCAA confirmed they were able to store donations and if there wasn't enough space, MWVCAA offered to connect with United Way for additional space and/or support. Helpful items noted from last PIT Count included: hot/cold water canteens, wool socks, boots, tents (coordinate with MWVCAA for where/who to give tents to), propane, large water jugs, and tarps. ARCHES day center made sack lunches last year that mobile teams handed out. Shelly noted Marion-Polk Food Share provided additional items for street outreach. Shelly noted COVID items should be included too, including PPE and sanitation items such as wet wipes, dog poop bags. She offered to reach out to her supervisors to obtain the items or utilize additional resources to purchase items needed. Eddie would like to partner and discuss with his supervisors too. Ryan Pollard offered to reach out to contacts to request donations.

The group agreed it would be helpful to create a list of items to donate, draft email language for forwarding to networks, and develop a flyer with pertinent information to include in the email to assure shared messaging.

5. Regional Hubs: 2021 PIT Count

DJ screen shared a Regional Resource Hub Protocols document drafted to mobilize the hosting of regional magnet events that are in compliance with COVID-19 precautions for larger group settings.

Tricia mentioned a chili feed near the drop in center was successful as a magnet event last Count; she said they will do it again this coming year. The goal is to draw in youth for participation in the survey, but a diverse group attended. Everyone is welcome to come, eat, and participate in the survey.

Robin suggested DJ provide an update at the Collaborative Committee to raise awareness and ask the larger group who may/is planning on implementing a magnet event to align with the PIT Count in January. The group expressed consensus to bring this topic up at the Collaborative Committee and discuss targeted outreach after.

6. Geographic Coverage and Outreach Plans

MWVCAA is promoting volunteer opportunities for assisting those experiencing unsheltered living. Consensus was reached to add the PIT Count to the volunteer sign up portal on MWVCAA's website if/when possible.

DJ reiterated the need for avoiding sweeps, enforcement, and planned upheaval that may result in relocation of individuals experiencing homelessness. City of Salem legislation was set to expire in January so Gretchen is working to extend one more month. Considerations for unplanned upheaval, such as flooding at Wallace-Marine park in January, will need to be determined to minimize or prevent relocation.

Shelly suggested we use the Counting US application's list of users from 2020 for a volunteer repository as the sign up for volunteers was lost when MWVCAA switched platforms. Eddie pulled up the 500+ list with user names and emails on the spot—way to go Shelly!

Robin noted Shangri-La will be part of a mobile outreach team. Eddie noted the Salem Housing Authority will be helping with mobile outreach. Doug Odell noted Family Promise will be helping with PIT Count. Tricia, Shain, and Ryan noted Taylor's House and MWVCAA teams will be part of stationary sites, mobile teams, and shelter counts. Lt. Upkes and Gretchen noted the City of Salem teams can help with stationary sites or mobile teams—whatever is needed.