

MINUTES OF NOVEMBER 2, 2021

MID-WILLAMETTE VALLEY HOMELESS ALLIANCE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE AND ORS 190 ENTITY LEADERSHIP

Videoconference Via Zoom

MEMBERS PRESENT

CHAIR: Mayor Cathy Clark, City of Keizer

VICE-CHAIR: Council President Chris Hoy, City of Salem

Commissioner Jeremy Gordon, Polk County

Commissioner Colm Willis, Marion County

Rhonda Wolf, CEO, United Way of the Mid-Willamette Valley

MEMBERS ABSENT

Leilani Slama, Vice President, Community Engagement, Salem Health

OTHERS PRESENT

Jan Calvin, MWVHA Consultant

Janet Carlson, MWVHA Consultant

Denise VanDyke Admin. Specialist II, MWVCOG

Tricia Frizzell, Program Director, Community Action HOME Youth Services

CALL TO ORDER & INTRODUCTIONS

Mayor Clark called the meeting to order at 12:02 p.m. Attendance and the presence of a quorum were noted.

MINUTES OF OCTOBER 12, 2021

MOTION: By Councilor Hoy, **SECONDED** by Ms. Wolf, to **APPROVE THE MINUTES OF OCTOBER 12, 2021, AS PRESENTED.**

Motion carried.

IN FAVOR: Clark, Hoy, Gordon, Willis, Wolf. **OPPOSED:** None. **ABSTAINED:** None.

NOVEMBER JOINT BOARD AGENDA

Ms. Carlson reviewed the draft agenda provided in the meeting packet. There may be more items to be added. It has been noted that Commissioner Gordon will need to leave the board meeting early, so Ms. Carlson proposed moving jurisdiction/organization updates to the end of the meeting in the interest of time. Executive Committee members agreed with making this change. Under the Consent Agenda items, Councilor Hoy asked for clarification regarding the HMIS governance board and why the request to appoint Ms. Calvin? Ms. Calvin clarified that this is a regional HMIS governance board, which replaces the existing governance group. Four CoCs will participate because they all use the same iteration of HMIS. The governance board

will consist of representatives of the four CoCs and will guide how HMIS models are implemented in the region. Councilor Hoy requested that the group be referred to as a “regional” HMIS governance group on the agenda.

With regard to committee charter amendments, Commissioner Willis asked if the Collaborative Committee will be approving appointments to the board of directors? Ms. Carlson replied that only the process for membership appointments is required to be approved, pursuant to federal regulation and as stated in the CoC Governance Charter that was revised last month. Staff will double check to make sure the charter cross-reference is correct and will also clarify who needs to approve the appointment process. The wording may be changed to “recommend” rather than “approve” in reference to the Collaborative Committee’s role.

The Consent Agenda includes Permanent Supportive Housing Standards and Rapid Rehousing Standards. The U.S. Department of Housing & Urban Development (HUD) requires that Continuums of Care have standards in place. These are being called “emergency” standards which means there will be a process in the upcoming year to review and improve upon the current documents. Staff borrowed heavily from the Rural Oregon Continuum of Care standards, since those are the standards that providers were using prior to the Alliance being formed. The emergency standards will be incorporated by reference into the CoC Governance Charter. CoC-funded projects are required to comply with these standards.

ORS 190 Entity Business includes a new contract with Lisa Trauernicht, who will be assuming Carla Munns’ responsibilities in providing staff support to the Performance & Evaluation Committee and Point-in-Time Workgroup. The agenda item to offer Ms. Munns’ the YHDP contract will be removed, as Ms. Munns provided the chair and vice chair her letter of resignation, effective November 19. Discussion ensued regarding a succession plan for Ms. Munns. Ms. Carlson said she will help with the Youth Homelessness Demonstration Program (YHDP) meetings during November. She also noted that the ORS 190 Entity would need to conduct a request for proposals process, unless a sole source procurement is appropriate. The position is only guaranteed for one year, as it is funded with the YHDP one-year planning grant. Chair Clark asked Ms. Carlson to prepare a summary document of the contract requirements. Ms. Munns’ letter of resignation will be included in the board agenda packet.

Discussion ensued regarding a succession plan for Ms. Munns. Ms. Carlson said she will help with the Youth Homelessness Demonstration Program (YHDP) meetings during November. She also noted that the ORS 190 Entity would need to conduct a request for proposals process, unless a sole source procurement is appropriate. The position is only guaranteed for one year, as it is funded with the YHDP one-year planning grant. Chair Clark asked Ms. Carlson to prepare a summary document of the contract requirements. Ms. Munns’ letter of resignation will be included in the board agenda packet.

Ms. Carlson explained that the ORS 190 Entity’s liability insurance is due for renewal in November. The organization received a recent notice from Hartford that the company will not renew the general liability policy, because of the age of COG’s office building and the nature of

the business, i.e., homelessness. Ms. Carlson is working with Huggins Insurance to find another provider.

The final HUD Notice of Funding Opportunity (NOFO) application with attachments was too large to email to certain board members. There are more than 100 pages without the final attachments. The board meeting item will include a PowerPoint presentation. Staff will only be able to touch on the highlights due to time. Commissioner Willis raised questions about responses to the racial equity questions. He expressed concerns about answering “yes” to the items: “People of different races and ethnicities are less likely to receive homeless assistance;” and “People of different races and ethnicities are less likely to receive a positive outcome from homeless assistance.” Ms. Carlson replied that the Willamette University study found that language can be a barrier to receiving homeless assistance, especially for Spanish speakers. Discussion ensued about whether we have the definitive data to answer yes. Ms. Carlson noted that Ms. Calvin has requested the data that the Willamette MBA team reviewed from Oregon Housing & Community Services and will provide that to Commissioner Willis and any other interested board members. Commissioner Gordon stated that the study’s conclusions about people with language barriers are consistent with social science literature. Councilor Hoy stated that he agreed with the study’s conclusions. Ms. Wolf stated that United Way has worked with clients who have experienced the types of barriers described in the study.

Commissioner Willis expressed concerns that the application includes a “no” response to the item: “The CoC’s board and decision-making bodies are representative of the population served in the CoC.” Ms. Carlson explained that because board members are primarily selected by the Alliance member organizations, the racial and ethnic composition of the board is somewhat out of our control. Ms. Calvin confirmed that the current board membership is not representative of the region’s homeless population related to race and ethnicity. When asked about the quality of available data regarding the diversity of the homeless population, Ms. Calvin replied that HMIS data has many people listed as race and ethnicity “unknown.” Ms. Carlson added that honest answers are more beneficial in our application than “right” answers. We need to acknowledge that we have room to grow and improve. A lack of positive outcomes shows that there are barriers within the system, not that any particular provider organization was purposefully practicing discrimination. Commissioner Willis replied that the data seems anecdotal. Ms. Carlson offered to provide additional information, along with the requested data.

The agenda includes a Supplemental Budget with a lot of changes, because of receiving the large YHDP grant and the potential for additional grants. The items are included in the Supplemental Budget document and should be self-explanatory. The ORS 190 Entity is required under local budget law to hold a budget hearing which was noticed on October 27 in the Statesman Journal and Polk County Itemizer-Observer.

Jurisdictional/organization updates will be right after the budget hearing. This agenda change can be included in the final meeting packet.

MOTION: By Commissioner Gordon, **SECONDED by** Councilor Hoy, to **APPROVE THE AGENDA FOR NOVEMBER 4, 2021, AS DISCUSSED.**

Motion carried.

IN FAVOR: Clark, Hoy, Gordon, Willis, Wolf. **OPPOSED:** None. **ABSTAINED:** None.

ADJOURNMENT

Hearing no further business, Chair Clark adjourned the meeting at 1:03 p.m.

Janet Carlson, MWWHA Consultant