

Mid-Willamette Valley Homeless Alliance
Youth and Young Adult Subcommittee Meeting

Friday, September 16, 2022 10:15am-12:00pm
In-Person at Salem Public Library and on Zoom

Minutes approved 10/21/22

A. Introductions and Win Wall!

- Shanta Frisbee, HOST: Surviving! It's been a crazy week.
- Patrick McDermott, HOST: Very new client just came to program. Came with not much and in the past week she's made great strides.
- Lexi Meyer, HOST: Happy to have positive news in uncertain circumstances.
- Theo, Backbone: Getting ready to sell art.
- Sam, Backbone: Getting closer to a very big move.
- Shannon Corr, Independence City Council: Nice to get out of work to come be in-person.
- Marianne Bradshaw, CoC Staff Consultant: Proud of Backbone.
- Sarah Smith, Willamette Health Council: Getting her children to all their things with new back-to-school schedule ... got it all coordinated! Phew!
- Shyanne Tovar, HOME: Been working with a youth all summer. Will have all the things he asked for next week. Also, got daughter in taekwondo.
- Nayeli Cruz, LUS Youth: Work with Sandra. First time at YYA, happy to be here.
- Deanna Salvo, probation officer: Happy to be in-person!
- Derik Munns: Recently left job/career in banking to join forces with Carla. Hosted two series of Financial Literacy courses with a total of about 50 youth.
- Matt Herbert, Church @ the Park: Soon will turn day center into a micro center village for young adults 18-24. Preparing to do outreach. Interviewed for a grant for severe service need.
- Megan Perez, Church @ the Park: One of the families who's been at the shelter was accepted into a home.
- Sean Robertson, Church @ the Park: Resident Psychologist. Been volunteering at Church @ the Park and now, new to the organization. Excited to help support the team.
- Laurie Shaw Casarez, Youth development City of Salem: Coordinator for the 1000 Soles shoe program. In less than a month, 180 pairs of shoes have left shoe room to be distributed. Dropped of Vans and Converse to Taylor's House. You can donate shoes to Ike Box year-round.
- Alisa, HOME: Brought bagels for the meeting! Gets to see Hamilton in two weeks in Eugene. Won the \$10 tickets!

[Also attended but arrived after Win Wall: Tricia Frizzell]

B. Board Administration

Announcement: Punx in the Park (By Hailey)

Punx in the Park is an alternative resource event for youth on Saturday 9/17 from noon to 6pm. There will be five punk bands plus resource tables, clothing closets, and food trucks. Also raffle items. A tik tokker named Bobby Vivid will be there. Taylor's mom (of Taylor's House) is also coming. Dutch Bros donated 1,000 gift cards. Pepsi donated over \$6000 in product. We had to get a semi truck to get it all down here.

Hailey shared that when she was a youth experiencing homelessness, she hated going to resource events because she felt like an outcast and she didn't want people's sympathy. So they had this idea to put together a resource fair that was cool. They put it all together in 4-5 weeks. The goal is to do it twice per year.

Announcement: Backbone Recruiting (By Marianne)

Marianne announced that Backbone is recruiting. Several members have resigned because they've moved away or had some life changes. Asking YYA subcommittee members to share the word, pass along the flyer, talk to youth and young adults and invite them to consider the opportunity.

Shanta commented that a few of their clients at HOST have joined. She said the experience on Backbone has helped them find their voice and gain confidence and do advocacy work. Hailey added that the Backbone president was in a rough spot a year ago. She's made progress this year and Backbone is a big part of it. It's so important for us to hear their voices.

Minutes 8/19/22

Motion to approve the minutes for the 8/19 meeting made by Lexi, seconded by Hailey, approved unanimously.

C. Discussion of Coordinated Community Plan: Goals

We referenced these documents:

https://www.usich.gov/resources/uploads/asset_library/Youth-Criteria-and-Benchmarks-revised-Feb-2018.pdf

<https://mwvhomelessalliance.org/wp-content/uploads/2022/03/Mid-Willamette-Valley-Coordinated-Community-Plan-to-End-Youth-Homelessness-FINAL-3.15.22.pdf>

We reviewed each goal and then discussed how it's going in our community.

Goal 1: Identify all unaccompanied youth experiencing homelessness
Patrick McDermott read/summarized the benchmark from USICH.

There was discussion about the definitions of homelessness. The definition used in the PIT count is more narrow. USICH specifically states as part of this goal that it includes couch surfing

and uses a broad definition. Comment was made in reference to the training by Lexi Meyer at the August YYA meeting.

Goal 2: Prevent, Divert, Emergency Shelter

Sean Robertson from Church @ the Park read/summarized the benchmark from USICH.

There was some discussion about the word “divert.” Marianne acknowledged that it is not embraced in our community but it is the word used by USICH. She suggested if you think about water that is running in a certain course, if it is diverted, then it changes directions. If there is a young person who is on a path that will likely lead to homelessness, then an intervention could divert their path to stable housing. It might be family reunification or resources that solve a transportation barrier and allow them to continue working, etc.

Goal 3: Coordinated Entry

Derik Munns read/summarized the benchmark from USICH.

Derik shared an example of a youth who is 17 and is encountering significant barriers to finding housing. There was discussion about tailoring the intake interviews for <18 and 18-24.

Goal 4: Rehouse in permanent, non-time limited housing

Shannon Corr read/summarized the benchmark from USICH.

Comments were made that there is just not enough housing available! Some programs were mentioned like Y-RAP and one through DHS. Discussion circled back to the youth Derik had mentioned who is an outstanding youth and has applied to over 20 places and can't find housing.

Goal 5: Continue

Nayeli Cruz read/summarized the benchmark from USICH.

Discussion on this point was brief and emphasized the importance of long-term planning.

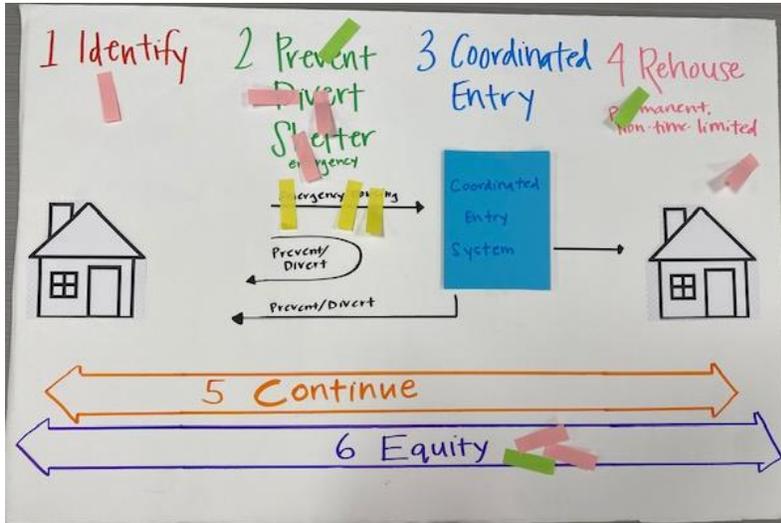
Goal 6: Equity

Marianne Bradshaw read the equity goal for our community from our CCP.

A comment was made acknowledging that some shelters are sponsored by a faith-based organization. Although their policies are inclusive, YYAs who identify as LGBTQIA+ do not always feel welcome there. There were also comments made about understanding and meeting needs of BIPOC youth, young people for whom English not as a first language, and youth under the age of 18.

TOP PRIORITIES. Our CCP includes 103 action items. It's an ambitious plan! The YYA Subcommittee is listed as a responsible partner for quite a few of them. It is helpful to identify top priorities. Of course, all of these goals are important. Each person at the meeting was given

a sticky and asked to mark the one goal they see as the most urgent for our community to invest in and make progress on now. Goal #2 received the most votes. Marianne shared that at the 9/5/22 Backbone meeting, they did a similar exercise and Goal #2 also received the most votes from Backbone members.



D. Discussion: Information about Resources for Middle and High School Teachers

Hailey and Marianne shared the plan to give a mug to each middle and high school teacher in Marion & Polk counties. The mugs will include a QR code to a Linktree listing resources for youth. A suggestion was made to include a letter for the teachers clearly stating why we are giving them the mug and what to do with the QR code. Plan is to distribute the mugs in November. YYA Subcommittee members gave input on several ideas for mug designs. Here's the favorite design (front and back):



E. Follow-Up/Recap/Closing

Next Meeting: 10/21/22 9:30-11:00am on zoom