

Mid-Willamette Valley Homeless Alliance

CoC Collaborative Committee

July 19, 2023 Minutes - DRAFT

WELCOME & AGENDA REVIEW

Co-chair Ian Dixon-McDonald welcomed everyone and asked people to enter their name in the Chat and include an email address if we don't have it. People new to the group introduced themselves.

Kudos were shared in appreciation of people throughout the region.

COMMITTEE BUSINESS

Minutes of the 6/21/23 meeting were approved by consensus.

Anti-discrimination Policy. Annual review of the attached Alliance anti-discrimination policy was conducted. No suggestions for changes.

MWVHA Board and Selected Committee, Subcommittee Highlights

Board – YYA, CCP,

Executive Director – Elaine Lozier, the new Alliance Executive Director shared some about her background and enthusiasm for being hired as the first staff member for the Mid-Willamette Valley Homeless Alliance. The Alliance office is housed in the Council of Governments office next to the Elsinore Theater on High Street SE in Salem. She extended appreciation for Ian and Adam, as Collaborative Committee co-chairs for serving on the board and bringing forward issues and recommendations. She encouraged people to attend the monthly board meetings anytime.

She is not interested in changing what works, but is looking at things with fresh eyes.

People who are not working in the housing field day to day may find it hard to come into our discussions. She is hoping to make the Alliance feel more “assessable” and inclusive to a broader array of people.

Maureen Casey expressed a hope that the City of Salem will look to the Alliance for data and recommendations on how to use the new tax funding to address homelessness.

Vision for the Collaborative Committee and how it serves the Alliance purpose? Looking to learn more from the Collaborative Committee and determine that together. Adam encouraged her to keep the committee in mind as a resource.

YYA – Alisa Nelson, co-chair of the Youth and Young Adults Subcommittee shared the group's goals:

She noted that the YYA Subcommittee works closely with the Backbone Youth Action Board, a few of which regularly attend the meetings.

Adding more youth-serving

2,000 pouches, QR code

Voices of Youth Count in early October. NWHS HOST Program is leading the effort.

HIGHLIGHT: Governor's Executive Order 23-02

- Expanding Shelter Beds and RRH for Unsheltered Households
- Addressing Disproportionality through Community Focus Groups

The Annual NOFO – Improvement Strategies

Building on last month's presentation, the committee discussed ways the CoC can improve specific performance measures.

- Reduction in the Number of First-Time Homeless
 - Length of Time Homeless
 - Successful Permanent Housing Placement & Retention
 - Returns to Homelessness
 - Jobs and Income Growth
1. **Reduction in the Number of First-Time Homeless.** Demonstrate how the CoC works to reduce the number of individuals and families who become homeless for the first time.
 - a. Identify the process by which risk factors are identified in its community for becoming homeless for the first time.
 - b. Describe the strategies in place to address individuals and families at risk of becoming homeless.
 2. **Length of Time Homeless.** Reduce the length of time individuals and families remain homeless and describe how they will reduce the length of time individuals and families remain homeless in the future.
 - a. Describe the CoC's strategy to reduce the length of time individuals and families remain homeless.
 3. **Successful Permanent Housing Placement or Retention.** Demonstrate an increase in the rate in which individuals and families move to permanent housing destinations or continue

to reside in PH projects and describe how the CoC will improve their rate of permanent housing placement.

- a. Describe the strategy the CoC is taking to improve permanent housing placement and retention.

4. **Returns to Homelessness.** Reduce the extent to which individuals and families leaving homelessness experience additional spells of homelessness and describe how the number of individuals and families who return to homelessness will be reduced in the community.

- a. Describe the strategy that will reduce returns to homelessness.

5. **Jobs and Income Growth.** Increase program participants' incomes from employment and non-employment cash sources and describe specific strategies to assist program participants' incomes.

- a. Describe the strategy that has been implemented to access employment and non-employment cash sources.
- b. Describe how the CoC is working with mainstream employment organizations to help individuals and families experiencing homelessness increase their cash income.

Chat notes

Betty Jordan Salem Housing Authority to Everyone 11:08 AM

Be sure to address mental health. Way too often the thought is to focus on going to work. When they are experiencing mental instability, we cannot expect to maintain a job. Which then starts the cycle again.

Kristin Kuenz-Barber NWHS 11:09 AM

agree 100%

Jayne Downing, Center for Hope & Safety to Everyone 11:09 AM

OHCS may have some really good stats on prevention programs in our community for keeping people from first time homelessness. Also, the City of Salem and Marion County I believe both put forward funds to help keep people in their homes

Jayne Downing, Center for Hope & Safety to Everyone 11:11 AM

Relationships with landlords

The lags are usually getting into apartments

Jayne Baer - Sable House to Everyone 11:12 AM

Reasonable Accommodations help with advocating for those with barriers and not meeting rental criteria

Jayne Downing, Center for Hope & Safety to You (Direct Message) 11:15 AM

just want to make sure you saw the suggestion about OHCS in the chat?
DEV NW also does that savings program - that is a great prevention strategy.
St. Francis has it also and we hope to have it at Hope Plaza (and Mosaic) at some point

Maureen Casey to Everyone 11:18 AM

Community Health Workers (community-based & clinic-based) are great resource navigators and successful with building positive relationships.

Elaine Lozier to Everyone 11:18 AM

Difficulty navigating systems is a chronic issue. This isn't a solution (just a piece of it), but I think Unite Us (or Connect Oregon) could really help with communication and navigating these systems

Collaborative Committee Purpose, Focus, and Plans

Due to time constraints, this item was tabled. Adam directed people to pages 6-9 for the synthesized information on charting the course to develop common goals, projects, milestones, and an action plan.

Announcements

OHP Assister Training – August 29

Homeless & Housing Resource Center, [Home | HHRC \(hhrctraining.org\)](#)

Anna Brase, abrased@saalemhousingor.com is the contact for the Emergency Housing Network (meets monthly at the UGM Men's Mission in Salem)

The YMCA's Open House for Veterans' Housing is August 10 at 10:00 a.m.

Mid-Willamette Valley Homeless Alliance

Anti-Discrimination Policy

In accordance with applicable state and federal regulations, the Mid-Willamette Valley Homeless Alliance, the Continuum of Care (CoC) for Marion and Polk Counties, is a non-discriminatory organization. It is the policy of the CoC to eliminate discrimination based on race, ethnicity, religion, color, sex, marital status, familial status, national origin, age, creed, mental or physical disability, sexual orientation, gender identity, and source of income. All CoC members and CoC-funded providers are required to adhere to anti-discrimination policies, including not denying admission to or separating any family members from other members of their family or caregivers based on any protected classes under the Fair Housing Act, and consistent with 24 CFR 5.105(a)(2)—Equal Access to HUD-Assisted or HUD-Insured Housing.

Board Approved on 6/11/20.

In-person Oregon Health Plan assister training

In partnership with the Willamette Health Council and PacificSource, the Community Partner Outreach Program (CPOP) at OHA is pleased to invite you to join an upcoming in-person training to become a certified Oregon Health Plan (OHP) assister. *This training session is specially tailored to homeless and housing service providers in the Marion-Polk region.*

Date/Time: August 29, 2023 from 9:00am-4:00pm [Register Here](#)

Location: PacificSource, 4263 Commercial St SE, Salem, OR 97302

The training is free. Both employees and volunteers can take the training.

Given the start of OHP renewals (sometimes also referred to as “redeterminations”) in April, we want to ensure service providers are equipped with updated information and resources to be able to help those experiencing housing insecurity/homelessness navigate the renewal process. As a trained and certified OHP assister, you will be able to help people understand their available health coverage options and complete the eligibility and enrollment processes for both OHP and the Oregon Health Insurance Marketplace.

In addition to training, if not already contracted, your organization will need to take additional steps to become a certified Community Partner entity with CPOP. Please email the Regional Outreach Coordinators (ROCs) for the Willamette Valley with questions, and to get this process started ASAP. You can also contact the ROCs if you have any questions about the training.

- Fabiola Herrera, mayra.f.herrera-hernandez@oha.oregon.gov
- Cristina Hernandez, cristina.c.hernandez@oha.oregon.gov