

Mid-Willamette Valley Homeless Alliance

CoC Collaborative Committee

Wednesday, December 20, 2023 * 10:00-11:30 a.m.

Zoom: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/82165607357?pwd=S0dKbk5hTDh1Y3JYazdrNEJtMndFZz09>

AGENDA

[CoC Collaborative Committee – Mid-Willamette Valley Homeless Alliance \(mwvhomelessalliance.org\)](https://www.mwvhomelessalliance.org)

1. Welcome & Agenda Review

Adam Mennig, Committee Co-Chair

Please type your name and organization in the chat box. Add your email address if we don't have it. If this is your first Collaborative Committee meeting, please come off mute and introduce yourself.

2. Kudos / Comments of Appreciation

An opportunity to give a shout out to an individual or agency in this group who you've been working with, who you'd like to recognize for what they do or just who they are.

3. Committee Business

- **Values Statement Update** (pages 3-4)
- **Common Goals Workgroup Update** (page 5)

4. Working in Homeless Services

Highlights of key findings from a 2023 survey of homeless service workers conducted by the Homelessness Research Institute at the National Alliance to End Homelessness. Insights include motivations to be part of this mission; as well as the personal and professional challenges faced in this work, staffing issues that contribute to these pressures, and the collective impact on the work to end homelessness. Download the report at: [Working in Homeless Services: A Survey of the Field - National Alliance to End Homelessness](https://naeh.org/wp-content/uploads/2023/09/Working-in-Homeless-Services-A-Survey-of-the-Field-National-Alliance-to-End-Homelessness.pdf)

5. Where Does Hope Live?

Ian Dixon-McDonald, Committee Co-Chair

Building on the previous agenda item (Working in Homeless Services), we will focus on individual and organizational actions to mitigate the stressful impacts of the environmental conditions related to working in homeless services. Tami Cirerol, Mental Health Promotion and Suicide Prevention Coordinator with Marion County Health and Human Services will share a tool kit and discuss resources. (Resources were sent with the meeting notice.)

In response to the report above, NAEH recently posted: <https://endhomelessness.org/blog/resiliency-in-homeless-service-providers-going-beyond-self-care/>

6. MWWHA Board Report

- HUD Youth Homelessness System Improvement Grants – CoC Application
- Coordinated Entry System – Short- and Longer-Term Changes
- Board members with lived experience – Recommendations

7. Governor's Executive Order 23-02 – and Beyond

- Prevention
- New Shelter Beds
- Rapidly Rehousing Unsheltered Households
- New Funding

8. Announcements

- **HUD Youth Homelessness System Improvement Grants – CoC Application**

The U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development is accepting applications for the Youth Homelessness System Improvement (YHSI) Grant Program. The objectives of this funding are to: Improve the capacity of youth in the community: Developing peer support models, including training, project design, and implementation; creating Youth Action Board training, including government rules, leadership, and other skills; community training and outreach on how to work with youth and integrate youth leadership in an authentic way. Establish partnerships: Bringing together system partners who also work with youth who are housing unstable. Additional information can be found [here](#). Contact Jan Calvin if you are interested in providing input to the local application.

- **Nominations for Collaborative Committee co-chairs** will be accepted at the January 17 meeting. Co-chairs serve two-year terms, and the duties include agenda-planning, facilitating meetings, and representing the committee on the CoC Board of Directors. Contact Jan Calvin if you are interested or have questions, Calvin.jan@yahoo.com or 503-551-4352.

- OHCS has two remaining technical assistance sessions on Wednesdays at 9:00 a.m. [You can officially register for the Zoom meetings here.](#)

- January 24: **Street outreach with behavioral health supports**
- February 28: **Rapid Rehousing basics**

The purpose of the CoC Collaborative Committee is to assist the Mid-Willamette Valley Homeless Alliance Board of Directors in accomplishing the responsibilities of the Continuum of Care, as outlined in Article IV of the [CoC Governance Charter](#).

Values Statement Update

The values statement and 3-part plan were shared with the CoC Executive Committee on 12/5/23. The six-member group unanimously supported the work that is being done and looks forward to receiving recommendations when the Collaborative Committee is ready.

The work group is open to anyone interested in developing tools and activities to influence community perspectives and behaviors around the Values Statement. The next meeting will be held in early January 2024.

3-part plan:

1. Values Statement – Collaborative Committee reviews at 11/15/23 meeting and recommends and gets feedback from the CoC Executive Committee 12/5/23.
2. Identify plans to use the values statement in specific ways. See some initial ideas and resources below.
3. Create tools to advance the intent.

Ideas to consider:

- CoC Code of Conduct – update to reflect the values statement.
- Equity Lens - type of tool. Ways to check – impact must match our intent.
- Hold space for and elevate the voices of people experiencing homelessness.
- Ways to affect change:
 - Example photos (compare & contrast?)
 - Stories
 - Examples of changing protocols
 - Comment/captions
 - Pictures with permission (informed and limited use)

Resources:

- Simon on the Streets
[How to show respect for people facing homelessness | Simon on the Streets](#)
- The Night Ministry, Chicago – Good Neighbor Guide
[Good Neighbor Guide Provides Suggestions for Engaging with Unhoused Community Members - EasyBlog \(thenightministry.org\)](#)

Values Statement

Whereas,

- The Mid-Willamette Valley Homeless Alliance is a collaborative organization engaging in a communitywide commitment to coordinate, leverage, and align efforts and resources to prevent and end homelessness.
- The Alliance uses images and information that honor the dignity of people experiencing homelessness. The Alliance acknowledges and has concerns when images and information (e.g., photographs, articles, social media) violate a person's dignity and humanity.
 - Depicting people experiencing homelessness at their worst immortalizes one moment and projects an inaccurate representation.
 - This perpetuates stereotypes that are too broad for a moment in time or to accurately describe the circumstances or experiences.
 - The negative stereotypes dehumanize our fellow human beings, and create division, "othering" or "us versus them" mentality.
 - This "othering" contributes to real harm (verbal and physical abuse) besetting those experiencing homelessness.

These concerns directly conflict with Alliance values, as it strives to reflect and advance...

- Dignity, first and foremost,
- Respect,
- Inclusivity, and
- Humanity.

The Alliance believes...

- All people deserve dignity and respect.
- Actions, however well-intended, should never cause harm.
- Ending homelessness requires both individual and community-based commitments to dignity, respect, inclusivity, and a common humanity.
- Collectively and intentionally, we can bring about the changes we seek.

The Alliance will...

- Educate,
- Advocate,
- Demonstrate leadership,
- Commit to building human connections, and
- Continue to use images and information that honor the dignity and humanity of people experiencing homelessness.

As an Alliance, we will hold ourselves accountable and invite all individuals, organizations, and communities throughout the Marion-Polk region to demonstrate similar commitment.

CoC Collaborative Committee Common Goals Update

PRIORITY: *Develop common projects, goals, milestones, and action plans.*

TASK	PROCESS	NOVEMBER PROGRESS UPDATE
Develop action plan with timeline and agreements	Smaller group to develop a draft, Collaborative Committee respond to the draft, iterative process; link it to data (why we do what we do and what we expect to change). Have a committee working between meetings with a back and forth with the larger group for feedback. Breakout groups to provide feedback. Review progress at Collaborative Committee. Include “boots on the ground” with a report to Collaborative Committee, then maybe a half-day session.	The “Common Goals Group” shared initial concepts and gathered feedback at the 10/18/23 Collaborative Committee meeting (see below). The group crafted three options to present at the 11/15/23 Collaborative Committee meeting (see below).

Common Goals Group Participants: Ian Dixon-McDonald, Adam Mennig, Kristin Kuenz-Barber, Amber Brady, Andrea Soemadi, Christina Bertschi, Jan Calvin

Initial Concepts:

The task is to develop an action plan with a timeline and agreements. What does that look like?

A plan is great, but it must include tangible/measurable steps for tracking progress.

Structures/meeting(s) on selected goal(s) need to be focused for impact, traction for action!

Action plans must evolve, be nimble enough to respond to current/emerging realities.

Action plans need to be relevant for local community/communities.

Efforts/activities should enhance coordination of services.

Focus on relationships as a primary avenue/strategy for action/change/progress.

Vet ideas with people who have different opinions/thoughts.

What is the guiding framework or criteria?

Something the collective can accomplish together that individual organizations can't do alone (e.g., set a standard/expectation to change media or community norms).

Project(s)/activities should have an impact in the community.

What are some ideas for common projects or goals that are best achieved by a collective?

Raise the voices of people with lived experience (for a particular purpose).

Support/tend to the workforce (feed the staff so they don't eat the clients).

Give voice to what is being done, so the community sees/understands effort/progress.

Develop talking points/messages that support a desired outcome (e.g., legislative action, funding, community involvement).

Be a strong voice in the community, educating and advocating.

Feedback from 10/18/23 Collaborative Committee. Are we on the right track? If so, what are the next steps?

Like the idea of doing together what can't be done individually.

Look at policies and procedures that create barriers or create more trauma.

Identify gaps & barriers and work intentionally on behalf of specific populations (e.g., families, SPMI, rural).

Find ways for more people to understand the good work being done – and how complex it is. Counter the narrative about “how to get rid of these people.”

Options:

1. Build on the Values Statement and work collectively to affect change. Develop common talking points, data, communication strategies and tools. Educate beyond the readership of Salem Reporter and the Statesman Journal.
2. Identify and mitigate or eliminate one policy or widespread practice that creates barriers for people who experience homelessness.
3. Develop a culture of self-care among homeless services staff. Identify new norms and ways to intentionally lift each other. Walk the talk of best practices in work/life balance to prevent burnout and infuse hope day-to-day.