

Mid-Willamette Valley Homeless Alliance CoC Collaborative Committee Meeting

Meeting Minutes Wednesday February 21, 2024, 10:00-11:30 a.m.

Welcome & Agenda Review

Participants were reminded to type their name and organization into the chat box. First-time attendees were invited to introduce themselves, with no newcomers mentioning their first meeting. An informal tone was established, with light-hearted exchanges concerning technical issues with sharing the agenda and friendly banter highlighting the camaraderie of the group.

Kudos / Comments of Appreciation

An opportunity was given for members to express their appreciation for fellow workers or organizations' contributions. Praise was given by Kat Fox, representing PacificSource, for the services and location provided by Sheltering Silverton. Another commendation was given by Sarah White for PacificSource's guidance to staff, emphasizing the value of their behavioral health navigators and overall helpful contributions to case management teams.

Committee Business

There was a brief discussion on the function and purpose of the collaborative committee, with an acknowledgment that the committee had been considering various roles, including acting as an action committee, providing feedback, and assessing its core purpose.

Co-Chair Elections

The group nominated potential candidates for the role of co-chairs, who would serve two-year terms. The importance of selecting candidates who represent both the government and private/non-profit sectors was noted. The vote was conducted via Google Forms, albeit with the option to chat the vote if technical issues were encountered.

Ian Dixon-McDonald nominated Sarah White from Sheltering Silverton for the nonprofit private sector seat with the second by Christina Bertschi. Dixon-McDonald nominated Adam Menning to continue in his position as representing a governmental sector employee, seconded by Kat Fox. Kat Mullins from Marion County was nominated by Christina Bertschi, seconded by Dixon-McDonald. Dixon-McDonald also nominated Christine Sommer from Marion County Housing Authority, seconded by Ashleigh Duda. Each of the nominees was given the opportunity to say a few words to the group.

In the end, Sarah White and Christine Sommer were elected as the new co-chairs representing the private/non-profit and government sectors, respectively. The results will be recommended to the board for approval.

MWVHA Board Report

The board report was shared, including announcements of continuing elected positions such as Jeremy Gordon of Polk County as Chair and Chris Hoy of the City of Salem as Vice-Chair. There was also mention of a new president-elect for the Backbone committee. Strategic planning was highlighted as a major ongoing initiative, with consultants helping develop the next strategic plan.

Governor's Executive Order 23-02 – and Beyond

Lozier updated the group on the achievements made in response to the governor's declaration of a state of emergency due to homelessness, including exceeding the goals for preventing homelessness, rehousing individuals, and creating new emergency shelter beds. The continuation of funding and contractual support from the state was celebrated. Lozier offered details on the objectives met, such as assistance provided to over two thousand people for preventing homelessness and rehousing more than three hundred people from literal homelessness into stable housing with case management support.

Announcements

The participants were informed about an upcoming technical assistance session on Rapid Rehousing basics by Oregon Housing Community Services, scheduled for exactly one week from the date of the meeting.

Values Statement and Common Goals Update

There was a brief discussion on the group's ongoing work to refine value statements and set common goals. This included considerations about photographs of individuals experiencing homelessness and the broader representation and dignity of these individuals. Members were reminded of the importance of this endeavor and how it reflects on the Alliance—an ongoing commitment to the respectful portrayal of the homeless population and reinforcement of their dignity.

Acknowledgments and Concluding Remarks

Finally, participants tendered their heartfelt thanks to Ian and Adam for their years of service and contributions as former co-chairs, expressing both appreciation for their accomplishments and excitement for the leadership transition. The meeting concluded on a positive note, with anticipation for future directions and continuing efforts to address homelessness in the community.

Chat Log:

Elaine Lozier

01:31

EL

Hi, Ian, I made you host.

Sean Aker, WESD

02:28

SA

Sean Aker, Willamette ESD

Kristin Kuenz-Barber NWHS

02:30

KK

Kristin Kuenz-Barber: NWHS

Robin Winkle, She/Her, Shangri-La

02:33

RW

Robin Winkle, Shangri-La

Christina McCollum

02:34

CM

Christina McCollum w/ PacificSource

Sara Quick, Salem Housing Authority

02:37

SQ

Sara Quick, Salem Housing Authority

Dominique Schoessler

02:39

DS

Dominique Schoessler Shangri-La

Nichole CCS

02:40

NC

Nichole, Catholic Community Services

VHAPORGeibeC

02:45

V

Carrie Geibel, VA

Adam - Chemeketa (He/Him)

02:46

A-

Adam Mennig; Chemeketa; Co-Chair Collaborative Committee

Robert Garcia

02:49

RG

Robert Garcia - Salem Leadership Foundation

Sarah White(she/her)-Sheltering Silverton

02:51

SW

Sarah White, Sheltering Silverton

Rachel McKee (she/her) MWVCAA

02:53

RM

Rachel McKee, MWVCAA ARCHES

Claire Vogelsang

02:53

CV

Good morning! Claire Vogelsang, Marion County Human Trafficking Task Force/Safety Compass

Tara Stephen - CHS

03:01

TS

Tara Stephen - Center for Hope & Safety

Kat Fox

03:02

KF

Kat Fox, PacificSource Community Solutions

Adam - Chemeketa (He/Him)

03:20

A-

Agenda: <https://drive.google.com/file/d/1mUmgK0un6AlMQV7Ik2kkC71u2UNZmMkZ/view?usp=sharing>

ChrisBarber

03:34

C

Chris Barber, Curandi

Doug Odell (he/him)

03:59

DO

Doug Odell - Family Promise

Amy Hamilton

04:23

AH

Amy Hamilton, DevNW

Kat Mullins, Marion County HHS

04:50

KM

Kat Mullins, Marion County HHS

Ashleigh Duda (she/her) MWVCAA

04:57

AD

Ashleigh Duda - MWVCAA

Adam - Chemeketa (He/Him)

05:05

A-

Agenda: <https://drive.google.com/file/d/1mUmgK0un6AlMQV7Ik2kkC71u2UNZmMkZ/view?usp=sharing>

Maricela Fernandez

06:47

MF

Maricela Fernandez- Woodburn School Dist

Adam - Chemeketa (He/Him)

09:22

A-

Agenda: <https://drive.google.com/file/d/1mUmgK0un6AlMQV7Ik2kkC71u2UNZmMkZ/view?usp=sharing>

Adam - Chemeketa (He/Him)

15:05

A-

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.



1

Ian Dixon-McDonald

31:34

ID

<https://forms.gle/EGNkBZSZhGB6PEkz6>

Adam - Chemeketa (He/Him)

38:07

A-

<https://forms.gle/EGNkBZSZhGB6PEkz6>

Sean Aker, WESD

40:53

SA



Sarah White(she/her)-Sheltering Silverton

42:46

SW

Thank you, Adam and Ian for your time and care for this work!



5 2

ChrisBarber

46:41

C

Ditto. Thank you both for all the time and coordination you have given to moving the CoC.



2

Sean Aker, WESD

54:46

SA



Adam - Chemeketa (He/Him)

55:21

A-

OHCS Training - Feb 28 ; 9am - Rapid Rehousing Basics https://us02web.zoom.us/join/join?pwd=iprT8iGd1gOj78_RbA-Cv6V3uDL455#/registration

Claire Vogelsang

56:57

CV

Sarah, we would love to have someone join that task force!

Elaine Lozier

57:12

EL

I want to join, Sarah! So glad you are doing that!

Sarah White(she/her)-Sheltering Silverton

57:34

SW

Thanks, Elaine and Claire. sarah@shelteringsilverton.org

Claire Vogelsang

59:47

CV

Thank you!