

Meeting Minutes of:

**MID-WILLAMETTE VALLEY HOMELESS ALLIANCE (MWVHA) COLLABORATIVE
COMMITTEE**

Meeting Date & Time:

March 19, 2025
10:00 a.m. – 11:30 a.m.

Location: Virtual

PARTICIPANTS PRESENT

Co-Chair, Marion County Housing Authority, Christine Sommer
Co-Chair, Sheltering Silverton, Sarah White
Bridgeway Community Health, Eli Kinsley
Catholic Community Services/St. Joseph, Maureen Casey
Center for Hope and Safety, Ashley Carson
Center for Hope and Safety, Sara Brennan
Center for Hope and Safety, Tara Stephen
Chemeketa Community College, Susan Garcia
Church at the Park, Helena Jones
Church at the Park, Kathryn Sommer
City of Salem Urban Development, Tiffany Ottis
Crossroads Communities, Jenny Sheldon
Curandi, Chris Barber
DevNW, Amy Hamilton
Marion Co, CDBG and HOME Program Manager, Steve Dickey
Marion Co Health & Human Services (housing and services), Christina Bertschi
Marion Co Housing Authority, Lara Bergerson
Marion Polk Early Learning Hub, Tracy Lopez
Marion Polk Food Share Ian Dixon-McDonald
McKinney Vento - Dallas SD 2, Todd Baughman
MWVCAA-ARCHES, Rachel McKewe
MWVCAA-ARCHES, RRH-Polk, Petra Jauregui
MWVCAA- HOME Youth Services, Kira Hand
NW Human Services, Kristin Kuenz-Barber
NW Human Services, HOAP, Peter Buekea
Oregon DHS - District 3, Self Sufficiency, Janet Scott
PacificSource, Behavioral Health, Accute Care, Christina McCollum

Polk County Behavioral Health, Alba Garcia
Polk County FCO, Housing, Ryan Pollard
Punx with Purpose, Hailey Hulsey
Salem Housing Authority, Anna Brase
Salem Housing Authority, Betty Jordan
Salem Housing Authority, Bianca Mendoza
Salem Housing Authority, Sara Quick
Salem Leadership Foundation, Robert Garcia
Shangri-La, Erika Bush
Shangri-La, Robin Winkle
Soaring Heights, Bri Hatchell
St. Francis Family Housing, Jill Tucker
UGM of Salem, Simonka Place, Brenda Newey
United Way, SafeSleep UNITED, Lynelle Wilcox
Willamette ESD, Cassie Stafford
Yakima Valley Farmworkers Clinic, Lisa Clark

MWVHA STAFF PRESENT

MWVHA, Misty Sorte
MWVHA, Ashleigh Duda
MWVHA, Cassandra Bay
MWVHA Consultant, Joy Dickinson
MWVHA Consultant, Marianne Bradshaw

WELCOME & PURPOSE

Co-Chair Christine Sommer called the meeting to order at 10:04 a.m. and asked members to type their names in the chat comments.

MOTION TO APPROVE DECEMBER 2024 MEETING MINUTES BY CHRISTINA BERTSCHI

Seconded by: Chris Barber
In favor: Unanimous
Opposed: None
Abstentions: None

ALLIANCE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR & BOARD UPDATES/ANNOUNCEMENTS

Misty Sorte shared that Emily Mewbourn was hired as the Health and Homeless Systems Liaison. Emily is now working with the Willamette Health Council to develop an RFP for a gaps analysis, with the alliance hoping to integrate their specific needs into the process.

COLLABORATIVE COMMITTEE CHARTER INPUT

Joy Dickinson (MWVHA Consultant) presented four main goals of the Collaborative Committee Charter:

1. understanding the community through data;
2. developing and improving the coordinated system of care and services;
3. maximizing resources; and
4. increasing alliance participation.

Proposed changes to the charter included creating centralized resources with training for regional service providers, reviewing and enhancing the Alliance's data collection analysis, and actively increasing participation in the COC by ensuring community-reflective invitations and inclusion.

The discussion also highlighted suggestions to incorporate education into the vision statement, add language about influencing system design, and emphasize education's role in changing perspectives and addressing homelessness.

MOTION TO APPROVE THE PROPOSED UPDATES TO THE COLLABORATIVE COMMITTEE CHARTER BY CHRISTINA BERTSCHI

Seconded by: Robin Winkle

In favor: Unanimous

Opposed: None

Abstentions: None

KUDOS/COMMENTS OF APPRECIATION

Several members shared kudos and appreciation:

Robin Winkle (Shangri-La) thanked Jan Calvin (MWVHA Consultant), Mid-Willamette Valley Community Action Agency, and the Mid-Willamette Valley Homeless Alliance for their work on securing LTRA assistance for the 28 households in permanent supportive housing

Sarah White (Sheltering Silverton) thanked Cassie Bay (MWVHA Staff) for her administrative support through recent changes and transitions.

Tiffany Ottis (City of Salem) shared updates on various housing projects, including DevNW's veteran project, Hope Plaza, Applegate, and the Micronesian Islander Voyager's Village

SHELTER UPDATES

Peter Buekea (NWHS-HOAP) mentioned that HOAP Day Center would be closed for services the following day.

Lynelle Wilcox (SafeSleep) shared that they had experienced staffing shortages but were now gearing up with more staff being trained. She also discussed ongoing challenges with accommodating individuals with mental health issues, seniors needing daily assistance and those struggling with addiction.

Sarah White (Sheltering Silverton) echoed similar challenges in their shelter, mentioning the strain on shelter staff and the gaps in mental health and elder care systems

PIT DEBRIEF

Mary Anne Bradshaw from MWVHA provided a high-level update on the preliminary Point-in-Time count. She noted strong volunteer participation and successful coordination across several regions, with new approaches introduced for data collection. Early insights suggest modest increases in unsheltered numbers and more significant increases in sheltered counts, with vehicle dwelling emerging as a common unsheltered situation.

A full presentation of the results is scheduled for April during a joint COC board and collaborative committee meeting.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Eli Kinsley from Bridgeway Community Health shared information about their stabilization housing program for women and an upcoming community education event on fentanyl trends.

Jill Tucker from St. Francis Family Housing informed the group that their program is now doing intakes.

ZOOM CHAT MESSAGES

00:04:23	Sara Brennan, Center for Hope & Safety (Salem, OR):	Sara Brennan, Center for Hope & Safety
00:04:28	Joy Dickinson:	Joy Dickinson, Dickinson Consultants
00:04:30	Robin.Winkle:	Robin Winkle, Shangri-La
00:04:34	sarahwhite:	Sarah White, Sheltering Silverton
00:04:40	Homeless Alliance - Cassie Bay:	Cassie Bay - MWVHA
00:04:41	Brenda:	Brenda Newey UGM Simonka Place
00:04:41	Maureen:	Maureen Casey, Catholic Community Service
00:04:42	Kira (she/her):	Kira, MWVCAA - HOME Youth Services
00:04:45	Ryan Pollard - Polk County Family & Community Outreach:	Ryan Pollard - Polk County FCO
00:04:46	Alba Garcia (she/her):	Alba Garcia (she/her)- Polk County Behavioral Health
00:04:48	Petra Jauregui:	Petra Jauregui, MWVCAA Arches

00:04:51 Erika Bush: Erika Bush from Shangri-La, email: Erika.bush@shangrila-or.org

00:05:54 Sara Quick, Salem Housing Authority: Sara Quick, Salem Housing Authority

00:05:57 misty.sorte: Misty Sorte, Alliance staff

00:05:58 ChrisBarber: Chris Barber, Curandi

00:05:59 Janet Scott: Janet Scott, ODHS SSP

00:06:02 Betty Jordan Salem Housing Authority: Betty Jordan Salem Housing Authority

00:06:13 Kathryn Sommer: Kathryn + Gladys - Church at the Park

00:06:14 Steve Dickey, Marion County: Steve Dickey, Marion County Community Services

00:06:14 Christina McCollum: Christina McCollum w/ PacificSource

00:06:16 Bri's iPhone: Bri Hatchell Soaring Heights

00:06:17 tara.stephen: Tara Stephen, Center for Hope & Safety

00:06:29 Lisa Clark: Lisa Clark, Yakima valley farm Workers Clinic

00:06:30 Anna B: Anna Brase, Salem Housing Authority

00:06:44 Eli Kinsley (he/him): Eli Kinsley, Director of Community Services, Bridgeway Community Health

00:06:57 Bianca Mendoza SHA: Bianca Mendoza Salem Housing Authority

00:07:13 Peter Buekea: Peter Buekea, NWHS-Street Outreach

00:07:16 Hailey Hulsey: Hailey Hulsey- CEO Punx with Purpose

00:07:26 Rachel McKee (she/her) MWVCAA: Rachel McKee, MWVCAA

00:07:50 sarahwhite: Who says we don't take care of our nonprofit workers?

00:07:54 Christina Bertschi, MCHHS Housing Programs Manager: Christina Bertschi, Marion County Health and Human Services, Housing Programs Manager

00:08:11 Jill Tucker - St. Francis Family Housing: Jill Tucker, St. Francis Family Housing

00:08:16 Amy Hamilton: Amy Hamilton with DevNW

00:08:23 Tiffany Ottis: Tiffany Ottis, City of Salm, Federal Programs

00:08:55 Kristin Kuenz-Barber NWHS: Kristin Kuenz-Barber NWHS

00:09:00 Amy Hamilton: Hi Misty! So good to see your face!

00:09:23 misty.sorte: I'm happy to be here!

00:10:42 Christina Bertschi, MCHHS Housing Programs Manager: The health and safety committee is no longer a sub-committee, we are a full committee now.

00:12:52 Jill Tucker - St. Francis Family Housing: You didn't actually vote

00:17:24 Joy Dickinson: joy@dickinsonconsultants.com

00:17:29 Jill Tucker - St. Francis Family Housing: Shouldn't that be on the website so that it's more widely shared in the community?

00:17:57 Homeless Alliance - Cassie Bay: it hasn't been approved by the board yet, once it is approved. Absolutely!

00:18:28 Susana Garcia Chemeketa CC: Susana Garcia
STEP & Workforce Ready Program Coordinator
Chemeketa Community College
Susana.Garcia@chemeketa.edu

00:23:07 Jill Tucker - St. Francis Family Housing: I am concerned that education maybe is a bit of mission creep and takes the focus off the ball a bit. Not to say that we can't be thinking about it, but the immediate focus does need to be homelessness and the attendant health outcomes right out of the gate.

00:23:29 Helena J - C@P: Reacted to "I am concerned tha..." with 👍

00:24:48 Ryan Pollard - Polk County Family & Community Outreach: Do we maybe want to say something like "Prevent & Address Homelessness" as the purpose? I'm 100% all for ending homelessness - but will that ever happen?

00:25:14 Jill Tucker - St. Francis Family Housing: Reacted to "Do we maybe want to ..." with 👍

00:25:19 Homeless Alliance - Cassie Bay: Reacted to "Do we maybe want to ..." with 👍

00:25:55 Robin.Winkle: Does education fit better under the Values of the committee?

00:26:17 Alba Garcia (she/her): Reacted to "Do we maybe want t..." with 👍

00:27:35 Jill Tucker – St. Francis Family Housing: In regards to e. – can you give a bit more detail about what is meant by centralized resources?

00:30:09 Bianca Mendoza SHA: Reacted to "Do we maybe want to ..." with 🙌

00:30:22 Betty Jordan Salem Housing Authority: Reacted to "Do we maybe want t..." with 🙌

00:30:26 Peter Buekea: With regard to "g", I like and appreciate the Alliance's "Gaps Analysis" from 2022... good info

00:32:17 Ryan Pollard – Polk County Family & Community Outreach: Should we add an additional piece for preventing homelessness such as providing tenant education classes, budgeting classes, access to emergency resources, etc.? All focused on keeping folks housed and preventing eviction. At a local landlord luncheon I had that was the #1 thing all landlords mentioned. Maybe saying "Preventing Homelessness by.... etc" – Just a thought

00:32:56 Ryan Pollard – Polk County Family & Community Outreach: yeah!

00:33:07 Jill Tucker – St. Francis Family Housing: Support 100% what Ryan is saying – prevention is the very best thing and by far the most cost effective way to make immediate gains that show real results to the community

00:33:20 Rachel McKee (she/her) MWVCAA: Reacted to "Support 100% what Ry..." with ❤️

00:33:22 Rachel McKee (she/her) MWVCAA: Reacted to "Should we add an add..." with ❤️

00:33:26 Amy Hamilton: Reacted to "Support 100% what Ry..." with ❤️

00:33:27 Homeless Alliance – Cassie Bay: Reacted to "Should we add an add..." with 🙌

00:33:33 Robin.Winkle: Reacted to "Should we add an add..." with ❤️

00:35:03 Kristin Kuenz-Barber NWHS: Reacted to "Should we add an add..." with 🙌

00:35:05 Christina Bertschi, MCHHS Housing Programs Manager: Aren't we essentially collaborating with partners who provide the education

00:35:15 lynelle: Reacted to "Should we add an add..." with ❤️

00:35:18 SusannFinnegan: The housing is the foundation and the education becomes the walls that keep the "house" intact

00:35:22 lynelle: Reacted to "With regard to "g", ..." with ❤️

00:35:42 Robin.Winkle: Reacted to "Aren't we essentiall..." with 🙌

00:35:43 Amy Hamilton: Reacted to "Aren't we essentiall..." with ❤️

00:36:18 Jill Tucker – St. Francis Family Housing: So are we considering a kind of bifurcated path with focus on prevention to reduce the number of folks coming into homelessness while also strongly supporting collaborative work to ensure that folks who are currently experiencing homelessness have a path to safe, stable housing?

00:36:44 Jill Tucker – St. Francis Family Housing: Sorry for all of the questions, but I am just trying to make sure that I am understanding where we are moving towards

00:37:14 Robin.Winkle: My internet is unstable 😞 I think being able to share the information regarding what trainings are happening where would be a great start also.

00:40:18 Ryan Pollard – Polk County Family & Community Outreach: Same!

00:40:50 Christina Bertschi, MCHHS Housing Programs Manager: I move to approve

00:40:56 Robin.Winkle: I second

00:41:04 Ryan Pollard – Polk County Family & Community Outreach: I agree with Sarah

00:41:36 Christina Bertschi, MCHHS Housing Programs Manager: Its just semantics at this point

00:42:04 Cassie Stafford | she, her WESD: I

00:44:03 Betty Jordan Salem Housing Authority: Thank goodness! This has been heavy on my mind!

00:44:11 ChrisBarber: Yes Robin!! This was wonderful.

00:44:30 lynelle: I'm soooo relieved to hear this! So grateful for everyone who enabled this ti happen.

00:44:44 Marianne Bradshaw: Celebrating this! Thanks, Robin!

00:46:41 Robin.Winkle: Reacted to "Thank goodness! Thi..." with ❤️

00:46:44 Robin.Winkle: Reacted to "Yes Robin!! This wa..." with ❤️

00:46:48 Robin.Winkle: Reacted to "I'm soooo relieved t..." with ❤️

00:46:52 Robin.Winkle: Reacted to "Celebrating this! Th..." with ❤️

00:48:53 Peter Buekea: HOAP Day Center will be closed for services tomorrow, Thurs., 03/20

00:49:07 Betty Jordan Salem Housing Authority: I can share some info about RRH if you would like

00:49:14 sarahwhite: Reacted to "I can share some inf..." with ❤️

00:49:21 sarahwhite: Replying to "I can share some inf..."

Yes please!

00:49:50 Peter Buekea: Website: HOAP: Homeless Services – Northwest Human Services

00:52:12 Peter Buekea: Update: people can still check their mail folder from 2pm-4pm tomorrow, 03/20 (closed to all other services, though).

00:52:43 lynelle: Reacted to "I can share some inf..." with ❤️

00:56:14 Jill Tucker – St. Francis Family Housing: Anna B – can you send that information to me in an email for distribution to our housing team?
jill@sfssalem.org

00:56:53 Anna B: Will do!

00:57:16 Jill Tucker – St. Francis Family Housing: Hi Marianne!!

00:58:44 Betty Jordan Salem Housing Authority: 👍

00:58:56 Homeless Alliance – Cassie Bay: 👍

00:59:05 Jill Tucker – St. Francis Family Housing: 👍

00:59:05 Ryan Pollard – Polk County Family & Community Outreach: 👍

00:59:29 Robert Garcia: 👍

01:03:24 ChrisBarber: This is sooooo important to help with our prevention efforts and needs assessments

01:17:28 Homeless Alliance – Cassie Bay: Great job, Marianne!

01:17:39 lynelle: yes, thank you so much!!!!

01:17:41 Helena J – C@P: agreed!

01:19:34 Alba Garcia (she/her): To echo the kudos, I just appreciate how hands on

Marianne was. Her efforts to get volunteers to key spots was so admirable!
Thank you again!

- 01:19:43 sarahwhite: Reacted to "To echo the kudos, I..." with ❤️
- 01:21:18 Marianne Bradshaw: Replying to "Hi Marianne!!"
Hi, Jill!!
- 01:21:34 Robin.Winkle: Great meeting! Thank you everyone!
- 01:21:36 Marianne Bradshaw: Reacted to "This is soooooo impor..." with 👍
- 01:21:41 Marianne Bradshaw: Reacted to "Great job, Marianne!" with 👍
- 01:21:43 Cassie Stafford | she, her WESD: Thanks Everyone!
- 01:21:44 Marianne Bradshaw: Reacted to "yes, thank you so mu..." with 👍
- 01:21:50 Marianne Bradshaw: Reacted to "agreed!" with 👍
- 01:21:57 Marianne Bradshaw: Reacted to "To echo the kudos, I..." with ❤️
- 01:22:47 Alba Garcia (she/her): Thank you, Eli!
- 01:23:08 Jill Tucker – St. Francis Family Housing: Just wanted to share that St. Francis Family Housing is doing intakes – families need to be in Marion or Polk counties, have at least one child under the the age of 18 in their custody more than half of the time, and a source of income other than or in addition to TANF/SNAP to help them secure housing.
- 01:23:25 Ashley Carson, CHS (she/her): Reacted to "Just wanted to share..." with 👍
- 01:23:28 Marianne Bradshaw: Thanks!
- 01:23:28 Peter Buekea: Thank you!
- 01:23:29 Jill Tucker – St. Francis Family Housing: Replying to "Hi Marianne!!"
It was so good to see you!
- 01:23:30 Ashley Carson, CHS (she/her): Thank you!
- 01:23:34 Jill Tucker – St. Francis Family Housing: Thank you

ADJOURNMENT

CO-Chair Sarah White adjourned the meeting at 11:19 a.m.