

# MID-WILLAMETTE VALLEY HOMELESS ALLIANCE

## Collaborative Committee Agenda

Wednesday, September 17, 2025

10:00 am - 11:30 am

Zoom Link: <https://wesd.zoom.us/j/92292813413?pwd=I90FltvWLmIVe09ihBOAIKs8ltaIRc.1>

Meeting ID: 922 9281 3413

Passcode: 633600

| TIME  | AGENDA ITEM                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                          | FACILITATOR                          |
|-------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------|
| 10:00 | <b>Welcome</b><br>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.                                                            | Co-Chair, Christine Sommer           |
| 10:05 | <b>Agenda &amp; Meeting Minutes</b><br>Review agenda and approve July 2025 meeting minutes ( <b>Pages 2-10</b> )                                                                                                                                                                     | Co- Chair, Brenda Newey              |
| 10:10 | <b>Kudos/Comments of Appreciation</b><br>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.                                                                | Co-Chair, Christine Sommer           |
| 10:15 | <b>HRSN Presentation</b><br>Elliot Sky, HRSN Program Manger for Pacific Source, will share about the program.                                                                                                                                                                        | HRSN Program Manager,<br>Elliott Sky |
| 10:35 | <b>Environmental Scan</b><br>MWVHA, Health and Homeless Systems Liaison will inform the committee about the recently posted Environmental Scan.<br>Click <a href="#">here</a> to see the Request for Proposal                                                                        | MWVHA Staff – Emily<br>Mewbourn      |
| 10:50 | <b>Recommend Toni Maries to Board of Directors</b><br><b>ACTION:</b> Vote to recommend Toni Maries for appointment as lived experience representation on the Board of Directors. ( <b>Page 11</b> )                                                                                  | Misty Bolger/Toni Maries             |
| 11:00 | <b>HOAP Presentation:</b> National Homeless Day of Remembrance                                                                                                                                                                                                                       | Lauren McQuade                       |
| 11:15 | <b>Alliance Update</b><br>Misty Bolger will share Alliance related updates                                                                                                                                                                                                           | Executive Director, Misty<br>Bolger  |
| 11:20 | <b>Shelter Updates</b> (capacity, warming, eligibility, etc.)<br><b>Housing Pathways Updates</b> (eviction prevention, rapid rehousing, housing authorities, permanent supportive housing, etc.)<br><b>Supportive Services Updates</b> (behavioral health, re-entry, Medicaid, etc.) | Co- Chair, Christine Sommer          |
| 11:30 | <b>Adjourn Meeting</b>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                               | Co-Chair, Brenda Newey               |

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**Meeting Minutes of:**

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

**Meeting Date & Time:**

July 23, 2025  
10:00 a.m. – 11:30 a.m.

**Location:** Virtual

**PARTICIPANTS PRESENT**

Co-Chair, Marion County Housing Authority, Christine Sommer

Co-Chair, UGM – Simonka Place, Brenda Newey

Salem Housing Authority, Ana Brase

Catholic Community Services Nichole Dickey

Catholic Community Services/St. Joseph, Maureen Casey

Center for Hope and Safety, Ashley Carson

Center for Hope and Safety, Sara Brennan

Church at the Park, Helena Jones

Crossroads Communities, Jenny Sheldon

Crossroads Communities, Michael Couch

DevNW, Amy Hamilton

Family Promise, Doug Odell

HomeShare Oregon, Savenia Falquist

Marion County HHS, Naomi Hudkins

Marion-Polk Food Share, Ian Dixon-McDonald

MWVCAA, Arches, Rachel McKee

MWVCAA, HOME Youth Services, Kira Hand

MWVCAA, HOME Youth Services, Megan Perez

MWVCAA, Youth Navigator, Michelle Wagoner

MWVHA, Cassie Bay

MWVHA, Executive Director, Misty Bolger

Oregon DHS - District 3, Self Sufficiency, Janet Scott

Pacific Source, Christina McCollum

Pacific Source, Skye Hibbard-Swanson

Polk County Behavioral Health, Alba Garcia

Polk County Behavioral Health, Laura Sloan

Polk County Family and Community Outreach, Ryan Pollard

SafeSleep, Lynelle Wilcox  
Shangri-La, Erika Bush  
Shangri-La, Robin Winkle  
Sheltering Silverton, Sarah White  
Women at the Well, Grace House, Anne Naccarato  
Women at the Well, Grace House, Mackenzie Hand

## WELCOME & PURPOSE

Co-Chair Christine Sommer called the meeting to order at 10:00 a.m.

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## MOTION TO APPROVE MAY 21, 2025 MEETING MINUTES BY ROBIN WINKLE

**Seconded by:** Brenda Newey  
**In favor:** Unanimous  
**Opposed:** None  
**Abstentions:** None

## NEW COLLABORATIVE COMMITTEE CO-CHAIR

Brenda Newey introduced herself as the new collaborative co-chair. She stated she is the family case manager and work program case manager at Simonka House, where she has worked for almost 17 years. Brenda expressed excitement about the opportunity and looking forward to working with everyone on a more personal basis. She noted she has been attending these meetings for a long time, usually just listening, but plans to start getting more involved going forward.

## YYA CHARTER AND GOALS

Cassie Bay introduced the Youth and Young Adult (YYA) committee's charter revision proposals and amended goals. She invited Megan Perez, co-chair of the YYA subcommittee, to present the revised goals.

Megan Perez introduced herself as the program manager with Mid-Willamette Valley Community Action Agency, David's House. She explained that the YYA subcommittee had revised their goals to better align with current needs. For example, goal #4 was changed from improving local data starting with the point-in-time count to expanding access and improving collaboration and use of the youth coordinated entry systems.

Christine asked about steps taken to align the youth coordinated entry system with the adult system. Megan explained that the youth system is now under Mid-Willamette Valley Community Action Agency. She described how youth accessing services like David's House must have a coordinated entry assessment, which opens doors to programs like transitional housing and rapid rehousing. Megan emphasized the importance of encouraging youth to access these assessments at various points of contact.

Sarah White from Sheltering Silverton asked about plans to develop new beds and placement opportunities for youth, given the limited current options. Megan acknowledged this was

discussed but explained the current focus is on improving data collection to better demonstrate the need for additional resources.

Lynelle asked for clarification on whether young adults who have already been assessed need a separate assessment for the youth coordinated entry system. Will from Mid-Willamette Valley Community Action Agency clarified that individuals under 24 who have gone through the general coordinated assessment will be included in the youth pool. However, if a youth was previously assessed with their family and is now seeking services as an individual, they should get a new assessment.

Sarah White suggested adding language to goal #5 about using the improved data to develop adequate services. The committee agreed to make this amendment.

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#### **MOTION TO REVISE GOAL #5 AND BRING THE UPDATED CHARTER BACK TO THE COMMITTEE FOR FINAL APPROVAL MADE BY: CHRISTINE SOMMER**

**Seconded by:** Helena Jones

**In favor:** Unanimous

**Opposed:** None

**Abstentions:** None

#### **KUDOS/COMMENTS OF APPRECIATION**

Brenda gave kudos to Lynelle for the Safe Sleep program, praising it as a remarkable program that provides valuable help and support to the women at Simonka House.

Robin expressed gratitude to Arches – Esperanza, Mandy and Breezy for their hard work in getting people housed and rents paid. She also thanked Erica for coordinating efforts for 26 households, and Misty and her team at the Homeless Alliance for managing contracts and keeping operations running smoothly.

#### **COLLABORATIVE COMMITTEE SURVEY – ORGANIZATIONAL NEEDS ASSESSMENT**

Cassie Bay presented the results of the recent survey sent to community partners. The survey aimed to understand current challenges, adaptation strategies, and support needs in light of shifts in funding, policy, and community needs.

Key findings from the survey included:

- Financial stability concerns varied among respondents, with about a third very concerned, a third somewhat concerned, and less than a third not concerned.
- Organizations are preparing for potential funding cuts through various means, including diversifying funding sources, cutting costs, boosting efficiency, and building partnerships.
- Top challenges reported included staffing and workforce gaps, capacity and service limitations, siloed reporting systems, and external policy barriers.

- Impacts on clients included longer wait times, limited options, rising financial stress, and systems struggling to keep up with complex needs.

Cassie shared strategies that organizations are using to stay afloat, including staffing adaptations, program innovations, increased collaboration, and efforts to maintain staff morale.

The survey also revealed what partners need from the Mid-Willamette Valley Homeless Alliance, including more flexible funding, regular and transparent updates, improved collaboration and coordination, capacity and administrative support, and collective advocacy efforts.

Misty Bolger, Executive Director of the Homeless Alliance, addressed how the Alliance is incorporating this feedback. She announced plans for biweekly emails to subgrantees, an upcoming environmental scan to address gaps between homeless and health systems, and new training initiatives including mental health first aid, suicide prevention, and self-care classes starting in September. Misty also mentioned upcoming improvements to HMIS and coordinated entry systems, and plans for a grant kickoff training in August or September.

#### SHELTER UPDATES

Brenda announced that Simonka Place has signed contracts to remodel, adding 6 new family rooms for a total of 14. Construction starts August 1st, with plans to keep families in the building during renovations. She also shared that one family had moved out into their own apartment that day.

Sarah White from Sheltering Silverton mentioned they are out of funding for their hotel voucher program for families and asked about capacity at other family shelters. Rachel said the Nest shelter would be opening soon but didn't have an exact date.

Lynelle reported that SafeSleep probably has 3 lower bunk beds and 7 upper bunk beds available, noting they are struggling with accommodating women who cannot perform all activities of daily living.

Ryan Pollard from Polk County shared that Family Promise and Center for Hope and Safety have been the only options for temporary hotel stays for families in need in Polk County, and these resources are being fully utilized.

Ashley Carson Cottingham from Center for Hope and Safety reported their shelter has been full for several months, but some vacancies have opened up as people take housing vouchers. They are moving people from scatter-site hotels into their Mosaic facility. Due to funding challenges, they will be limiting hotel stays to 3 nights at a time before reassessing.

#### HOUSING PATHWAYS UPDATES

Christine announced that Marion County Housing Authority has acquired a new 38-unit property called Spruce Terrace in Woodburn. While currently full, they will be opening a wait list for this property soon.

Rachel from Community Action reported that their only current funding for eviction prevention is for individuals and households on OHP (Oregon Health Plan) who are low income. They have a waitlist for this assistance.

Ryan shared that the Polk County Resource Center has very minimal funding for deposit, rent, and utility assistance, but they have a small emergency fund for urgent situations. They also have HRSN (Health-Related Social Needs) providers on-site with funding, though there's a 1-2 month wait. They are waiting to see if they will receive funding for rapid rehousing going forward.

#### SUPPORTIVE SERVICES UPDATES

Several organizations reported participating in the HRSN program, including Church at the Park, Shangri-La, and the Polk Community Resource Center.

Helena from Church at the Park announced they had just completed their first community health worker cohort specifically geared towards serving people experiencing homelessness and complex health needs. The next cohort will be in September, with applications opening the following week. The program costs \$1000, but Pacific Source is working with them to offer 9 scholarships.

#### ZOOM CHAT MESSAGES

00:04:25 Doug Odell (he/him): Doug Odell - Family Promise

00:04:44 michelle wagoner: MWVCAA-Davids house, case manager

00:04:45 read.ai meeting notes: Anne, Brenda, Bri, Chris, Lynelle, Mariah, Savenia, Shawntel, and Victoria added read.ai meeting notes to the meeting.

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Type "read stop" to disable, or "opt out" to delete meeting data.

00:04:56 Homeless Alliance: Cassie Bay, MWVHA

00:05:12 Amy Hamilton: Amy Hamilton, DevNW

00:05:15 Maureen: Maureen Casey Catholic Community Services

00:05:18 Misty Bolger: Misty Bolger, MWVHA

00:05:20 lynelle: lynelle wilcox, SafeSleep United

00:05:22 Rachel McKee (MWVCAA) she/her: Rachel McKee - MWVCAA

00:05:29 Robin.Winkle: Robin Winkle, Shangri-La

00:05:31 michelle wagoner: michelle wagoner  
michelle.wagoner@mwvcaa.org

00:05:32 Erika Bush: Erika Bush, Shangri-La Erika.bush@shangrila-or.org

00:05:44 Brenda: Brenda Newey Simonka Place bnewey@ugmsimoka

00:06:05 Janet Scott: Janet Scott ODHS

00:06:06 Sarah White - Sheltering Silverton: Sarah White, Sheltering Silverton

00:06:13 Skye Hibbard-Swanson: Skye Hibbard-Swanson (she/her), PacificSource  
Marion/Polk. skye.hibbard-swanson@pacificsource.com

00:06:16 Mackenzie Hand: Mackenzie Hand, Women at the Well Grace House

00:06:27 Ian Dixon-McDonald: Ian Dixon-McDonald, Marion Polk Food Share

00:06:43 Nichole CCS: Nichole Dickey, Catholic Community Services Foundation

00:06:46 Christine Sommer/MCHA: Reacted to "Amy Hamilton, DevNW" with ❤️

00:06:47 Ryan Pollard - Polk County Family & Community Outreach: Ryan Pollard -  
Polk County Family & Community Outreach

00:06:51 Savenia Falquist: Savenia Falquist - HomeShare Oregon

00:06:53 Christina McCollum: Christina McCollum w/PacificSource

00:07:32 Kira Hand: Kira - MWVCAA HOME Youth Services, Outreach Youth Navigator

00:07:37 Christine Sommer/MCHA: Reacted to "Sarah White, Shelt..." with ❤️

00:07:45 Christine Sommer/MCHA: Reacted to "Ian Dixon-McDonald..." with 👍

00:08:21 Ashley Carson (she/her), Center for Hope & Safety: Ashley Carson (she/her),  
Center for Hope & Safety

00:08:31 Laura Sloan (Polk Co): Laura Sloan - Polk Co Older Adult BH Specialist

00:08:45 Megan Perez: Megan Perez- MWVCAA Home youth services, David's House  
Program Manager

00:09:05 Sara Brennan: Sara Brennan, Center for Hope & Safety

00:09:06 Mackenzie Hand: Mackenzie Hand, new executive director of Grace House! I  
would love to introduce myself but I do not have a mic or camera just yet!

00:09:18 Alba Garcia (she/her): Alba Garcia - Polk County BH

00:09:29 Janet Scott: Reacted to "Mackenzie Hand, new ..." with ❤️

00:09:38 michelle wagoner: Reacted to "Mackenzie Hand, ne..." with ❤️

00:10:25 Misty Bolger: Reacted to "Mackenzie Hand, new ..." with ❤️

00:10:49 Homeless Alliance: Welcome Brenda!!

00:11:00 Ian Dixon-McDonald: Welcome Brenda - thank you for stepping up!

00:11:27 Christine Sommer/MCHA: Reacted to "Mackenzie Hand, ne..." with ❤️

00:13:32 Amy Hamilton: No questions here.

00:17:50 Homeless Alliance: Reacted to "Mackenzie Hand, new ..." with ❤️

00:23:44 Megan Perez: Thank you everyone

00:23:56 Homeless Alliance: Thank you, Megan!!!!

00:24:18 lynelle: aww thank you! I love working with Simonka too!

00:24:44 Rachel McKee (MWVCAA) she/her: I'll pass along your Kudos to Esperanza and Mandy, Robin :)

00:24:53 Erika Bush: Reacted to "I'll pass along your..." with 👍

00:25:24 Robin.Winkle: Reacted to "I'll pass along your..." with 👍

00:27:09 Ashley Carson (she/her), Center for Hope & Safety: Reacted to "aww thank you! I lov..." with ❤️

00:31:06 michelle wagoner: I really like that statement, thank you for sharing

00:43:51 Helena Jones - C@P: Wow congrats!

00:44:09 Sarah White - Sheltering Silverton: That's such great news! Congratulations, Brenda!

00:44:25 michelle wagoner: how exciting!

00:45:17 Mackenzie Hand: 🥰🙏

00:45:46 Nichole CCS: We will keep you in our prayers. Congratulations!!! 🙏

00:46:24 Ashley Carson (she/her), Center for Hope & Safety: Sarah - depending on circumstances - please reach out

00:46:41 Sarah White - Sheltering Silverton: Reacted to "Sarah - depending on..." with ❤️

00:47:12 Ryan Pollard - Polk County Family & Community Outreach: Family Promise and Center for Hope and Safety has been the only go-to for us for a temporary hotel stay for families in need. We are full here in Polk County

00:47:50 Sarah White - Sheltering Silverton: Replying to " Family Promise an..."  
Thanks, Ryan.

00:48:41 Ryan Pollard - Polk County Family & Community Outreach: Center for Hope and Safety ROCKS!

00:48:59 Sarah White - Sheltering Silverton: Reacted to "Center for Hope and ..." with ❤️

00:49:19 Sara Brennan: Reacted to "Center for Hope and ..." with ❤️

00:49:47 Ashley Carson (she/her), Center for Hope & Safety: Reacted to "Center for Hope and ..." with ❤️

00:51:58 Brenda: Low Income Housing Gussie Belle Commons. Sign up is Sunday July 27. 2025 at 1:30Pm 1230 Winter Street NE Salem 97301

00:52:20 Skye Hibbard-Swanson: Reacted to "Low Income Housing G..." with 👍

00:55:14 Amy Hamilton: Sorry. Had to step away for a sec. No updates here.

00:55:36 Ian Dixon-McDonald: Is anyone out there applying to provide HRSN nutrition benefits? Marion Polk Food Share is planning to pilot this in the coming year. Would love to talk/collaborate with any one else considering this.

00:55:37 Ashley Carson (she/her), Center for Hope & Safety: Thanks @Sarah White - Sheltering Silverton - it's been hard and sad.

00:55:50 Sarah White - Sheltering Silverton: Thank you so much, Church at the Park! You guys are amazing!

00:56:03 Ashley Carson (she/her), Center for Hope & Safety: Reacted to "Is anyone out there ..." with 👍

00:56:29 Ashley Carson (she/her), Center for Hope & Safety: @Ian Dixon-McDonald yes we are planning to, would love to connect - still in the process of setting stuff up!

00:56:47 Amy Hamilton: Shhhh, don't tell anyone!

00:56:47 Ian Dixon-McDonald: Thanks Ashley! I will follow up later via email.

00:56:53 Ashley Carson (she/her), Center for Hope & Safety: Reacted to "Thanks Ashley! I wil..." with 👍

00:56:56 Amy Hamilton: Thanks everyone. Have a great day.

00:57:01 Mackenzie Hand: Thank you all!! Have a great rest of your day!

## ADJOURNMENT

CO-Chair Christine adjourned the meeting at 11:30 a.m.

My name is Toni Maries. Eighteen months ago, I was homeless, here in Salem, for six months. I was the first person to move into Sequoia Crossings, the new Salem Housing Authority 60-unit complex that opened in February of 2024. I was the daughter of a career Army veteran, who ran a mobile communications unit through Southeast Asia during Vietnam. He self-medicated his PTSD with a half-gallon of Jim Beam every week. I was the wife of a career Oregon National Guardsman that went to Iraq, after 9-11 as a scout/sniper, and died by drinking himself to death six years ago this week. I lost a sister 20 years ago to addiction after spending her life self-medicating undiagnosed mental health issues related to an abusive mother. I spent fifty years of my life trying to manage my own misdiagnosed mental illness. I worked for the State of Oregon for nearly fifteen years and lost my career because of my mental illness. For most of that career, I was an active union leader and won an election for which I did not campaign. For nine and a half years, I was a case manager delivering the kinds of services upon which I became dependent. I found a new career in the service industry and managed two local bars, until my auto-immune disorder made it impossible to stand on my feet for 10 hours a day. I had to wait nearly three years for my disability to be approved by the Social Security Administration. 13 months after I filed, my resources ran out and I had to vacate my home of five years. I was lucky, I was only unsheltered for a week before I found a shelter bed. Three months later, I was moved to Church @ Park and three months after that, I was moved into my apartment at Sequoia Crossings. During all of this time, my son paid for my cell phone and ensured that I had my medications and toiletries. Again, I was lucky. Two months after I became homeless, my dog had to have a malignant tumor removed and my son covered that \$1300 bill too. Last spring, I was chosen to join the Disability Rights Task Force sponsored by the City of Salem, Human Rights Commission. I have found a way to use my advocacy skills to help others and, hopefully, contribute to improving the lives of other persons struggling with disabilities, mental illness, and addiction issues in their lives.

Regards,

Toni S. Maries

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