

MID-WILLAMETTE VALLEY HOMELESS ALLIANCE

Collaborative Committee Agenda

Wednesday, January 21, 2026

10:00 am - 11:30 am

Zoom Link: <https://wesd.zoom.us/j/92292813413?pwd=I90FltvWLmIVe09ihBOAIKs8ItaIRc.1>

Meeting ID: 922 9281 3413

Passcode: 633600

TIME	AGENDA ITEM	FACILITATOR
10:00	Welcome & Introductions 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	Agenda and Meeting Minutes Approve September 19, 2025 meeting minutes.	Co-Chair: Brenda Newey
10:10	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.	Co-Chair: Christine Sommer
10:15	Elle Group Consulting – Environmental Scan Introduction & Questions	Arielle Goranson & Shelley Buettner, Elle Group Consulting
10:30	Seed of Faith Warming Shelter Learn more about Seed of Faith's warming shelter	Seed of Faith Representatives
10:45	MWVCAA's David's House Learn about renovations and improvements to David's House	Mercedes Thorington, MWVCAA
11:00	Alliance Updates	Executive Director: Misty Bolger
11:05	Shelter Updates (capacity, warming, eligibility, etc.)	Co-Chair: Christine Sommer
11:10	Housing Pathways Updates (eviction prevention, rapid rehousing, housing authorities, permanent supportive housing, etc.)	Co-Chair: Brenda Newey
11:20	Supportive Services Updates (behavioral health, re-entry, Medicaid, etc.)	Co-Chair: Christine Sommer
11:30	Adjourn Meeting	Co-Chair: Brenda Newey

The Mid-Willamette Valley Homeless Alliance (MWVHA) is pleased to comply with the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA). If you need special accommodations to attend this meeting, please contact MWVHA at (503) 540-1627, TTY 7-7-1 at least 48 hours prior to the meeting. We accept all relay calls.

Meeting Minutes of:

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

Meeting Date & Time:

September 17, 2025
10:00 a.m. – 11:30 a.m.

Location: Virtual

PARTICIPANTS PRESENT

Co-Chair, United Gospel Mission, Simonka Place, Brenda Newey
Catholic Community Services, Nichole Dickey
Center for Hope and Safety, Ashley Carson
Center for Hope and Safety, Sara Brennan
Church at the Park, Kathryn Sommer
Community Member, Mark Wigg
Curandi, Chris Barber
Family Promise, Doug Odell
HIV Alliance, Tiana Lopez
Marion-Polk Food Share, Ian Dixon-McDonald
Micronesia Islander Community, Jackie Leung
MWVCAA, Kira Hand
NW Human Services, Lauren McQuade
NW Human Services, HOAP, KayLynn Sathujoda
NW Human Services, HOAP, Peter Buekea
ODHS, District 3, Self Sufficiency, Janet Scott
Pacific Source, Elliot Sky
Polk County Family Outreach, Ryan Pollard
Sable House, Susan Finnegan
Salem Housing Authority, Sara Quick
Shangri-La, Erika Bush
Shangri-La, Robin Winkle
St Francis Family Housing, Jill Tucker
United Way, SafeSleep, Lynelle Wilcox

MWVHA STAFF PRESENT

MWVHA, Cassandra Bay

WELCOME & PURPOSE

The meeting was called to order at 10:05 a.m.

MEETING MINUTES

MOTION TO APPROVE AUGUST 2025 MEETING MINUTES BY **CHRIS BARBER**

Seconded by: Mark Wigg

In favor: Unanimous

Opposed: None

Abstentions: None

KUDOS/ COMMENTS OF APPRECIATION

Mark Wigg shared that YIMBY has an eviction prevention program that is beneficial for the community and called out Diego Diaz from Willamette University for running that program.

HRSN PRESENTATION

Elliot Sky, HRSN Program Manager for Pacific Source, presented information about the Health Related Social Needs (HRSN) program. The program is part of Oregon's 1115 demonstration waiver through September 2027, making it a covered benefit similar to physical health, behavioral health, pharmacy, dental, and non-emergency medical transportation benefits.

Elliot outlined the three core service categories:

1. Home Changes for Health (formerly climate services) - including air conditioners, space heaters, air filtration devices, mini refrigeration units, and portable power supplies
2. Housing Services - including rent, utility, storage, hotel/ motel stays, housing navigation, pre-tenancy and tenancy services, and home modifications/remediations
3. Nutrition Services - currently offering medically tailored meals and nutrition education, with fruit and vegetable benefits and pantry stocking planned for June 2026

Eligibility is restricted to OHP members who belong to qualifying populations and have clinical risk factors. Elliot clarified that for rent assistance, individuals must be housed but at risk of homelessness - those who are already homeless cannot receive rent assistance but may qualify for other services. Rent assistance is limited to once per lifetime of the demonstration waiver, whether used for one month or the full six months possible.

Elliot addressed questions about processing times, noting they are slower than desired. Pacific Source recently contracted with 211 Info to help improve eligibility verification times. He also explained that providers, not Pacific Source, directly pay landlords for rent assistance.

Pacific Source is working to expand service provider capacity through grant funding. Elliot demonstrated how to use their provider directory to find HRSN service providers, noting that members or those assisting them can search by region and service type.

Mark asked if the HRSN program would help fill the gap created by the state cutting \$131 million from eviction prevention. Elliot responded that currently they wouldn't be able to handle a large influx due to internal backlogs and provider capacity limitations, but they hope future improvements will increase capacity.

Ian asked via chat about funding challenges at Pacific Source. Elliot acknowledged that all Coordinated Care Organizations in Oregon are struggling financially, but noted there have not been proposals to remove HRSN funding or services.

ENVIRONMENTAL SCAN

Not Discussed

RECOMMEND TONI MARIES TO BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Cassie Bay informed the committee that one of its purposes, as stated in the charter, is to recommend individuals with lived experience to serve on the Board of Directors. She shared that Toni Marie has expressed interest in filling the lived experience seat on the Board and noted that Toni's information was included on page 11 of the meeting materials distributed last week.

MOTION TO RECOMMEND TONI MARIES TO SERVE ON BOARD OF DIRECTORS AS PERSON WITH LIVED EXPERIENCE MADE BY **ROBIN WINKLE**.

Seconded by: Brenda Newey

In favor: Unanimous

Opposed: None

Abstentions: None

NATIONAL HOMELESS DAY OF REMEMBRANCE

Lauren McQuade and Kaylynn Sathujoda from Northwest Human Services presented on the National Homeless Day of Remembrance, which takes place on December 21st (the longest night of the year). This event remembers people who have passed away while experiencing homelessness.

Lauren explained that pre-COVID, Salem had an event that was previously organized by Community Action, but it had not returned since the pandemic. Northwest Human Services/HOAP is planning to bring back the event this year and wants it to be a community-wide effort rather than belonging to any single organization.

Kaylynn emphasized that they want the event to represent all service providers so clients feel safe and see familiar faces when they attend. They're currently working on collecting names of people who have passed away while experiencing homelessness to be read during the ceremony.

Both Lauren and Kaylynn shared their contact information in the chat and invited organizations to participate in whatever capacity they can - whether providing refreshments, helping with setup/teardown, or simply attending and sharing promotional materials

ALLIANCE UPDATES

Cassie Bay informed the group that due to limited staff resources, the Collaborative Committee meetings will shift to a bi-monthly cadence, occurring on the third Wednesday of every other month. The next meeting will be November 19th, followed by a meeting in January.

SHELTER, HOUSING PATHWAYS & SUPPORTIVE SERVICES UPDATES

Brenda shared that Simonka Place's remodeling is progressing well, with construction now visible. When completed, they will have capacity for 12 families with private rooms and bathrooms.

Mark Wigg mentioned that Portland and Eugene have allowed RVs or trailers to be parked on residential property driveways with hookups for people to live in, suggesting this could be a way to quickly increase housing capacity if implemented locally.

Sara from Salem Housing Authority shared that they are sending out "good newsletters" for Section 8 vouchers to people who have been on the waitlist since 2023, asking if they're still interested. She warned that text messages claiming Section 8 vouchers are open are scams. She also mentioned they're processing their Parkway waitlist and will soon work on the Redwood Crossing waitlist.

Mark asked how people without mailing addresses get notified. Sara explained that HUD requires mail notifications, but clients can use shelter addresses, PO boxes, or general delivery. If there's a proven problem with mail collection, they can reinstate people to the waitlist.

Nichole from Catholic Community Services Foundation shared that they have some 1- and 2-bedroom units available and provided the following application information in the chat:

Pinehurst Management | 503-362-3031 | millcreek@pinehurstmanagement.com.

You can also contact Nichole Dickey at: ndickey@ccswv.org.

OTHER UPDATE

Lynelle from SafeSleep raised concerns about the committee's role in advocacy and education. She noted that the city is having work sessions about livability and safety where businesses are voicing concerns about homelessness, but there isn't much conversation about livability and safety for homeless individuals. She also mentioned an increasing problem with shelter guests being scammed by people pretending to be romantic partners, resulting in financial losses.

ZOOM CHAT MESSAGES

00:07:41 Chris Barber: Chris Barber, Curandi

00:07:41 squick:Sara Quick, Salem Housing Authority

00:07:42 Doug Odell (he/him): Doug Odell - Family Promise

00:07:59 Elliot Sky - PacificSource: Elliot Sky - PacificSource

00:08:02 Janet Scott: Janet Scott ODHS

00:08:05 KathrynSommer: Kathryn Sommer - Church at the Park

00:08:11 Robin.Winkle: Robin Winkle, Shangri-La

00:08:14 Lauren McQuade: Lauren McQuade Northwest Human Services

00:08:24 Nichole CCS: Nichole Dickey, Catholic Community Services Foundation

00:08:26 Brenda: Brenda Newey UGM Simonka Place

00:08:35 Erika Bush: Erika Bush- Shangri-La

00:08:47 mark wigg: Mark Wigg, Chemeketa LLC

00:09:20 Peter Buekea: Peter Buekea, NWHS - Street Outreach Team

00:13:44 Ian Dixon-McDonald: Ian Dixon-McDonald, Marion Polk Food Share

00:14:47 Kira Hand: Kira, HOME Youth Services - MWVCAA

00:22:07 lynelle: Lynelle, SafeSleep Unuted

00:28:55 Ian Dixon-McDonald: I've seen a message come out from Willamette Health Council about funding challenges at PacificSource due to rates not keeping up with the cost of care - is funding for HRSN at risk?

00:29:31 Ryan Pollard - Polk County: Ryan Pollard - Polk County

00:30:46 Ian Dixon-McDonald: Ok, thank you

00:31:07 Ashley Carson (she/her), Center for Hope & Safety: Ashley, Center for Hope and Safety

00:33:40 Ryan Pollard - Polk County: Is Polk County on that directory?

00:33:58 Ryan Pollard - Polk County: Perfect thanks

00:35:30 Nichole CCS: Thank you for the information and the support that PacificSource provides!

00:37:49 Elliot Sky - PacificSource: I'll send out the slide deck for your reference.
Thank you all! I have to leave this meeting early.

00:41:07 KayLynn Sathujoda - HOAP (NWHS): Interested in Staying Updated/Being
Involved in the National Homeless Day of Remembrance: Lauren McQuade -
lmcquade@nwhumanservices.org

KayLynn Sathujoda - ksathujoda@nwhumanservices.org

00:44:25 Cassie Bay, MWVHA: Reacted to "Interested in Stayin..." with 

00:44:38 Lauren McQuade: Thank you for your time!

00:50:26 Peter Buekea: Not an update but sharing website with information about
accessing medical care at NWHS: HOAP: Homeless Services - Northwest Human
Services

00:51:54 Ian Dixon-McDonald: Agree that we should be involved in advocacy!

00:54:15 Nichole CCS: Catholic Community Services Foundation owned Affordable
Housing Apartments have vacant 1 & 2 bedroom units, most max income is 60%
AMI. Application is now online: Apply Now CCSF Pinehurst Rental Application. If
you need more information you can contact Pinehurst Management 503-362-
3031, millcreek@pinehurstmanagement.com. You can also contact me
ndickey@ccswv.org.

00:54:16 Peter Buekea: Is there any chance of Redwood Crossings closing?

00:54:57 Peter Buekea: Thank you :)

00:55:01 Cassie Bay, MWVHA: Reacted to "Catholic Community S..." with 

00:55:18 SusannFinnegan: That would be grerat

00:55:21 SusannFinnegan: great

00:55:54 Peter Buekea: Thank you

ADJOURNMENT

CO-Chair Brenda adjourned the meeting at 10:50 a.m.