

MID-WILLAMETTE VALLEY HOMELESS ALLIANCE

Collaborative Committee Agenda

Wednesday, March 18, 2026

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 am	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 am	Agenda, Minutes & Co-Chair Position ACTION: Approve 3/18/26 meeting agenda & 1/21/26 meeting minutes. Christine's 2-year commitment is up and the position is open to interested members. (Must represent public sector) Will consider nominations at next meeting.	Co-Chair Christine Sommer
10:10 am	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 Brenda Newey
10:15 am	Community Focus Group Session Elle Group Consulting will facilitate a focus group to discuss health and housing barriers and solutions.	Elle Group Consulting & MWVHA Staff
11:00 am	Soaring Heights Recovery Homes Transitional Housing in Marion County	Eric Rasor & Victoria Meredith
11:15 am	Marion County Health & Human Services Substance use disorder treatment programs His Place, Her Place & Our Place	Teri Morgan
11:30 am	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) 540-1620, 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:

January 21, 2026
10:00 a.m. – 11:30 a.m.

Location: Virtual

PARTICIPANTS PRESENT

Bridgeway Community Health, Eli Kinsley
Catholic Community Services, Jill Sorensen
Center for Hope & Safety, Ashley Carson
Center for Hope & Safety, Sara Brennan
Church at the Park, Helena Jones
Church at the Park, Kathryn Sommer
Co-Chair, Marion County Housing Authority, Christine Sommer
Courtney Place Veteran Housing, Andrew Holbert
CRAWL, Bryant Barnwell
CRAWL, Priscilla Smith
Crossroads Communities, Michael Couch
Curandi, Chris Barer
Elle Group Consulting, Arielle Goranson
Family Promise, Douglas Odell
HIV Alliance, Tiana Lopez
Lived Experience Board Member, Toni Maries
Marion County HHS, Naomi Hudkins
Marion County, CDBG/HOME, Steve Dickey
Marion Polk Food Share, Ian Dixon-McDonald
Micronesian Islander Community, Jackie Leung
MWVCAA Arches, Petra Jauregui
MWVCAA, Arches, Sacrobi Izquierdo
MWVCAA, Reentry Services, Jack Tally
MWVCAA, Sean Sachs
MWVCAA, Sheltering Services, Andrew Marshall
Northwest Human Services, Angelica Braden
Northwest Human Services, Peter Beukea
OHA Business & Engagement, Heather Uerlings
Oregon Department of Human Services, Janet Scott
Pacific Source, Christina McCollum
Salem Housing Authority, Nicole Utz
Seed of Faith, Evelyn McCoy-Harris
Seed of Faith, Pastor Wade Harris
Shangri-La, Erika Bush
Soaring Heights Recovery, Corri Johnson
St Francis Family Housing, Jill Tucker

MWVHA STAFF PRESENT

MWVHA, Cassie Bay

MWVHA, Emily Mewbourn

WELCOME & PURPOSE

Co-Chair Christine Sommer called the meeting to order at 10:05 a.m. New members introduced themselves to the committee.

APPROVAL OF MEETING MINUTES

MOTION TO APPROVE SEPTEMBER 17, 2025 MEETING MINUTES BY IAN DIXON MCDONALD

Seconded by: Toni Maries

In favor: Unanimous

Opposed: None

Abstentions: None

ELLE GROUP CONSULTING – ENVIRONMENTAL SCAN

Arielle Goranson from Elle Group Consulting introduced herself to the Collaborative Committee and provided an overview of the environmental scanning and integration mapping project currently underway with the Mid-Willamette Valley Homeless Alliance. She noted that her partner, Shelly Bittner, is also working on the project but was unable to attend the meeting.

Arielle explained that the purpose of the project is to better understand how homelessness services and health-related services intersect in Marion and Polk counties. The project aims to identify overlaps, gaps, and opportunities across systems and ultimately provide recommendations to improve coordination and close service gaps.

She shared that the work is heavily engagement-based and includes:

- Approximately 25 stakeholder interviews across both counties
- Focus groups with specific populations, including people with lived experience of homelessness and service providers
- A short survey to gather broader quantitative input, with separate versions for individuals with lived experience and those working within homelessness and related systems

The survey is anticipated to be released in mid-February.

Arielle stated that the project is being conducted in close coordination with Alliance staff, including Emily and Misty, and falls under the Health and Safety Committee's scope of work. She also shared that Elle Group is engaging with multiple Alliance committees, work groups, and the Board to better understand the service landscape.

In response to a question from Evelyn McCoy (Seed of Faith Ministries), Arielle clarified that the environmental scan includes county partners, community-based organizations, shelter providers, health care providers, behavioral health, substance use disorder services, domestic

violence shelters, and others connected to the Alliance's governance structure. She emphasized that the project intentionally seeks broad representation, including people with lived experience.

Emily added that Elle Group has coordinated with Marion County partners and reviewed prior environmental scan work, including efforts connected to extreme weather planning, to avoid duplicating existing work.

Before concluding, Arielle invited committee members to participate by reflecting on a key project question: identifying "bright spots" or areas of momentum in homelessness services and cross-system coordination. Members were encouraged to share input verbally or through the chat, and Arielle offered to follow up with anyone who had additional questions after the meeting. Email contact information for ELLE Group Consulting was shared in the chat.

SEED OF FAITH WARMING SHELTER

Evelyn McCoy-Harris from Seed of Faith Ministries provided an update on the organization's warming shelter operations and related services. She shared that Seed of Faith has been rooted in the Salem community for approximately 30 years and has operated its shelter program for the past three years. Seed of Faith currently operates two locations: the Seed of Faith Ministries site and CRAWL (Community Recovery and Wellness Living).

Evelyn explained that Seed of Faith activates its warming shelter during periods of extreme weather, including extreme cold, extreme heat, poor air quality, heavy rain, and flooding. When activated, the shelter operates from 6:00 p.m. to 6:00 a.m., provides warm meals, and can accommodate up to 140 individuals. The shelter is located near downtown Salem on Winter Street and includes a commercial kitchen.

The shelter operates as a low-barrier program. Pets are allowed, and kennels are available. Seed of Faith also provides its own transportation services and can transport community members to the shelter until 10:00 p.m. Shelter activation and availability are shared through 2-1-1, partnerships with Marion and Polk counties, community partners, the organization's website, and social media, including Facebook.

During the discussion, Evelyn shared information about a significant expansion project, Gussie Bell Commons. This development will include approximately 180 units of affordable housing located adjacent to the CRAWL center. Move-ins have already begun. Gussie Bell Commons operates as affordable housing and includes income eligibility requirements. A waitlist is currently open, with approximately 400 individuals on the list at the time of the meeting, and community members are encouraged to apply if they meet eligibility criteria.

Additional questions addressed coordination with transportation providers, access requirements, shelter activation notifications, and opportunities for further collaboration. Contact information and resource links were shared in the chat. The update concluded with appreciation expressed for Seed of Faith's work and its impact within the community.

Priscilla Smith also shared that they have 8 safe parking spots throughout the community and encourages community members to call for availability.

SEED OF FAITH WARMING SHELTER

Address: 1230 Winter Street NE, Salem OR

Phone: (971) 443-4176

Hours: 6am – 6pm (Activated by extreme weather)

CRAWL TRANSITIONAL HOUSING

Address: 853 Medical Center Drive NE

Phone: (971) 443-4176

Website: <https://crawl-oregon.org/>

GUSSIE BELLE COMMONS

Address: 2561 Center Street, Salem OR

Website: <https://www.hfdpartners.com/properties/gussie-belle-brown-commons>

SHELTER UPDATES

CATHOLIC COMMUNITY SERVICES

Jill Sorensen Father Taffe Program in Mt. Angel has six rooms available for pregnant or newly parenting girls aged 12 to 18.

Phone: (503) 390-2600

Website: <https://ccswv.org/father-taaffe-homes-and-pregnancy-support-services/>

SALVATION ARMY LIGHTHOUSE SHELTER

Christine Sommer informed the group that she recently learned that, according to an article that she read, the Salvation Army Lighthouse Shelter will be closing soon.

News Article: <https://ccswv.org/father-taaffe-homes-and-pregnancy-support-services/>

HOUSING PATHWAYS UPDATES

SALEM HOUSING AUTHORITY

Nicole Utz provided an update on projects currently in progress. She shared that SHA is exercising caution with its Section 8 budget. SHA is nearing its voucher cap as it navigates HUD requirements and is proceeding cautiously. At this time, approximately 140 Section 8 vouchers are actively seeking housing. The update was provided to ensure partners are aware of the current status.

Website: <https://www.salemhousingor.com/>

MARION COUNTY HOUSING AUTHORITY

Christine Sommer shared that Marion County Housing Authority is also monitoring HUDs guidelines carefully.

Website: <https://www.co.marion.or.us/HA>

CROSSROADS COMMUNITIES

Michael Couch shared that Crossroads Communities recently started a Sleep Trailer Program and they now have a second trailer with a heating and cooling system where a client can lock up their belongings during the day that they can place in the community. He shared they are looking for community partnership to park the trailer in Linn Benton, Marion or Polk counties.

News Article: <https://www.crossroadsc.org/news/sleep-trailer-at-the-river-center>

SUPPORTIVE SERVICES UPDATES

CHURCH AT THE PARK

Kathryn Sommer confirmed that that Church at the Park will be ending their Street Outreach programs. She also shared that their Village of Hope is helping clients transitioning away from the Lighthouse Shelter.

Website: <https://www.church-at-the-park.org/>

MWVCAA RE-ENTRY SERVICES

Jack Tally informed the committee that Re-Entry Services will have a shower truck available for community members every Wednesday from 9 am to 2 pm. Persons recently released from incarceration can also get access to resources and workforce development.

Address: 2085 Commercial Street NE, Salem OR

Phone: (971) 332-5332

Website: <https://mwvcaa.org/programs/reentry-services/>

NORTHWEST HUMAN SERVICES - HOAP

Peter Beukea shared a link to Homeless Outreach and Advocacy Project (HOAP). He informed the group that, among other services, there is a medical bus that offers basic health check-ups and referrals to other services.

Address: 694 Church Street NE, Salem OR

Day Center Phone: (503) 588-5827

Medical Bus Phone: (503) 581-5535

Website: <https://northwesthumanservices.org/community-programs/hoap-homeless-services/>

COURTNEY PLACE VETERAN HOUSING

Andrew Holbert shared that Courtney's Place will be opening an essential goods pantry in the next couple of weeks for veterans. The pantry will provide everything but food – items like soap, laundry detergent, toilet paper etc. It is going to be a donation drive service. They are still working on securing a location.

Address: 220 Cottage Street NE, Salem OR

Phone: (971) 298-7944

Website: <https://www.liveatcourtneyplace.com/>

CROSSROADS COMMUNITIES

Michael Couch shared that Crossroads is running a transport program to help rural Marion or Polk community members with transportation to medical appointments, the grocery store, parent-teacher conferences, job interviews etc. He said they are working on developing a “grocery run” for folks in extremely rural areas with limited access to the grocery store.

Phone: (541) 948-3754

Website: <https://www.crossroadsc.org/services.html>

ZOOM CHAT MESSAGES

00:08:11 Jill Tucker: Jill Tucker – St. Francis Family Housing

00:08:31 Erika Bush: Erika Bush – Shangri-La

00:08:37 Jill Sorensen, CCS (she/her): Jill Sorensen, Catholic Community Services

00:08:37 ChrisBarber: Chris Barber, Curandi

00:08:39 Andrew Holbert: Andrew Holbert – Courtney Place Veterans Housing
aholbert@theyonline.org

00:08:40 Cassie Bay – MWVHA: Cassie Bay – Mid-Willamette Valley Homeless Alliance

00:08:42 Evelyn McCoy-Harris: Evelyn McCoy-Harris, COO, Seed of Faith Ministries

00:08:42 abraden: Angelica Braden Northwest Human Services/HOAP Team

00:08:44 Petra Jauregui: Petra Jauregui – MWVCAA Arches

00:08:48 Sean Sachs: Sean Sachs MWVCAA

00:08:53 nhudkins: Naomi Hudkins Marion County HHS

00:09:11 Peter Buekea: Good morning. Peter Buekea, NWHS – Street Outreach Team
(pbuekea@nwhumanservices.org)

00:09:16 Priscilla Smith (CRAWL): Priscilla Smith (CRAWL).
crawl.priscillasmith@gmail.com

00:09:18 Christina McCollum (she/her): Christina McCollum w/ PacificSource

00:09:31 Janet S: Janet Scott Oregon Dept of Human Services ODHS

00:09:33 Helena Jones - C@P: Helena Jones, Church at the Park, good morning everyone!

00:10:01 Kathryn Sommer: Kathryn Sommer, Church at the Park

00:10:18 Arielle Goranson: Arielle Goranson, Elle Group Consulting (working with the
Homeless Alliance on the Environmental Scanning project)

00:10:24 Nicole Utz, Salem Housing Authority: Nicole Utz, Salem Housing
Authority, nutz@salemhousingOR.com

00:10:25 Sacrobi I: sacrobi.izquierdo@mwvcaa.org sacrobi Izquierdo arches

00:10:28 abraden: i can hear

00:10:39 Corri Johnson- Soaring Heights: Corri Johnson- Soaring Heights Recovery
Homes

00:10:44 Cassie Bay - MWVHA:I can hear you

00:10:48 Doug Odell (he/him): Doug Odell -- Family Promise

00:11:11 Cassie Bay - MWVHA:Christine we can hear him

00:11:12 Ian Dixon-McDonald: Ian Dixon-McDonald, Marion Polk Food Share

00:11:18 SDickey: Steve Dickey, Marion County Community & Economic
Development - CDBG/HOME Program Manager

00:11:35 Heather Uerlings OHA She/Her: Heather Uerlings, OHA Business Outreach &
Engagement Coordinator

00:11:40 SDickey: Christine, I think your audio is off. We all could hear him.

00:12:04 Ian Dixon-McDonald: I can hear you

00:12:21 SDickey: Several of us were responding and we could hear each other.

00:12:31 Heather Uerlings OHA She/Her: Christine, it appears your audio is not
working

00:13:01 Peter Buekea: I think some people can hear and see but others can't - I don't
know

00:14:26 andrew.marshall: Andrew Marshall, MWVCAA Program Director for Sheltering Services

00:14:42 Christine Sommer/ Marion County Housing Authority: Cassie, can you jump in I cant figure this out:)

00:14:59 Eli Kinsley: Eli Kinsley; Bridgeway Community Health; Director of Operations.

00:18:03 Tiana Lopez: Tiana Lopez, HIV Alliance -HRSN Manager

00:28:29 Arielle Goranson: Where do you see momentum or bright spots we should know about?

00:29:01 Cassie Bay - MWVHA:Thank you, Arielle!

00:29:10 emily.mewbourn: Thank you, Arielle!!

00:29:31 Arielle Goranson: Arielle@ellegroupconsulting.com, Shelley@ellegroupconsulting.com

00:29:45 emily.mewbourn: Reacted to "Arielle@ellegroupcon..." with 👍

00:32:12 Toni Maries (She/Her) Lived Experience: Thank you, Arielle! Great presentation style; open and create space for dialogue.

00:32:20 Heather Uerlings OHA She/Her: Evelyn, have you connected with the faith based outreach analyst for ODHS, Maria Waters? If not I'd be very glad to provide a warm hand off email

00:32:26 Priscilla Smith (CRAWL): Seed of Faith Warming Shelter is open this week thru 1/22/26

00:32:46 Peter Buekea: What's the easiest way to see if your shelter is activated for the night? Thank you.

00:33:46 Evelyn McCoy-Harris: theseedemh@yahoo.com

00:34:44 Priscilla Smith (CRAWL): Call CRAWL for updates (971) 443-4176

00:34:50 abraden: Reacted to "Call CRAWL for updat..." with 👍

00:35:02 Toni Maries (She/Her) Lived Experience: Thank you, Evelyn! So glad to see you here and the work you are doing for our unhoused neighbors!

00:35:10 abraden: Reacted to "Thank you, Evelyn! S..." with ❤️

00:38:55 Nicole Utz, Salem Housing Authority: Welcome neighbors! We are excited to see the expansion with Gussie Belle Commons coming to reality! It's a beautiful addition to the North Campus neighborhood.

00:39:30 emily.mewbourn: Just a quick note to encourage folks to weigh in on the question Elle posed. Your perspectives are really important to this project and will directly shape what comes out of the Environmental Scan.

If you are not comfortable sharing in the chat or reaching out directly to Elle Group, please feel free to connect with me, Emily Mewbourn, Health and Homeless Systems Liaison with the Alliance, at emily.mewbourn@mwwhomelessalliance.org

. I am overseeing the project and am happy to pass along any input or feedback.

00:41:21 emily.mewbourn: Reacted to "Thank you, Evelyn! S..." with ❤️

00:41:25 emily.mewbourn: Reacted to "Welcome neighbors! W..." with ❤️

00:42:45 Evelyn McCoy-Harris: Thank you for this time.

00:44:48 Evelyn McCoy-Harris: Gussie Belle accepts vouchers.

00:44:55 Evelyn McCoy-Harris: 1234 bedrooms

00:44:58 abraden: Reacted to "Gussie Belle accepts..." with ❤️

00:45:03 Ashley Carson (she/her), Center for Hope & Safety: Reacted to "Gussie Belle accepts..." with ❤️

00:46:14 Peter Buekea: Is there anyone from Church@the Park or Salvation Army on the call? There are some important updates to share/consider.

00:46:53 Evelyn McCoy-Harris: Yes.

00:47:55 Evelyn McCoy-Harris: <https://www.gussiebellecommons.com/>

00:48:12 Peter Buekea: Yes, Lighthouse Shelter is closing. C@TP's Outreach Team ending.

00:48:12 Ian Dixon-McDonald:
<https://www.salemreporter.com/2026/01/16/salvation-army-to-close-lighthouse-shelter/>

00:51:43 Michael Couch - CRC: Michael.couch@crossroadsc.org

00:52:18 Peter Buekea: No updates, but sharing HOAP's website which also includes information about the Medical Bus Run toward the bottom: HOAP: Homeless Services - Northwest Human Services

00:53:35 jack.tally: Reentry Services: 2085 Commercial St. NE Salem. 971-332-5332

00:57:02 Sacrobi I: Thank you have a great day

00:57:02 Arielle Goranson: Thank you!

00:57:06 Peter Buekea: Thank you

00:57:08 Janet S: Thank you!

00:57:09 Tiana Lopez: Thank you

00:57:14 Toni Maries (She/Her) Lived Experience: Thank you!

ADJOURNMENT

CO-Chair Christine adjourned the meeting at 10:48 a.m.



Mid-Willamette Valley Homeless Alliance

JOIN EITHER MEETING BELOW TO ATTEND A COMMUNITY FOCUS SESSION

BY: ELLE GROUP CONSULTING



DISCUSSION TOPICS

- How health and housing systems currently interact in our community
- Opportunities to strengthen coordination between providers
- Barriers people may experience when accessing services
- Ideas and strategies for improving outcomes

www.ellegroupconsulting.com

WHO SHOULD ATTEND

- Service providers
- Healthcare partners
- Community organizations
- People with lived experience
- Anyone interested

Youth and Young Adult Subcommittee

Friday, March 13, 2026

10:00 am to 11:00 am



Scan QR or Click [Here](#) to
attend!

Collaborative Committee

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