

## **CoC Collaborative Committee**

Friday, March 13, 2020, 9:00-10:30 a.m.

Keizer Civic Center, 930 Chemawa Rd. NE in Keizer

### **MEETING NOTES**

#### **1. Welcome and Introductions**

Collaborative Committee Co-chairs Kim Parker-Llerenas and Ian Dixon-McDonald provided a welcome and facilitated introductions around the room and on the phone. Appreciation was given to HUD and technical assistance advisors for helping the Mid-Willamette Valley Homeless Alliance form the new Continuum of Care (CoC). Appreciation was given to the City of Keizer for meeting space. [Records show 28 people attended in person and another 14 by phone. The meeting was staffed by Jan Calvin and Carla Munns.]

#### **2. Continuum of Care Development Update**

The Mid-Willamette Valley Homeless Alliance was approved by HUD to serve as the Continuum of Care (CoC) for the Marion-Polk county area. Preliminary performance measures were submitted in February, and CoC Registration was completed March 5<sup>th</sup>, with the Mid-Willamette Valley Council of Governments serving as collaborative applicant. Along with all CoC's, we await the drop of the federal NOFA (Notice of Funding Availability) to apply for HUD funding. The Board is working to create an ORS 190 legal entity, intended to be established within six months and able to serve as the collaborative applicant in the future.

Staff provided an organization chart and overview of the CoC's governance and committee structure, including voting board member organizations and ex-officio (non-voting) members. The CoC Collaborative Committee is able to establish ad-hoc committees and workgroups beyond those listed in the current committee structure. The MWWHA has three staff members, contracted through the Council of Governments (COG): Janet Carlson, Jan Calvin and Carla Munns. Committees, workgroups and membership have been approved by the board, and meetings have begun. The Homeless Alliance is preparing to launch the new MWWHA website which should be finalized and live in April. An email will be distributed to all stakeholders once completed.

#### **3. Other Committee Updates and Next Steps**

Committee updates included the Point-in-Time Count, Challenge to End Youth Homelessness, and the Built for Zero initiative:

- **Point-In-Time Count Workgroup:** Ashley Hamilton, Community Action Agency/ARCHES, gave an update to the PIT Count which took place Jan 29- Feb 4, 2020. The PIT Count is an outreach activity designed to count and survey the sheltered and unsheltered people experiencing homelessness in our region. Outreach included mobile teams, stationary sites, resource fairs and shelters. Final results will be released no sooner than April 2020. The 2020 data is being synthesized by ROCC (Rural Oregon Continuum of Care). The addition of Counting Us App this year was incredibly helpful, as it allowed users to input live, geographically tagged data. The app helped identify under-surveyed locations and when/where additional efforts or teams were needed to be deployed. Preliminary data shows an increase in shelter count numbers

and an increase in data from rural communities. The February 1 resource fair was successful—more than 200 surveys were collected that day alone. Total PIT Count estimates were 867 persons; 254 individuals chronically homeless, 103 Veterans (32 chronically homeless Veterans).

- **Challenge to End Youth Homelessness:** Tricia Ratliff, Community Action Agency/HOME, gave an update on the Challenge to End Youth Homelessness. The initiative started approximately three years ago as the ‘100 Day Challenge to End Youth Homelessness’ in Marion County. She provided updates on the current goals:
  - **Goal 1: Data Quality.** The youth PIT Count was more efficient than previous years which will increase the quality of data for youth in our community. This year’s PIT Count leveraged more resources and more helpers to survey than previous years. New approaches were tested this year: Dutch Bros came on as a partner and offered coffee to youth and surveyors to increase attendance. Youth counts are difficult, and this was promising for improvements next year. Youth PIT Count estimated 33 youth under 18 years old.
  - **Goal 2: Minor Housing.** Host Homes are being addressed in the community—information is being prepared for individuals seeking guidance on how to host minors in their homes. An unofficial Q&A is being created for those investigating how to legally house minors in their homes and include them in their family’s plans. Interference with parental rights is a barrier and concern.
  - **Goal 3: Coordinated Entry.** The HMIS and Coordinated Entry committees are hoping to integrate youth into the system.
  - **Goal 4: Advocacy and Outreach.** Recent efforts to include youth in policy work included testifying at the Salem-Keizer School Board meeting for the Student Success Act funding allocations and testifying for HB 4001 and others at the legislature.
  
- **Built for Zero:** Dana Schultz, Community Action Agency, gave an update on the regional initiative to end chronic and Veteran homelessness in our community. If you want to be connected in Built for Zero (BFZ), please contact Dana or Jan to get involved with the strategy team. The BFZ Strategy Team is currently being built to:
  - **Develop a coordinate community outreach plan** to gather quality data and connect with every individual needing services without duplication.
  - **Engage providers** in developing a ‘Quality By-Name List’. One objective is to sign up 90% of service providers who are serving Veterans and/or the chronically homeless population, but do not receive HUD funds, to use Coordinated Entry/Assessment and HMIS. The team is cleaning up the ‘by-name’ list for quality improvement and receiving BFZ technical assistance to ensure fidelity so we can better understand homelessness in our community and place people as quickly as possible.
  - **Launch Case Conferencing:** Logistics are being worked out so collaborative case conferencing can commence in the coming months to triage clients, starting at the top of the ‘by-name’ list.

#### 4. CoC Collaborative Committee Charter Review

The group reviewed the CoC Collaborative Committee draft charter, as well as the Conflict of Interest and Code of Conduct expectations. Collaborative Committee membership is open to any and all individuals and organizations interested in collectively aligning efforts to end homelessness in the Marion-Polk region. The Collaborative Committee can reach consensus on any changes to the Collaborative Committee Charter and propose to the MWVHA Board.

## 5. MWVHA Board Report

Both of the Collaborative Committee co-chairs are ex-officio (non-voting) board members. Ian noted that board meetings are also open to the public, although there is no designated time for public input. The March 12 board meeting discussed COVID-19 response planning and education, the creation of an ORS-190 intergovernmental entity, committee charter drafts and the MWVHA draft strategic plan.

Ashley Hamilton reiterated information shared at the board meeting. ARCHES is operating under a 4-tier response plan to COVID-19: prevention, safe spacing, service reduction, closure. ARCHES and other service providers are trying not to close services. The problem to solve is what does quarantine look like from public health perspective for homeless population. Many individuals experiencing homelessness are experiencing respiratory conditions already. Josh Lair, MWVHA board member, mentioned education through street-outreach to the population for safe spacing, prevention, and how to receive services and supports necessary to prevent spread.

## 6. MWVHA Strategic Plan

The committee reviewed goals, objectives, and progress to date and provided input on the draft MWVHA Strategic Plan. The plan was first created in 2017 by a group of approximately 30 community leaders and partners which formed the Mid-Willamette Homeless Initiative Task Force. The MWVHA board chose to start with this plan, update the progress to date, and revise the goals and objectives to create the MWVHA Strategic Plan for 2020-2025. The historic plan gives the board and the community a place to start for implementing a new strategic plan specific to the MWVHA. This will be a fluid document, updated annually, and designed to be reactive to emerging issues.

Collaborative Committee comments included statements of gratitude for seeing partners at the table offering solutions and updates on progress in the moment, and on-the-spot, to collectively monitor the progress of historic strategies developed for our community. Themes of the preliminary discussion were:

1. Reorganize the current plan to match or include HUD performance standards;
2. Integrate Coordinated Entry data to inform strategies on what is needed in our community based on a gap analysis of needs and services;
3. Add more private sector representatives to MWVHA Board of Directors and Collaborative Committee;
4. Include a re-evaluation and advocacy for reducing client requirement barriers for getting into affordable housing; and
5. Develop independent strategies for each type of housing on the 'continuum of housing,' from sidewalk to long-term sustainable housing, and consider harm reduction strategies to coincide with each type of housing on the continuum.

Discussion took place around aligning the Strategic Plan with HUD's strategies and CoC performance measure. MWVHA staff did a cursory cross-walk of the strategic plan with the national strategic plan and CoC performance standards measures. Ashley (CAA) commented it would be ideal to infuse CoC performance measures with MWVHI's strategic plan, but also infuse Coordinated Entry data to identify needs and gaps within the system of care. It is desired that once gaps and needs are identified, to use a two-pronged approach for the plan, ensuring CoC performance measures are accounted for in the plan, as well as community and regional performance metrics.

Discussion around recommending more involvement of private businesses took place. Suggestions to add private partnerships to the Collaborative Committee and to the board were agreeable to the group, to be more inclusive of community stakeholders and generate collective buy-in for community-driven efforts.

Discussion around affordable housing requirements took place. Josh Graves, Catholic Community Services, noted affordable housing is very difficult to utilize in terms of compliance requirements. Affordable housing turnover is also very expensive. It was recommended the MWVHA Strategic Plan include a strategy for advocacy and legally challenging the barriers that prevent individuals/families from getting into existing affordable housing. A suggestion was to split Goal 2 of the plan for transitional housing and shelters separately. A comment was noted that “we need a continuum of housing” with each level of the housing continuum having separate strategies. The continuum of housing was described as:

Sidewalks → Shelters → Transitional Housing → Long-term Affordable Housing

DJ Vincent, Salem Leadership Foundation and Church at the Park, requested harm reduction strategies be included in the plan as well, like safe parking areas for those sleeping in vehicles.

Other comments included being thoughtful of geographical coverage, including rural communities, and ensuring intentionality on how these geographical diverse regions are being prioritized in the plan.

Please send comments in writing on this plan to Jan Calvin: [calvin.jan@yahoo.com](mailto:calvin.jan@yahoo.com). Other committees will be reviewing the draft plan, and a survey will be sent to gather additional input.

### **Emerging Issues and Next Steps**

A request was made to share email addresses and contact information for agencies and partners affiliated with the Collaborative Committee to remain in contact and partnership with one another between meetings. MWVHA will ask Collaborative Committee participants if they are amenable to sharing their contact information.

COVID-19 was identified as an emerging issue which will determine the focus of organizations and the Continuum of Care in the coming weeks and months.

The Collaborative Committee will look at the Strategic Plan draft again at the next meeting.

A Survey Monkey link will be sent with the meeting notes to gather input on the best days, times, and preferred location(s) for Collaborative Committee meetings.