

Mid-Willamette Valley Homeless Alliance

CoC Point-In-Time (PIT) Count Workgroup

Wednesday, July 15, 2020 | 12pm - 1:00pm

MEETING MINUTES

Meeting Attendees: Sara Webb, Linda Strike, Robin Winkle, Carla Munns

Welcome and Introductions: Sara Webb, Committee Chair welcomed the group via Zoom at 12:09pm and introductions were made. Language from the MWVHA Governance Charter Article II Section E charter was read to define purpose and goals of the workgroup: *“The Point-in-Time Count workgroup shall work with the HMIS Coordination Entity named in Section D.2. to organize and conduct the Point-in-Time count, including recruitment, training, and support of volunteer outreach workers for the event.”*

2020 PIT Count Debrief: The January 2020 PIT count was discussed, identifying successes and areas for improvement. The 2020 PIT shelter count and 2019 HIC wasn't accurate; next year needs better contacts and rural areas to be covered. Outreach and engagement with new people was successful, will focus on getting more agencies involved. Organization of counting teams by geographic area with corresponding leads was successful. Include maps for each team with circled areas for volunteers on the day-of. Youth engagement and outreach went well. The City of Salem had recently conducted a sweep of homeless individuals prior to the PIT count which scattered camping groups to the outskirts and were hard to find. Gaps existed with county rural areas, especially in Polk County, including tribal lands and rural area/fringe areas. Volunteers didn't consistently undergo training for surveying people which led to inconsistencies, especially with the utilization of the new counting application. Need to have a mandatory training prior to PIT count but focus on keeping volunteers engaged and feeling appreciated. The new “Counting Us” application worked great, saved time on data entry and reduced errors with submitting paper surveys. Rural areas such as Turner, Jefferson, Willamina, Grand Ronde and Chemawa need additional help to count. Aligning and communicating with police/city/county/ODOT to not “sweep” homeless camps prior to PIT count in the month of January will help with efficiently counting individuals.

PIT Count Planning: Strategies and steps were discussed for the next six months using HUD's technical assistance worksheets for PIT count planning. Tuesday the 26th of January was selected as the first choice for PIT count for 2021, with Wednesday, January 27th as an alternate. Members will check to see if any conflicting timelines or dates.

Next Steps: Sara will email distribution list of participants from last year to save the date and re-engage volunteers, staff, and agencies. Linda will email tribes for contacts to include in planning and outreach. Carla will connect with CoC staff to determine how to best request city and county staff appoint staff leads to ensure full geographic area coverage. At the next meeting, Carla will have a draft charter for the workgroup to review. Clarification around which agency is responsible ultimately for the PIT count—the CoC or Community Action Agency will be determined prior to the next meeting.

Next Meeting: August 17th, 11am-12pm via Zoom.