FIRST ANNUAL CoC SUMMIT
February 11, 2021

JOINT MEETING OF THE MID-WILLAMETTE VALLEY HOMELESS ALLIANCE BOARD OF DIRECTORS, CoC COLLABORATIVE COMMITTEE AND ORS 190 ENTITY BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Videoconference Via Zoom

MWVHA BOARD
MEMBERS PRESENT

CHAIR: Mayor Cathy Clark, City of Keizer
VICE CHAIR: Council President Chris Hoy, City of Salem
Stephanie Bobb for Rhonda Wolf, United Way of the Mid-Willamette Valley
Dan Clem, Executive Director, Union Gospel Mission of Salem
Councilor Shannon Corr, City of Independence
Josh Lair, Navigator, Law Enforcement Assisted Diversion (LEAD)
Director Jesse Lippold Peone for Christy Perry, Superintendent, Salem-Keizer School District
Councilor Christopher Lopez, City of Monmouth
Tribal Councilwoman Lisa Leno, Confederated Tribes of Grand Ronde
Commissioner Lyle Mordhorst, Polk County
Kristin Retherford for Mayor Chuck Bennett, City of Salem
Leilani Slama, Vice President, Community Engagement, Salem Health
Ian Dixon-McDonald, Vice President of Programs, Marion Polk Food Share; Co-Chair, Collaborative Committee
Eric Enderle, Veteran Services Officer, Polk County Veteran Services
Candace Jamison, Executive Director, Marion County Housing Authority
Kim Parker-Llerenas, Co-Chair, MWVHA Collaborative Committee
Nicole Utz, Housing Administrator, Salem Housing Authority

MEMBERS ABSENT

Commissioner Colm Willis, Marion County
Christian Edelblute, Executive Director, West Valley Housing Authority
Jimmy Jones, Executive Director, Mid-Willamette Valley Community Action Agency

ORS 190 ENTITY BOARD
MEMBERS PRESENT

PRESIDENT: Mayor Cathy Clark, City of Keizer
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Councilor Shannon Corr, City of Independence
Tribal Councilwoman Lisa Leno, Confederated Tribes of Grand Ronde
Christy Perry, Superintendent, Salem-Keizer School District
Director Jesse Lippold Peone for Christy Perry, Salem-Keizer School District Councilor Christopher Lopez, City of Monmouth
Commissioner Lyle Mordhorst, Polk County

MEMBERS ABSENT
Commissioner Colm Willis, Marion County

STAFF PRESENT
Jan Calvin, MWVHA Consultant
Janet Carlson, MWVHA Consultant
Carla Munns, MWVHA Consultant

COLLABORATIVE COMMITTEE AND OTHERS PRESENT
See attached attendance roster.

WELCOME, INTRODUCTIONS & ICE BREAKER
Mayor Clark called the joint meeting to order at 3:00 p.m. The presence of a quorum of both the Alliance board and the ORS 190 Entity board was noted. Participants (109) representing 61 organizations introduced themselves including their roles in their organizations and "what they wanted to be at age 11" as an icebreaker. Attendees were also asked to post the number or topic of their preferred breakout session in the Zoom chat.

CONSENT AGENDA
Ms. Carlson reviewed the consent agenda for the Alliance board.

MOTION: By Councilor Hoy, **SECONDED by** Dan Clem, to **APPROVE THE CONSENT AGENDA, AS PRESENTED.**

- **AGENDA APPROVAL**
- **1-14-21 ORS 190 ENTITY AND ALLIANCE BOARD MINUTES**
- **FINANCIAL REPORT**
- **APPOINTMENT OF RACHEL MILLER, COMMUNITY ACTION, TO THE HMIS WORKGROUP AND ACKNOWLEDGING THE RESIGNATION OF COLE SCHNITZER, U.S. DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS, HUD/VASH PROGRAM, FROM THE COORDINATED ENTRY COMMITTEE**
- **STAFF REPORTS**

Discussion: None.
Motion carried.
IN FAVOR: Clark, Hoy, Bobb, Clem, Corr, Lair, Leno, Lippold Peone, Lopez, Mordhorst, Retherford, Slama. **OPPOSED:** None. **ABSTAINED:** None.

Ms. Carlson reviewed the business items for the ORS 190 Entity board.

MOTION: By Councilor Hoy, **SECONDED by** Jesse Lippold Peone, to **APPROVE THE BUSINESS ITEMS, AS PRESENTED.**

- **APPROVE AGREEMENT WITH WILLAMETTE EDUCATION SERVICE DISTRICT TO SET UP A ONEDRIVE SYSTEM ($381.70 FOR SETUP, $96 PER YEAR LICENSE) TO RETAIN ALLIANCE RECORDS PER HUD REGULATIONS**
- **APPROVE TRANSLATION SERVICES FOR SHARED RELEASE OF INFORMATION DOCUMENT AT $432.45**

Discussion: None.
Motion carried.

IN FAVOR: Clark, Hoy, Corr, Leno, Lippold Peone, Lopez, Mordhorst. **OPPOSED:** None. **ABSTAINED:** None.

ROUNDTABLE UPDATES

Ian Dixon-McDonald and Kim Parker-Llerenas opened the roundtable discussion as co-chairs of the Collaborative Committee. The Collaborative Committee is an open forum around the topic of homelessness in the region. Mr. Dixon-McDonald issued an open invitation to new participants. The committee has been meeting for about a year with great representation. Focus is providing educational opportunities, talking about best practices, issues that come up, and specific needs and resources or barriers, and providing feedback for the board. It is an opportunity to work together to move forward in the same direction. He thanked staff for their assistance.

Councilor Shannon Corr, City of Independence – Independence hosted a goal setting session. There is a lot of development in Independence. The council is looking at what is needed to improve upon. The city may be looking to create a communications director position or otherwise increase its ability to reach residents, including people experiencing homelessness.

Mayor Cathy Clark, City of Keizer – Keizer is looking at housing and will be holding a buildable lands inventory work session. More buildable land is needed. The city is working hard to be a good partner with non-profit and other organizations to serve the community and looking at opportunities to increase affordable housing. Recently, commercial properties have been converted to mixed use, which will allow property owners to build up and create more housing close to transit and existing services.

Councilor Christopher Lopez, City of Monmouth – Monmouth has done a goal setting session and will be implementing an affordable housing strategy, including Urban Growth Boundary adjustment and housing code review. Transportation topics are also on the list, including a potential trolley system to help with the economic security of the city and a local climate action plan.

Councilor Chris Hoy, City of Salem, deferred to Gretchen Bennett – City of Salem strategic priorities include establishing a navigation center in the city, work on the permanent supportive housing strategy, affordable housing, continued priority of the Housing First program, support of a sobering center, expanding other sheltering strategies, and mitigating impacts on those who are unsheltered with garbage pickup and other services. The city is working with partners on garbage pickup and looking at mobile response systems like CAHOOTS in Eugene.

Jayne Downing, Center for Hope and Safety – There has been a huge demand for emergency shelter during COVID. The center has been spending about $10,000 per month on motels and has been able to meet the demand, thanks to CARES Act funding. The center has had individuals graduate into permanent housing, thanks to Continuum of Care funding. The center will be expanding its staff and has been accepted by Project Turnkey to purchase a hotel. The center is in negotiations for the purchase. If successful, the project will go into Phase III, and the Oregon Community Foundation will put the money forward (provided by Oregon legislature). This should allow the center to use the same site for emergency shelter, interim housing, and possibly permanent housing.

Ashley Hamilton, Mid-Willamette Valley Community Action Agency – The past year has been devastating, but there have been silver linings. The Day Center has recorded more than 48,000 (duplicated) visits since opening day. Additional services were onboarded during the pandemic to better

serve clients, including showers, laundry, and hot meals. Tanner's Project, the first dedicated male and female Veteran-specific shelter facility in the Marion-Polk region, opened in partnership with Oregon Department of Veterans Affairs. Redwood Crossings, in partnership with Salem Housing Authority, opened to provide permanent supportive housing for the most vulnerable and chronic unsheltered persons. Goal setting is focusing on redesign of the service delivery model with a Diversity, Equity, Inclusion, and Justice lens to focus on accessibility by the black, indigenous, people of color, and Latinx neighbors, as well as creating a more robust response for rural communities and emergency situations like wildfires and bringing back the COVID Rental Assistance program. The first wave of the program served 1,400 households with $6.6 million in emergency rental assistance.

Lindsay Dent, Mid-Willamette Valley Community Action Agency, discussed warming efforts. There are three activation centers in Salem. The hotel project is the agency's biggest project with up to 120 hotel rooms, which are almost at capacity. Clients are referred through a collaborative process. Ms. Dent provided her phone number for activation.

Tricia Frizzell, Mid-Willamette Valley Community Action Agency – HOME Youth Services, serving youth ages 11-18, has been able to maintain services at the Day Center and emergency shelter for youth. The youth empowerment program went virtual, with a slight drop in youth attending the Day Center, but those coming in have been higher needs. Staff has been able to focus on those needs, working with partner groups to provide full services to the youth and young adult population, including working on education and advocacy.

Tribal Councilwoman Lisa Leno, Confederated Tribes of Grand Ronde – The tribe is continuing to work through this trying time and provide services for members. In the last two weeks, the health and wellness center has been administering vaccinations, vaccinating 2,250 people. The tribe will continue to be advocating for vaccinations and are likely to do another clinic next week. Anyone age 18 and over is welcome to make an appointment.

Leilani Slama, Salem Health – Salem Health has been a little distracted by pandemic and not focused on houseless population as much as we would like. Salem Health and Salem Health Foundation assisted in funding Redwood Crossings and have six rooms on the first floor for people who have been at Salem Health and are ready to be released but are not ready to return to the streets. Support, such as medication, wound care, and home health care, is available to allow people to recuperate. This partnership with the City of Salem is greatly appreciated. Salem Health is very focused on vaccinations right now. Three clinic sites are operating – State Fairgrounds, Western Oregon University, and selected outreach in Woodburn. Collectively, staff has vaccinated about 40,000 people in Marion and Polk counties. Salem Health will continue vaccinations as doses are available. Scheduling is not simple, so if you know someone who is eligible, please assist them as you can.

Elaine Lozier, PacificSource – PacificSource Coordinated Care Organization is new to the area but has worked to help coordinate services in the Marion-Polk area. The regional immunization campaign is an effort of community partners coming together and talking about vaccine access, outreach, and education. Both counties' leadership has shared what is needed, and PacificSource has been responsive to those needs. COVID-specific efforts include convening a group of service providers to work through some of the difficulties that have come with COVID and making sure that testing and the vaccine are available to those on the streets.

Josh Erickson, Church@the Park – Things are busy. Church@the Park has partnered with the City of Salem and the Mid-Willamette Valley Community Action Agency on the now open 100-person shelter at the State Fairgrounds Pavilion, which filled within the first twelve hours and remains full. Church@the Park also opened a new donation center at the location on Turner Road. Trevor Davies, working at the Pavilion, would be a great contact.

Candace Jamison, Marion County Housing Authority – Marion County Housing Authority is working with Marion County on the wildfire response and getting vouchers to those in need. The housing authority is looking forward to participating in the landlord compensation fund established by the State of Oregon, hoping to receive about $2 million. The housing authority is working with the county on the federal Rent Assistance Program. A work-study student is working on possibly starting a foster youth initiative demonstration program. Formerly, the program was run in partnership with ARCHES and the Oregon Department of Human Services.

Commissioner Lyle Mordhorst, Polk County – The Academy Building is a one-stop shop with rent and utility assistance, food, daycare, clothing, and human behavioral resources. Family Building Blocks is a partner in the same building, and the Veteran Services office has a location there. The Veteran Services Office operates Gale's Lodge, a Veteran-specific facility, which is currently full and has recently had a couple of graduates to permanent independent housing. The next thing is to expand transitional housing. Churches have warming shelters going. About a week ago, someone stole the trailer with blankets, pillows, and other supplies. No word on that, yet, but folks in Polk County always step up and meet the needs most generously.

Jesse Lippold Peone, Salem-Keizer School District – The district is excited to get students back to school, starting with K-1 on March 2nd, then adding two grades each week through grades 4-5, with full hybrid level for elementary students by spring break. For secondary students, the district will be expanding limited in-person school. This is very important for youth and families, as it provides homeless and at-risk students with additional support services. The district is investigating houseless dropout rates to see where we can improve and will be seeking assistance from community on this project.

Julie Conn-Johnson, McKinney-Vento Program, Salem-Keizer School District – The McKinney-Vento Program is finally back up to full staff as the students are returning. Staff is working hard to make sure transportation and other supports are in place. There are 500 students whose locations and status are unknown, and the program is striving to reach them all.

Robin Winkle, Shangri-La – Shangri-La operates a Continuum of Care permanent supportive housing program for 28 households. Staff has been able to participate in the Performance & Evaluation Committee's recent trial run site visit evaluation. There are two openings in the program, which is working with Built for Zero on case conferencing and coordinated entry. Shangri-La has a Master of Social Work (MSW) intern through Portland State University who has been working with the program for the last three to four months.

Hilary Dumitrescu , Sheltering Silverton – Sheltering Silverton has been almost like a MASH unit since March. The building closed due to COVID, so the shelter had to go mobile. In November, Sheltering Silverton was gifted a space in town, an old tractor supply warehouse which is for sale, but the owners are allowing the use of the space until it sells. Sheltering Silverton is able to provide daytime shelter, warming, food, and supplies daily (1-5 PM Monday-Friday). The shelter has not been able to provide traditional duration warming shelter due to lack of space and COVID restrictions. Sheltering Silverton is

grateful for funding to provide hotel rooms for the most vulnerable people, as well as for people facing extremely cold weather, and hopes that a more permanent location will become available in the spring.

Dan Clem, Union Gospel Mission – It's great to see our community come together like this. The current Men's Mission is at capacity and has rapid testing on site. Union Gospel Mission is at about the 60% mark on the new men's mission (220 beds, 80 for recovery program) that will probably open the third week of June. In May, Union Gospel Mission will be sending out invitations to tour the site. COVID restrictions have limited beds from the usual 198 to about 100 in the existing location.

Kathy Smith, Simonka House – With COVID restrictions, Simonka House has been unable to fill the house as full as in years with women and children. Working through everything, Simonka's restorative services programs are meeting the needs of women unable to engage fully in other programs offered, such as life skills and boundaries, for skills needed to move out into community. Mental health issues are really tough to work on.

Stephanie Bobb, United Way of the Mid-Willamette Valley – United Way has been working on affordable housing; finding land has been the worst hurdle. There is the potential of a property that could hold twelve to fourteen tiny homes, and United Way is determined to make this happen this year. Crisis response is another thing that United Way is partnering with the City of Salem on. It looks like the mental health van is moving forward. Safe Sleep will be increasing from 19 to 40 beds with a real kitchen and additional bathrooms. Safe Sleep had a temporary closure due to COVID but is now open.

Carol Salter, Easterseals Oregon – Supportive services for Veterans has housed 29 Veterans since December 1st, with four more ready to go into housing in the next week or so. Easterseals also has three different employment programs in the Marion-Polk region, including one for 55+ low income, one for Veterans, and one for persons with disabilities and English as a second language.

Lindsey Bittman, Portland Veterans Administration Healthcare System – The HUD-VASH voucher program is growing. The VA has vouchers at all local housing authorities and is working to do Veteran case conferencing through the "By-Name List" and offer support.

POINT-IN-TIME COUNT RECAP

Ms. Munns provided a PowerPoint presentation about the Point-in-Time Count that was conducted in January 2021. Planning began in June 2020, and COVID added many levels of consideration. Organizers needed a warehouse for donations that served as incentives for people to participate. A three-pronged approach was used: shelters, stationary sites, and mobile outreach. More than 100 meals were distributed. Volunteers were crucial in making sure sites were safe vis a vis COVID and to make all the facets of the operation work. Incentives included lunches, hot food, camping equipment, clothing, shoes, vouchers, and basic supplies. Mobile outreach teams visited known camps. This was the first year that the Confederated Tribes of Grand Ronde joined the count and did outreach to contact their community. CountingUS is an app that was used for the count this year. Some surveys covered households or families with multiple people. The data needs to be analyzed to be sure there are no duplicates and will be published within the next several months.

EMPLOYMENT AND HOMELESSNESS

Kim Parker-Llerenas, Executive Director of Willamette Workforce Partnership and Co-Chair of the Alliance Collaborative Committee, provided a PowerPoint presentation about Willamette Workforce Partnership programs and initiatives and how they relate to addressing homelessness in the Marion-Polk

region. Willamette Workforce Partnership is part of the public workforce system and serves as the local workforce development board. It serves as a convenor; brokers services; leverages local providers, stakeholders, and resources; and leads employer engagement to promote the economy. Local elected officials serve on the board and on the Jobs Council, an intergovernmental organization formed under Chapter 190 of the Oregon Revised Statutes. Willamette Workforce Partnership is a nonprofit 501(c)(3) that handles federal funds along with state funds and grants. Strategic sectors of the economy are invested in to support the economy. The organization's mission is: *Through collaboration, training, and outreach, Willamette Workforce Partnership efficiently drives results that lead to a skilled workforce, successful employers, and thriving communities*. The organization's vision is: *The Willamette Valley has a vibrant economy and prosperous communities through a dynamic, engaged, and innovative workforce.* Willamette Workforce Partnership provides businesses with worker training grants, employee recruitment and training, On-the-Job Training; and provides job seekers support, scholarships and individual training accounts, transitional jobs, and supportive services. Transitional jobs and On-the-Job Training are areas where Willamette Workforce Partnership pays for that experience. Supportive services can include transportation or other financial support. WorkSource Oregon is the front door for Willamette Workforce Partnership services. Child care, housing, and transportation are the three big barriers, as well as homelessness and a lack of technology access. Through its contract with ARCHES, Willamette Workforce Partnership has made connections that had not been there before and now has ongoing conversations about how to connect individuals to the workforce system when they are ready. Ms. Parker-Llerenas shared a couple of success stories. We are here and will serve anyone who "walks through the door" even if only virtually. The longer people are homeless, the harder it is to become employed. The organization wants to ensure rapid rehousing programs include a strong component of education, skill building, and employment, and to help those at risk increase their skills to attain higher wage jobs to avoid becoming homeless. Other activities include working with the Camp Taloali temporary shelter for those displaced by the wildfires, and the cognitive behavior techniques program called "Rethinking Barriers". Given time constraints, the Alliance welcomed Ms. Parker-Llerenas to return to a future board meeting to discuss potential partnerships.

OTHER BUSINESS

Ms. Carlson announced that the survey on racial and ethnic disparities in the system of homeless services was announced this week. This will be part of a larger study being done by Willamette University's Atkinson School of Management MBA students. The research team is aiming for 100 responses.

ADJOURNMENT

Hearing no further business, Chair Clark adjourned both board meetings at 4:59 p.m. with the participants going into their chosen breakout groups.

BREAKOUT SESSIONS

Notes from the five breakout sessions are attached.

Janet Carlson, MWVHA Consultant

Continuum of Care Summit
February 11, 2021

Breakout Session Notes

Group #1 – Families with Children

Facilitator – Jill Tucker, St. Francis Shelter
Recorder – Melinda Hautala, Marion County

Participants
Najia Ali Hyder – Children's Public Private Partnership
Kim Carbaugh - Center for Hope & Safety
Betty Charnholm – Community Member, Landlord
Leah DeVito – Center for Hope & Safety
Nichole Dickey – Catholic Community Services
Ormond Fredericks – Oregon Department of Human Services
Aleysa Garcia Rivas – PacificSource
Ellen Keithley – Options Counseling & Family Services
Lyle Mordhorst – Polk County Commissioner
Doug Odell – Family Promise
Kirsten Ray – HUD Region X, Portland Field Office
Leilani Slama – Salem Health
Kathy Smith – Union Gospel Mission, Simonka Place
Jill Sorensen – Catholic Community Services, Fostering Hope Initiative
Tara Stephens – Center for Hope & Safety
Catherine Todd – Veteran Services, Easterseals Oregon
Nicole Utz – Salem Housing Authority

What are the biggest gaps that have emerged since COVID?

Catherine –

- WorkSource and library closed means lack of computer access for many veterans and unhoused persons.
- Loss of training and employment programs is also hard with WorkSource closed.

Lyle –

- Lack of broadband access in rural Polk County has made distance learning almost impossible.
- Middle school is a difficult age to lack structure and social activity.
- Mental health is a big concern, not only because of isolation, but also lack of teacher attention and guidance from other adult mentors.

- We should create an emergency plan for distance learning in case anything like this happens again.
- Emergency rent freeze is good, but if you are already unhoused, this does not help you find housing.
- It's important to keep families together.

Leilani –

- We are also concerned about mental health of both kids and adults.
- Recent emergency room statistics showed a marked increase in suicide attempts, suicide ideation, and substance abuse.
- This is not a new challenge, and it permeates across social classes, but layering the pandemic on top of existing issues, with no activities, and nowhere to go, it is asking a lot of families.

Lyle –

- Polk County school districts report 30% of students are excelling online, 30% are struggling but getting by, and 40% have attended ONE or ZERO classes since distance learning started.

What do we think we will see in the next year or two? What comes next? What's in our strategic plans?

Doug –

- The wave of people losing their housing will continue and likely rise, given the current housing market and the eventual end of the rent moratorium.
- Sometimes we work with families that are on track, and we can get recommendations for housing from members of the community, but the number of people who can't pay rent because they have lost jobs due to COVID keeps going up.
- We have rapid rehousing programs, but the capacity is unlikely to cover the need that may be coming in six to nine months.

Betty –

- We own a three-acre parcel on the north side, and we have offered it for long-term lease twice but have been turned down.

Nicole –

- There could be many reasons, such as zoning or environmental requirements that are part of federal funding. Also, we would probably not act on a long-term lease, but would create a partnership of some kind.
- A lot of housing vouchers are returned because recipients can't use them, often because of the cost of apartments in the area. The wildfire disaster has impacted it even further.

- People living in homeless camps without access to technology are disconnected from resources for drug addiction and mental health, as well as services like child support and food assistance, since most of these are now handled online.
- Unhoused people also frequently lack methods of transportation, making it even more difficult to access services.
- We would like to see a service hub where people can go for one-stop assistance, with at least one staff person on site to help. What might seem normal to a lot of people can be difficult for unsheltered persons, even something as simple as charging a cell phone.
- We see kids struggling and adults struggling to help them, often because of shift work, language barrier, etc.
- We just opened a housing complex with 37 units, but we have already closed waiting lists because there are so many applicants, we already have a 28-month waiting list.

What do we do? What can we put in place as agencies and communities?

Ellen –

- Lower the barriers for entry to services. Often the eligibility for one program is different from another program, and they're disconnected. People often require a professional to refer them, but with COVID isolation, people do not have access to them.

Doug –

- We are planning to create an online clearinghouse for homeless families to allow us to better network our services. Unhoused people will be able to enter their information one time for access to several basic services.
- Even with improved coordination, however, the need is greater than the available resources, and we need long-term solutions, because these problems have been around for decades.

Najia –

- There is an organization called No One Left Offline that provides families with mobile WiFi units [nooneleftoffline.org] They have partnered with Every Child and CASA to provide these to foster families.

Ormond –

- TANF families and child welfare families have barriers that often make them less desirable to rent to, such as criminal history, past eviction, etc.
- 60-70 percent of homeless adults have experienced foster care at some point. We will never get out of the cycle unless we address foster youth.

Najia –

- We need to expand services to identify early those people who are couch surfing or in any way are at risk of becoming homeless, even if they are not currently.

Nicole –

- Encourage private developers to build affordable housing – they can get developments built a lot faster. We encourage them to develop complexes that have some units for voucher-holders, but not necessarily all, which has broadened the scope and made developers more interested.
- We need more navigators to connect people to resources or help with online school issues, or whatever is needed. Navigators have been crucial over this past year with everyone being disconnected.

Group #2 – Unaccompanied Minors

Facilitator – Tricia Frizzell, Mid-Willamette Valley Community Action Agency, HOME
Recorder – Carla Munns, Mid-Willamette Valley Homeless Alliance

Participants
Mayor Cathy Clark, City of Keizer
Julie Conn-Johnson, Salem-Keizer School District
Sofie Fashana, Marion County Housing Authority
Director Jesse Lippold Peone, Salem-Keizer School Board
Councilor Carol McKiel, City of Monmouth (and Western Oregon University)
Shain Oleson, Mid-Willamette Valley Community Action Agency, HOME
Kim Parker-Llerenas, Willamette Workforce Partnership
Heidi Walker, Safety Compass

1. **What are the gaps and areas for improvement that can be made in the next 1-2 years?**

    - Taylor's House, HOME, and HOST have been a good experience; gaps don't really exist for those processes/places, including compassionate response, quick response, great collaboration with case managers and these places, troubleshooting situations and scenarios together, collaboration.
    - Salem and Santiam Canyon don't need another youth emergency shelter
    - Woodburn needs 5-bed shelter; Polk County needs at least 10-bed shelter
    - Transitional housing for minors: major difficulty in finding housing in this population while family situation is being teased
    - Places for teen/pre-teen boys, especially
    - Family emergency shelters for all types and shapes of families
    - Girls can't go to Simonka without their moms present, and limited places to go overnight unaccompanied

2. **What strategies and goals can be identified to address gaps and improve the quality of life and quality of services offered to this population?** Are there any evidence-based strategies that may achieve these desired results/goals? What can the community/agencies do to make the strategies/goals happen?

    - Establish transitional housing locations for minors
    - Establish 5-bed youth shelter in Woodburn
    - Establish at least a 10-bed youth shelter in Polk County

Group #3 - Veterans

Facilitator and Recorder – Lindsey Bittman, Portland VA Health Care System

Participants
Eric Enderle, Polk County Veteran Services
Dale Moffett, WorkSource Salem
Kristin Retherford, City of Salem
Teresa Warnock, PacificSource

- Veterans have lots of resources for housing but face the same barriers as other chronically homeless and rural populations!

- Concerns with the amount of housing available; a case on the surface looks easy to address; example: we can help them increase their income, but when you apply for units, they are often denied for various barriers (example: an eviction ten years ago); skyrocketing housing prices are also a barrier to obtaining housing, even with available funding. Vouchers from housing authorities don't necessarily have high enough payment standards to match current market housing rates.

- When looking at where are the needs for new housing: (solution/best practice – area for continued growth) HRAP partnerships with landlords to try and overcome barriers. How can we increase partnerships with landlords to increase stability in housing placements?

- Long term: medical and mental health services are hard to access. In rural areas, public transit is very limited (example - coming in from Dallas to Salem for a medical appointment), **Cherriots is unable to provide bus stop near VA** clinic (it's .5 miles away), difficult for disabled individuals. Lots of conversation around the limited access of public transit around the VA Clinic and Social Security office on McGilchrist by finding funding to install sidewalk

    - City has applied for funds to try and get sidewalks installed near McGilchrist clinic – Kristin asked how many people this might impact, hard to quantify. Idea to advocate for additional funding/prioritization for sidewalk installations around McGilchrist office

- Veterans can be disconnected from a sense of community (something that is robust in the military), this is compounded by the pandemic.

- Aging Veterans!
    - Limited resources for assisted living, appropriate levels of care in rural areas (lack of funding for care homes, etc).
    - Lack of high-speed internet and other technology limitations that impact Veterans being able to access resources that DO exist. Also, aging Veterans are left behind as they don't have access to advanced technology.
    - Increasing senior population; feels like most folks that we are serving are over age 65. Vietnam Veterans are impacted by negative experiences with government, based on clinic they served in. Trust continues to be negatively impacted by lack of communication around vaccines and other services. How do we build trust with Veterans?
    - Outreach to seniors re: medical services, COVID vaccine (VA vs. community medical resources)
- Employment services – active substance use problems, legal barriers/history of incarceration
- Concerns re: housing stability and ability to use resources more than once; if Veterans use a RRH/SSVF subsidy, it is limited if they lose their housing (SSVF can only be used every two years)
- Access to services (physical access, technological access).
- THE RENT KEEPS GOING UP – impacting both individuals experiencing homelessness, as well as contributing to increasing homelessness
    - Is there a pot of money to help people stay housed? And not just paying back overdue rent. But ongoing subsidy type of support for those on a fixed income.

Group #4 - Chronically Homeless Individuals

Facilitator – Ashley Marshall, Mid-Willamette Valley Community Action Agency
Recorder – Breezy Aguirre, Mid-Willamette Valley Community Action Agency

Participants
Gretchen Bennett, City of Salem
Rochelle Bettis, Oregon Department of Human Services
Stephanie Bobb, United Way of the Mid-Willamette Valley
Ryan Botkin, City of Salem
Elliott Brooks, Mid-Willamette Valley Community Action Agency
Councilor Robert Carney, City of Woodburn
Dan Clem, Union Gospel Mission of Salem
Ian Dixon-McDonald, Marion-Polk Food Share
Jack Elliot, Salem Housing Authority
Jodi Erickson, Dev NW
Josh Erickson, Church@the Park
Noelle Gore, Church@the Park
Mary Heite, Northwest Human Services
Councilor Chris Hoy, City of Salem
Josh Lair, Marion County and Be Bold Ministries
Michael Livingston, CANDO
Kaela Lombardi, Mid-Willamette Valley Community Action Agency
Robert Marshall, Mid-Willamette Valley Community Action Agency
Christina McCollum, PacificSource
Lisa Miller, Marion County
Sarah Owens, CANDO
Carol Salter, Easterseals Oregon
Janet Scott, Oregon Department of Human Services
Ali Swanson, A Ray of Hope, Today!
Bennett Teal, Mid-Willamette Valley Community Action Agency
Lynelle Wilcox, United Way of the Mid-Willamette Valley
Robin Winkle, Shangri-La

Describe Current Landscape

The facilitator provided the definition of chronically homeless per HUD, along with a chart to help visualize the process that is used to determine if someone is considered chronically homeless.

What are the gaps and areas for improvement that can be made in the next 1-2 years?

- The group talked about the high needs of the currently homeless and chronically homeless population. Union Gospel Mission shared that 50% of the women and 33% of the men are suffering a mental health concern and that a stabilization center would be helpful, where an individual could be safe as they are connected with their medical providers and then transitioned to the shelters.

- LGBTQI+ services are lacking in the Marion-Polk region.

What strategies and goals can be identified to address gaps and improve the quality of life and quality of services offered to this population? Are there any evidence-based strategies that may achieve these desired results/goals? What can the community/agencies do to make the strategies/goals happen?

- A community member requested information about how you decide when someone is not interested in bettering themselves and are co-dependent and unwilling to help themselves.

- The issues raised included the following:

    - The systems that have caused them harm and, in some instances. continue to cause harm;

    - Education around trauma and how the brain is affected and that this is "not bootstraps, but science."

- The group spoke about the need for less silos and more collaboration, coming together and coming up with creative solutions.

- There should be a focus on chronically homeless individuals, because the cost to house them is less than the cost of them having to try to survive on the streets.

Due to time restraints, everyone who wanted to speak was unable to. Christina McCollum, PacificSource, sent the following feedback by email.

- Connect with Oregon Health Authority. Patients who need a high level of care such as State Hospital services cannot get in due to a waiting list.
- Have a State Hospital representative at your meetings, if you do not have one already. I think they need to hear what you are seeing.
- Thinking upstream- youth homelessness – Finding ways to support agencies that are providing services to youth (examples: HOST & Youth ERA). Coordinate behavioral health

care and have youth peer supports at the beginning of homelessness before it becomes chronic homelessness.

- I wonder if you have been part of the Unite Us/Connect Oregon campaign. This is a network of community partners using an electric platform to send referrals that address social needs of our community members. (Oregon.uniteus.com)

Group #5 – Homelessness Issues Unique to Rural Areas

Facilitator – Hilary Dumitrescu, Sheltering Silverton
Recorder – Janet Carlson, Mid-Willamette Valley Homeless Alliance

Participants
Todd Adkins, HUD Region X, Portland Field Office
Councilor Larry Briggs, City of Dallas
Councilor Shannon Corr, City of Independence
Lindsay Dent, Mid-Willamette Valley Community Action Agency
Sarah DeSantis, Silverton Area Community Aid
Emily Gagner, City of Dallas
Candace Jamison, Marion County Housing Authority
Councilor Christopher Lopez, City of Monmouth
Elaine Lozier, PacificSource
Glenn Muna, Mid-Willamette Valley Community Action Agency
Tiffany Ottis, Capitol Plaza
Denae Overman, Mid-Willamette Valley Homeless Alliance
Gabby Pena, Marion-Polk Food Share, AWARE Food Bank
Shyle Ruder, Fair Housing Council of Oregon
Christine Summers, Salem Housing Authority
Sarah White, Sheltering Silverton

Remarks during introductions

Todd – HUD can help with federal resources
Candace – Here to listen and learn
Tiffany – Here to listen and learn, personal story about experience growing up in rural area
Shyle – Interested in connecting with city councilors
Larry – Wants to learn about resources for growing homeless population in town
Denae – Lots of learning today, feel a bit overwhelmed
Emily – New, here to listen and learn
Shannon – Needs to know about Polk County resources, when most of the support services are co-located in Dallas, that's a bus ride for our residents
Gabby – How to get resources to clients?

What currently are the biggest gaps, things that you need the most?

- Shannon – resource page, where can people get services? Where can I find research?

- Shyle – lack of affordable, low-barrier housing; people at extremely low income; disabilities affect ability to apply; criminal histories, credit histories, credit issues, national origin; discrimination, no repairs, harder time finding new place to rent.

Discrimination – not wanting to rent with Section 8 vouchers or other rent assistance. Don't speak English, landlords, no repairs or blame family for damage – marked as barrier to rent next time

- Hilary – We do what we can get away with, mindset continues; many affordable housing communities have been ignored; get act together when damages were due – deferred maintenance, ignore people's cries for help; substandard, if not unlivable

- Shyle – People afraid to come forward – afraid of losing housing

- Tiffany – Congregations Helping People – brought up state law, utility bills astronomical and medical bills – repairs not done, got sick

- Denae – Where is accountability?

- Shyle – Oregon Housing & Community Services sends out secret shoppers, more dollars recently for oversight; look for civil rights issues, work with Legal Aid; capacity issues with Fair Housing Council; very specific protections

- Shannon – Low-income housing; how is impact of libraries being closed affecting homeless?

- Hilary – Problem in Silverton, resource center is also closed; one place for computer access; stimulus checks, had to go through online tool

- Christopher – When talking rural communities, homeless people, but not at the same rate as in larger communities; easier to brush it under the rug. Not a lot of awareness. If aware, how address issues that circle around homelessness? Push it out, criminalize it. No services to address needs. Police do wellness versus codes enforced. Problems with providing even basic services.

- Candace – Happy to see Monmouth and Independence here. Invite Woodburn and Silverton to meet. Nice to have opportunity to expose work that is happening. Could be working better. More trust when bring services to these communities. If Mayors and City Councils not aware, will make it hard to build multi-family housing to that community.

- Gabby – Woodburn mayor has volunteered in food bank. One of problems in rural Woodburn is transportation. Only have urgent care, no hospital there. Partner with

Cherriots, confined to within Woodburn. Need way to get outside of Woodburn to emergency medical care, court. People feel stranded.

- Denae – Bring services to people? Or find transportation?

- Christopher – Police carry bus passes for people who need to access services in Dallas; not utilized as much as should. Individuals, if stranded, they are stranded. If an appointment takes extra time, miss the last bus out. Bring services into community in some way. Comes up against pressure. If we built it, they will come. Education aspect that runs through this. How educate people who need services/transportation, and how educate the rest of the community? This is problem that is already here. Just can't see it.

- Lindsay – Leaders make a difference. At Community Action, rural communities is a focus. Warming center, provide protocols. Any way we can assist. That is what we are here for. Purchased a fifteen-passenger van for Polk County. Access. Shelter. Some positive things have come out of COVID.

- Hilary – Possibility of a rural task force as part of the Continuum of Care. Think we need that. Need to network, share ideas.

First Name	Last Name	Organization	Title	final attendance	# of Orgs
Todd	Adkins	HUD Region X, Portland Field Office	Senior CPD Representative, Office of Community Planning and Development	1	1
Breezy	Aguirre	MWVCAA, ARCHES	ARCHES Assistant Director	1	
Najia	Ali Hyder	Children's Public Private Partnership	Executive Director	1	1
Warren	Bednarz		Developer	1	
Hunter	Belgard	Oregon Housing & Community Services	HMIS Administrator	1	1
Gretchen	Bennett	City of Salem	Human Rights & Federal Compliance Manager/Homeless Liaison	1	
Rochelle	Bettis	Oregon DHS - D3 - Self Sufficiency	Community Dev. Coordinator	1	
Lindsey	Bittman	Portland VA Healthcare System	HCHV Outreach Coordinator	1	1
Stephanie	Bobb	United Way ***(Alternate for Rhonda)***	Development Manager	1	1
Ryan	Botkin	City of Salem	Intern	1	
Larry	Briggs	City of Dallas	City Councilor	1	1
Elliott	Brooks	MWVCAA, ARCHES	Day Center Program Coordinator	1	
Jan	Calvin	MWV Homeless Alliance	Staff	1	1
Kim	Carbaugh	Center for Hope & Safety		1	
Janet	Carlson	MWV Homeless Alliance	Staff	1	
Robert	Carney	City of Woodburn	City Councilor	1	1
Betty	Charnholm	First Christian Church	Landlord	1	
Leon	Chriestenson	Salem First Baptist Church	Pastor	1	1
Cathy	Clark	City of Keizer	Mayor	1	1
Dan	Clem	Union Gospel Mission (UGM)	CEO	1	1
Julie	Conn-Johnson	Salem-Keizer Public Schools	McKinney Vento Program Coord.	1	
Shannon	Corr	City of Independence	City Councilor	1	1
Diana	Cvitanovich	Polk CDC	Program Developer	1	1
Joe	Dabek	Habitat & Hope Village		1	1
Lindsay	Dent	MWVCAA, ARCHES	ARCHES Program Manager	1	
Sarah	DeSantis	Silverton Area Community Aid	Executive Director	1	1
Leah	DeVito	Center for Hope & Safety	Housing Advocate	1	1
Nichole	Dickey	Catholic Community Services		1	
Ian	Dixon-McDonald	Marion-Polk Food Share	Vice President of Programs	1	1
Jayne	Downing	Center for Hope & Safety	Executive Director	1	
Hilary	Dumitrescu	Sheltering Silverton	Executive Director	1	1
Jack	Elliot	City of Salem Housing Authority	HRAP Case Manager	1	
Eric	Enderle	Polk County Veteran Services	Veteran Services Officer	1	1
Jodi	Erickson	DevNW	Asset Manager	1	1
Josh	Erickson	Church at the Park	Director of Operations	1	1
Sofie	Fashana	Marion County Housing Authority		1	

Kim	Fitzgerald	City of Dallas	City Councilor	1	
Ormond	Fredericks	Oregon DHS - District 3	Chief Operations Officer	1	1
Tricia	Frizzell	MWVCAA, HOME Youth Services	Director	1	1
Emily	Gagner	City of Dallas	Assistant City Manager	1	
Robert	Garcia	Salem Leadership Foundation	Straub/West Lightning Rod	1	1
Aleysa	Garcia Rivas	PacificSource	Health Equity and Diversity Liaison	1	
Stephen	Goins	NW Human Services	Transitional Programs Director	1	1
Rosa	Gomez	HIV Alliance	Bilingual Outreach Coordinator	1	1
Noelle	Gore	Church at the Park	Shelter on State Coordinator	1	
Joshua	Graves	Catholic Community Services	CEO	1	1
Ashley	Hamilton	MWVCAA, ARCHES	ARCHES Program Director	1	1
Melinda	Hautala	Marion County Comm. Services Dept.	Program Coordinator	1	1
Mary	Heite	NW Human Services	Youth Services Coordinator	1	
Tom	Hoffert	Salem Area Chamber of Commerce	Executive Director	1	1
Justin	Hopkins	Willamette Health Council	Executive Director	1	1
Chris	Hoy	City of Salem	City Councilor	1	1
Candace	Jamison	Marion County Housing Authority	Executive Director	1	1
Ellen	Keithley	Options Counseling and Family Services	Social Services Director	1	1
Christina	Korkow	Recovery Outreach Community Center	Executive Director	1	1
Joshua	Lair	Marion County LEAD	Navigator	1	1
Lisa	Leno	Confederated Tribes of Grand Ronde	Council Member	1	1
Jesse	Lippold	Salem-Keizer Public Schools	School Board Member	1	1
Michael	Livingston	CANDO Neighborhood Association	Vice Chair	1	1
Kaela	Lombardi	MWVCAA, ARCHES		1	
Christopher	Lopez	City of Monmouth	City Councilor	1	1
Elaine	Lozier	PacificSource	Community Health Coordinator for Marion/Polk	1	1
Robert	Marshall	MWVCAA, ARCHES	ARCHES Program Coordinator	1	
Tamara	McClaskey	NW Human Services	Case Manager, HOST Program	1	
Christina	McCollum	PacificSource	Behavioral Health Strategist for Marion & Polk Counties	1	
Carol	McKiel	City of Monmouth	City Councilor	1	
Lisa	Miller	Marion County LEAD	Program Coordinator	1	
Dale	Moffett	WorkSource Salem, Oregon Employment Dept.	Disabled Veteran Outreach Program Specialist	1	1
Lyle	Mordhorst	Polk County	Commissioner	1	1
Glenn	Muna	MWVCAA, ARCHES	ARCHES Program Manager	1	
Carla	Munns	MWV Homeless Alliance	Staff	1	
Tim	Murphy	Bridgeway Recovery Services	CEO	1	1
Emily	Neves	Sheltering Silverton		1	

Doug	Odell	Family Promise	Executive Assistant	1	1
Shain	Oleson	MWVCAA, HOME Youth Services		1	
Tiffany	Ottis	Capitol Plaza	Resident Services Coordinator	1	1
Denae	Overman	MWV Homeless Alliance	PSU Intern	1	
Sarah	Owens	CANDO Neighborhood Association	Secretary-Treasurer	1	
Kim	Parker-Llerenas	Willamette Workforce Partnership	Executive Director	1	1
Heather	Pascoe	PacificSource	System of Care Coordinator, Marion & Polk	1	
Gabby	Pena	Marion-Polk Food Share	AWARE Food Bank - Woodburn	1	1
Kirstin	Ray	HUD Region X, Portland Field Office		1	
Kristin	Retherford	City of Salem Urban Development	Director	1	1
Shyle	Ruder	Fair Housing Council of Oregon	Education & Outreach Director	1	1
Carol	Salter	Easterseals Oregon	President/CEO	1	1
Janet	Scott	Oregon DHS - D3 - Self Sufficiency	Program Analyst/CPC	1	
Leilani	Slama	Salem Health	VP of Communications	1	1
Kathy	Smith	Union Gospel Mission (UGM) Simonka	Director of Women's Ministries	1	
Tim	Solterbeck	Oxford Houses	Corp. Secretary	1	1
Jill	Sorensen	Catholic Community Services	Chief Operations Officer FHI/ISN	1	
Tara	Stephens	Center for Hope & Safety		1	
Christine	Summers	Salem Housing Authority	Housing Stability Coordinator	1	
Ali	Swanson	A Ray of Hope, Today!	NSUSN Outreach	1	1
Bennett	Teal	MWVCAA, ARCHES		1	
Danica	Thoren	Women at the Well Grace House		1	1
Kathleen	Thorpe	Northwest Human Services		1	
Catherine	Todd	Easterseals Oregon		1	
Syanne	Topar			1	
Angie	Torres	Providence Health Plans		1	
Jill	Tucker	St. Francis Shelter	Director of Development	1	1
Nicole	Utz	City of Salem Housing Authority	Administrator	1	1
Heidi	Walker	Safety Compass	Marion County Human Trafficking Task Force Coordinator	1	1
Kelly	Walther	Grant Services of America, Inc.		1	1
Teresa	Warnock	PacificSource	Behavioral Health Performance Coach Marion/Polk	1	
Sarah	White	Sheltering Silverton	Program Director	1	
Lynelle	Wilcox	United Way/Safe Sleep	Program Manager	1	
Robin	Winkle	Shangri-La	Operations Director	1	1
Victoria				1	
Heather	Wright	Neighbor to Neighbor	Executive Director	1	1
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