

Minutes of March 11, 2021

**JOINT MEETING OF THE
MID-WILLAMETTE VALLEY HOMELESS ALLIANCE
BOARD OF DIRECTORS 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

Dan Clem, Executive Director, Union Gospel Mission of Salem

Councilor Shannon Corr, City of Independence

Josh Lair, Navigator, Law Enforcement Assisted Diversion (LEAD)

Tribal Councilwoman Lisa Leno, Confederated Tribes of Grand Ronde

Director Jesse Lippold Peone for Christy Perry, Superintendent, Salem-Keizer School District

Councilor Christopher Lopez, City of Monmouth

Leilani Slama, Vice President, Community Engagement, Salem Health

Commissioner Colm Willis, Marion County

Rhonda Wolf, CEO, United Way of the Mid-Willamette Valley

Ian Dixon-McDonald, Vice President of Programs, Marion Polk Food Share; Co-Chair, Collaborative Committee

Christian Edelblute, Executive Director, West Valley Housing Authority

Candace Jamison, Executive Director, Marion County Housing Authority

Nicole Utz, Housing Administrator, Salem Housing Authority

MEMBERS ABSENT

Mayor Chuck Bennett, City of Salem

Eric Enderle, Veteran Services Officer, Polk County Veteran Services

Jimmy Jones, Executive Director, Mid-Willamette Valley Community Action Agency

Commissioner Lyle Mordhorst, Polk County

Kim Parker-Llerenas, Co-Chair, MWVHA Collaborative Committee

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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

Commissioner Colm Willis, Marion County

Jesse Lippold Peone for Christy Perry, Superintendent, Salem-Keizer School District (SKSD)

Councilor Christopher Lopez, City of Monmouth

MEMBERS ABSENT

Commissioner Lyle Mordhorst, Polk County

STAFF AND GUESTS PRESENT

Jan Calvin, MWVHA Consultant
Janet Carlson, MWVHA Consultant
Carla Munns, MWVHA Consultant
Denise VanDyke Admin. Specialist II, MWVCOG
Julie Conn-Johnson, McKinley-Vento program, Salem-Keizer School District
Emily Mooney, Chief of Staff to Senator Deborah Patterson
Councilor Laura Reid, City of Keizer
Jim Seymour, Mountain West Investment Corporation, Community Business and Education Leaders Collaborative

CALL TO ORDER

Mayor Clark called the joint meeting to order at 3:06 p.m. The presence of a quorum of both groups was noted.

INTRODUCTIONS & JURISDICTION/ORGANIZATION UPDATES

Councilor Hoy deferred to Ms. Utz, who reported that two grant applications have been submitted by Salem Housing Authority, including one for Sequoia Crossings. This project will provide 60 units of supported housing, working in conjunction with ARCHES. Salem Housing Authority is ramping up for the landlord compensation fund, which should be live soon. Housing Authority staff have been busy helping people get past the ice storm.

Councilor Lopez met with Councilor Corr and the Polk Community Development Corporation about working together. They will be holding similar meetings with other service providers, looking to fill gaps in the services provided. There will be a virtual open house tonight on the Monmouth Code Assistance Project, which would open up land for affordable housing. Councilor Lopez requested information about “small” home pods.

Commissioner Willis said that Marion County is still focused on the Santiam Canyon. The team has about 50 people still to be interviewed. Many people who lost their homes are still living in area hotels. Marion County is starting up a Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) program, including hiring people to run it. COVID vaccine distribution is still a big target, but infection levels are falling.

Ms. Wolf said that the United Way continues to move forward with its affordable housing efforts. There is an opportunity in Falls City that may be able to happen soon. In response to Mayor Clark’s question about Safe Sleep expansion, Ms. Wolf reported that costs have skyrocketed. There will be a meeting on the topic on Sunday.

Mr. Lair reported that LEAD is up to 120 clients and has cars going out with Marion County Sheriff’s deputies about once a week for field outreach.

Mr. Clem thanked Salem Health for its work to get out the vaccines. The UGM Men’s Mission is progressing. UGM hopes to have occupancy by June 18 and a ribbon cutting by June 30. The women’s program is now both women and children. Mr. Clem acknowledged the help of donors to create a children’s computer lab. Stabilizing people exhibiting mental health issues continues to be an issue.

Ms. Slama stated that Salem Health has had a few days without crises. Appointments for vaccines have been changed to pen schedule at Western Oregon University and the State Fairgrounds, as MyChart was not always available or easily navigated by everyone. The 100,000th vaccine will be given around 10:00 tomorrow morning. A mobile vaccine clinic is being launched that can go out to the harder to reach locations and populations, such as migrant workers, homeless shelters, and BIPOC communities.

Mr. Dixon-McDonald said that Marion Polk Food Share is hiring a Wildfire Relief Coordinator to concentrate on home deliveries and resource navigation for those with transportation challenges in partnership with the Santiam Service Integration Team.

Mr. Edelblute reported that West Valley Housing Authority serves all communities outside the Salem UGB and is currently serving 950 families, with 1,150 capacity.

Ms. Jamison noted that Marion County Housing Authority is coordinating with Marion County Public Health workers to get clients, especially seniors, and staff vaccinated. The Housing Authority is in the predevelopment phase for two developments in Mill City, one in Woodburn, and a possible one in Stayton. More housing is needed so people with housing vouchers can have somewhere to use them.

Mr. Seymour introduced himself. Last year, Mountain West Investment Corporation offered a grant of \$150,000 over three years, with annual renewals based on performance, through the Community Business and Education Leaders Collaborative (CBEL) program. CBEL is pleased with the Alliance's progress, and the Alliance has exceeded the milestones that were set. Mr. Seymour said he is happy to announce Mountain West will be issuing the next check for \$50,000 and considers this the best investment we could make. He said that the Alliance is laying a great groundwork. Mayor Clark thanked Mr. Seymour and Mountain West for their support and trust.

ORS 190 ENTITY BUSINESS

Ms. Carlson reviewed the CBEL grant agreement. The agreement and accompanying score card contain some new milestones.

MOTION: By Councilor Hoy, **SECONDED by** Councilor Lopez, to **APPROVE THE AGREEMENT WITH MOUNTAIN WEST INVESTMENT CORPORATION FOR A SECOND YEAR CBEL GRANT, AS PRESENTED.**

Motion carried.

IN FAVOR: Clark, Hoy, Corr, Lopez, Willis. **OPPOSED:** None. **ABSTAINED:** None.

Ms. Carlson reviewed the remaining budget items listed under ORS 190 Entity Business. She outlined plans to place the legal notices in the Statesman Journal and Polk County Itemizer Observer newspapers. The proposed budget committee membership was reviewed. A budget officer needs to be appointed, which can be Ms. Carlson, as board administrator, but could be another individual, if desired.

MOTION: By Councilor Hoy, **SECONDED by** Commissioner Willis, to **APPROVE ITEMS 1-3 ON THE ORS 190 ENTITY CONSENT AGENDA, AS PRESENTED.**

- **ADOPT 2021-22 BUDGET CALENDAR**
- **APPOINT PROPOSED BUDGET COMMITTEE MEMBERS FOR THREE-YEAR TERMS**
- **APPOINT MS. CARLSON AS BUDGET OFFICER**

Discussion: None.

Motion carried.

IN FAVOR: Clark, Hoy, Corr, Lopez, Willis. **OPPOSED:** None. **ABSTAINED:** None.

INTRODUCTIONS & JURISDICTION/ORGANIZATION UPDATES (continued)

Councilor Corr reported that the City of Independence City Council had a climate task force presentation that included the idea of warming/cooling shelters. She noted that she has heard questions from the community about the Point-in-Time Count. When should we expect to see the final data? Ms. Munns replied that the data is still being processed to eliminate duplication and she did not have a firm date for its release. Mr. Lippold Peone stated that students are coming back to school. In-person education is best. The Salem-Keizer District is doing hybrid and limited in-person schooling and is working with Salem Health and the Marion County Health Department. The district superintendent has decided to eliminate the contract with school resource officers. Mr. Lippold Peone stressed that this was the superintendent’s decision to make. The district will continue working with law enforcement, just without officers stationed in the schools.

Tribal Councilwoman Leno reported that the Confederated Tribes of Grand Ronde are continuing the vaccine clinics. Non-tribal members are welcome. The Tribe has many housing units of varying types but found instances where clients have chosen not to look for work because they are comfortable. The Tribe is looking at case management to help people achieve employment.

CONSENT AGENDA

Mayor Clark went over the list of items on the Consent Agenda. No items were pulled.

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

- **AGENDA APPROVAL**
- **2-11-21 ORS 190 ENTITY AND ALLIANCE BOARD MINUTES**
- **FINANCIAL REPORTS**
- **STAFF REPORTS**

Discussion: None.

Motion carried.

IN FAVOR: Clark, Hoy, Clem, Corr, Lair, Leno, Lippold Peone, Lopez, Slama, Willis, Wolf. **OPPOSED:** None.

ABSTAINED: None.

Mayor Clark requested that everyone take time to review the work plan.

BUILT FOR ZERO/COORDINATED ENTRY

Ms. Calvin shared a PowerPoint presentation highlighting Built for Zero and the Coordinated Entry system. Built for Zero (BFZ) is an initiative and system improvement plan for Coordinated Entry. HUD requires centralized or coordinated entry. The Alliance is using best practices and is working with Community Action for Coordinated Entry services. Ms. Calvin reviewed the components of the Coordinated Entry system. The Coordinated Entry Committee did a 107-point evaluation of the system. The committee also develops policies, recruits agencies to participate in Coordinated Entry, and incorporates BFZ strategies. The Marion-Polk region is currently doing general population assessments and access at ARCHES, with family access and assessments at the North Portland Road location and domestic violence specific access and assessments at the Center for Hope & Safety. The Center for Hope & Safety uses a separate data entry system for confidentiality reasons but works in conjunction with the general data system. Flexible operations have been established by phone, in person, and in the field. Assessments are now conducted in multiple languages. There are plans to add general population access and assessments in multiple cities; additional specialized access points for youth, Veterans, families, and domestic violence victims; and additional support assessment staff at other locations (i.e., warming shelters). Assessments go into a master list that is delineated by vulnerability levels. More agencies are stepping up to help with HMIS. Veterans and chronically homeless

clients are currently the top priority populations. There are opportunities to add other populations as assessment staff is trained. Case managers will be needed for specific populations, such as families and youth.

MOTION: By Tribal Councilwoman Leno, **SECONDED by** Councilor Lopez, to **APPROVE THE FOURTH QUARTER REPORT FOR BUILT FOR ZERO, AS PRESENTED.**

Discussion: None.

Motion carried.

IN FAVOR: Clark, Hoy, Clem, Corr, Lair, Leno, Lippold Peone, Lopez, Slama, Willis, Wolf. **OPPOSED:** None.

ABSTAINED: None.

SYSTEM PERFORMANCE MEASURES

Ms. Calvin reported that the Marion-Polk region's System Performance Measures were recently submitted to HUD. There are seven performance measures to be considered, although item number six measures "prevention," and HUD will not allow that data to be submitted until no one in the region is homeless. Ms. Calvin reviewed the measures, the data, and relevant discussion points.

- Item 1. There has been an increase in the number of persons in emergency shelters and transitional housing, and they are averaging an increased number of nights before entering a housing program and before moving into permanent housing. The increased numbers may be partly due to better reporting, but we need to determine where the slowdowns are in the system and how to house people faster.
- Item 2. There is unclear data regarding exiting permanent housing to permanent housing and then returning to homelessness. We need to know what type of housing programs or situations are being exited and more about the populations involved.
- Item 3. This item collects the number of homeless persons. Better reporting can lead to an appearance of an increased number of homeless persons, when it is a matter of *identifying* homeless populations that were there before, but not reported previously.
- Item 4. For the employment/income growth item, we need data from more agencies to address this properly.
- Item 5. The number of people who became homeless for the first time should really be looked at as those who received services in the system for the first time. Improving the system will mean more data in HMIS. Again, not all the increase indicates new homeless persons, but some are newly identified homeless persons. It will be easier to clarify this issue when we have multiple years of good data to compare.
- Item 7. We are seeing a slight improvement in the retention of permanent housing; however, people staying in permanent housing programs, rather than independent housing, means no spaces opening up for others who need housing, which creates a bottleneck in the system. COVID may have impacted this, and it will be interesting to see how COVID has affected many aspects of the system.

Data quality is another performance measure. HMIS participation has improved in emergency shelters and transitional housing. However, there have been decreases in permanent supportive housing and Rapid Re-

Housing programs, which could be the result of some beds being reassigned. Improvements in the Destination Error Rate for emergency shelter, transitional housing, and permanent supportive housing are good to see. We have implemented a data review process that helps ensure completeness.

Next steps include a deeper analysis, clarification of community priorities, more HMIS training, and expanding Coordinated Entry access points. If we are successful with the ESG-CV grant application, the Marion-Polk region will gain 32 new staff trained in HMIS.

MOTION: By Commissioner Willis, **SECONDED** by Councilor Lopez, to **RATIFY THE CONTINUUM OF CARE PERFORMANCE MEASURES, AS PRESENTED.**

Discussion: None.

Motion carried.

IN FAVOR: Clark, Corr, Lair, Leno, Lopez, Slama, Willis, Wolf. **OPPOSED:** None. **ABSTAINED:** None.

CoC SUMMIT DEBRIEF

Consensus was that this was an excellent event. There were 109 participants from 63 organizations. Those who attended shared their thoughts. Ms. Jamison said that the breakout rooms were great, and more time for those would have been even better. Maybe a little more structure for the facilitators would have been helpful. She would like to have seen more elected officials from Marion County participating. Polk County was well represented.

Mr. Dixon-McDonald commented that it was amazing to see so many groups and so much crossover. More time for the breakouts would be great, and maybe more topics. A speaker from outside the Alliance would be good for a different point of view. Also, we should celebrate our collective accomplishments.

Councilor Lopez loved the whole thing. The array and variety of participants was great. A lot of time was spent on introductions, which were valuable, but took a lot of time. More time for breakouts would be good. Maybe ask participants to write a very short (30 words?) introduction beforehand that could be shared with everyone?

OTHER BUSINESS

Ms. Calvin reported that the Dallas Assistant City Manager contacted staff about the city's interest in the Alliance. Ms. Calvin and Councilor Hoy presented to the Dallas City Council on March 1. City councilors want to know the benefits of being members of the board, specifically. Mayor Clark asked each government board member to send Ms. Calvin one or two sentences regarding the benefits as they see them (i.e., a seat at the table – if you're not at the table, you're on the menu). Councilor Lopez will follow up with Ms. Calvin. He is pleased to see that Dallas is interested. The upsides greatly outweigh the downsides. If not us, who; if not now, when? The contribution is not onerous and is money well spent.

Ashley Hamilton from Community Action and Ms. Munns were asked to make a presentation to the Federal Regional Interagency Council on Homelessness, which spans from Alaska to Idaho, regarding the 2021 Point-in-Time Count and lessons learned. The relationship building over the past year starting early and ongoing really helped with the count. Also, the partnerships with organizations ranging from law enforcement arranging for no camp clearing right before the count to service providers and individuals providing locations, volunteers, and meals were also important. Our community is great at sharing information, resources, and more.

Mayor Clark announced that in her State of the City address, she called out the Oregon Department of Transportation regarding homeless people on state rights of ways. She let ODOT know that the door is open to talk about how to better serve the populations affected, but also cast the gauntlet for them to step up.

ADJOURNMENT

Hearing no further business, Chair Clark adjourned both meetings at 4:46 p.m.

Janet Carlson, MWVHA Consultant