MINUTES OF August 12, 2021

MID-WILLAMETTE VALLEY HOMELESS ALLIANCE BOARD OF DIRECTORS
AND
ORS 190 ENTITY BOARD OF DIRECTORS
JOINT MEETING

Zoom Meeting

MWVHA BOARD
MEMBERS PRESENT
CHAIR: Mayor Cathy Clark, City of Keizer
Denyc Boles for Leilani Slama, Vice President, Community Engagement, Salem Health
Councilor Shannon Corr, City of Independence
Commissioner Jeremy Gordon, Polk County
Tribal Councilwoman Lisa Leno, Confederated Tribes of Grand Ronde
Councilor Christopher Lopez, City of Monmouth
Josie Silverman-Mendez, Director, Marion-Polk County CCO, PacificSource
Christy Perry, Superintendent, Salem-Keizer School District
Kristin Retherford for Council President Chris Hoy, City of Salem
Jessica Stanton for Commissioner Colm Willis, Marion County
Rhonda Wolf, CEO, United Way of the Mid-Willamette Valley
Christian Edelblute, Executive Director, West Valley Housing Authority
Eric Enderle, Veteran Services Officer, Polk County Veteran Services
Candace Jamison, Executive Director, Marion County Housing Authority
Ian Dixon-McDonald, Vice President of Programs, Marion Polk Food Share; Co-Chair, CoC Collaborative Committee
Nicole Utz, Housing Administrator, Salem Housing Authority

MEMBERS ABSENT
Mayor Chuck Bennett, City of Salem
Dan Clem, Executive Director, Union Gospel Mission of Salem
Josh Lair, Navigator, Law Enforcement Assisted Diversion (LEAD)
Jimmy Jones, Executive Director, Mid-Willamette Valley Community Action Agency
Kim Parker-Llerenas, Executive Director, Willamette Workforce Partnership; Co-Chair, CoC Collaborative Committee

ORS 190 ENTITY BOARD
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Tribal Councilwoman Lisa Leno, Confederated Tribes of Grand Ronde
Councilor Christopher Lopez, City of Monmouth
Christy Perry, Superintendent, Salem-Keizer School District
Kristin Retherford for Council President Chris Hoy, City of Salem
Jessica Stanton for Commissioner Colm Willis, Marion County

MEMBERS ABSENT
None

STAFF AND GUESTS PRESENT
Jan Calvin, MWVHA Consultant
Janet Carlson, MWVHA Consultant
Carla Munns, MWVHA Consultant
Denise VanDyke, Admin. Specialist II, MWVCOG
Commissioner Kevin Cameron, Marion County
Councilor Laura Reid, City of Keizer
Chad Ball, Marion County
Tricia Frizzell, Mid-Willamette Valley Community Action Agency

CALL TO ORDER
Mayor Clark called the joint meeting to order at 3:03 p.m. The presence of a quorum of both boards was noted.

INTRODUCTIONS & JURISDICTION/ORGANIZATION UPDATES
Board members introduced themselves, and those with something to share did so.

Mayor Clark announced that the City of Keizer continues working to match people experiencing homelessness with services.

Ms. Retherford reported that the City of Salem is preparing to close on the Yaquina Hall site so building can begin. The city closed on the Navigation Center location, but extensive renovations are needed which will delay its opening until spring.

Commissioner Gordon introduced himself as the new Polk County Commissioner. He will be taking the place of Commissioner Mordhorst on the Alliance and ORS 190 Entity boards. He stated that homelessness and housing are passions of his. Polk County has numerous projects in the works, and he is looking forward to working with Brent DeMoe on these projects.

Councilor Corr reported that the City of Independence has been holding meetings about how best to have a role regarding warming and cooling shelters. She is concerned about the lack of affordable housing in Independence and continues to work with the rural issues group.

Councilor Lopez noted that, with school starting, we need to recognize that not all children are in stable housing and that a lack of secure housing means a lack of basic needs (internet, support systems) for remote or traditional learning. The City of Monmouth is establishing internet hotspots for those who need them in public, safe spaces. The newest one is in Main Street Park.

Ms. Silverman-Mendez reported that PacificSource has finalized its Community Health Improvement Plan (CHIP) and will be starting implementation. Housing, mental health, and substance abuse are the focus. The Willamette Health Council Community Benefit Initiative Grant is open, closing at the end of August https://willamettehealthcouncil.org/community-benefit-initiative/). PacificSource is reaching out to clients at risk from the heat and providing resources, such as air conditioners. PacificSource is also playing a

convener role for initiatives such as the regional immunization campaign for COVID, flu, and childhood immunizations.

Ms. Boles reported that today Salem Health has its highest number of COVID patients since last winter's peak. The hospital has experienced fifteen weeks of high census. Salem Health is not diverting patients to other facilities and is continuing to perform medically necessary surgeries. Ms. Boles urged vaccinations for those who remain unvaccinated; 96% of COVID cases at the hospital are unvaccinated.

Ms. Wolf announced that the United Way is continuing forward with affordable housing projects. Property has been acquired from the City of Salem, and staff is working with engineers on the plans, hoping to break ground in September.

Ms. Utz said that Salem Housing Authority is heavily investing in the Yaquina Hall project, 52 units with one-bedroom apartments, closing in the October-November timeframe. Sequoia Crossings is targeted to close in May. Salem Housing Authority is receiving emergency housing vouchers and plans to send out for referrals next week. The office will reopen on Monday.

Ms. Stanton deferred to Commissioner Cameron who reported that Marion County is working on housing projects in the Canyon. Commissioner Bethell is leading the effort of a public-private partnership with Marion County Housing Authority for 150 units in Mill City. Land purchases are underway. Commissioner Cameron noted that he is looking forward to working with the Alliance as the county develops its priorities for ARPA and CDBG funds. Ms. Stanton added that there is a citizen participation plan for the CDBG entitlement plan for HUD application, which has been approved by the commissioners.

Ms. Jamison reported that Marion County Housing Authority is working with Marion County and the State of Oregon on housing in the Canyon. The housing authority will be temporarily closing its Section 8 waiting list until around the first of the year because of transitioning software.

Superintendent Perry stated that the Salem-Keizer School District is squarely focused on getting kids back in school. This will provide stability for students. The district is watching for vaccine mandates and doing outreach through the McKinney-Vento advocates. She gave a "shout out" to Salem Health for hosting the vaccine clinics.

Tribal Councilwoman Leno gave a really big thank you to the Alliance consultants for their presentation to the Tribal Council. It sparked a lot of conversation. There has been much talk about how the Tribe can work with and help the Alliance. Hiyu masi!

Mr. Dixon-McDonald reported that the Collaborative Committee is continuing Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion work, based on the Willamette University study. The main strategies being discussed are how to create a collection of DEI resources and how to include Voice of Experience and others in Alliance work. The Collaborative Committee created a Health and Safety Subcommittee. The committee is also reviewing case management across the continuum, particularly gaps in the system. The committee is also exploring youth homelessness and best practices.

Mayor Clark added that she presented at the Oregon Mayors Association conference regarding homelessness with the mayor of The Dalles. What The Dalles is doing is almost a microcosm if what the Alliance is doing.

LEADERSHIP ELECTIONS

Ms. Carlson explained that both the Mid-Willamette Valley Homeless Alliance and the ORS 190 Entity are required to elect leadership annually. Leadership of the two entities are aligned, but this is not a requirement of the charter or bylaws.

Commissioner Gordon nominated Mayor Clark (incumbent) for the position of Alliance Chair. Tribal Councilwoman Leno seconded the nomination.

IN FAVOR: Clark, Boles, Corr, Gordon, Leno, Lopez, Perry, Silverman-Mendez, Retherford, Stanton, Wolf. **OPPOSED:** None. **ABSTAINED:** None.

Commissioner Cameron nominated Councilor Hoy (incumbent) as Alliance Vice Chair. Superintendent Perry seconded the nomination.

IN FAVOR: Clark, Boles, Corr, Gordon, Leno, Lopez, Perry, Silverman-Mendez, Retherford, Stanton, Wolf. **OPPOSED:** None. **ABSTAINED:** None.

Ms. Retherford nominated Mayor Clark (incumbent) for the position of ORS 190 Entity President. Councilor Lopez seconded the nomination.

IN FAVOR: Clark, Corr, Gordon, Leno, Lopez, Perry, Retherford, Stanton. **OPPOSED:** None. **ABSTAINED:** None.

Mayor Clark nominated Councilor Hoy (incumbent) for ORS 190 Entity Vice President. Commissioner Gordon seconded the nomination.

IN FAVOR: Clark, Corr, Gordon, Leno, Lopez, Perry, Retherford, Stanton. **OPPOSED:** None. **ABSTAINED:** None.

Mayor Clark nominated Janet Carlson (incumbent) as ORS 190 Entity Board Administrator. Commissioner Gordon seconded the nomination.

IN FAVOR: Clark, Corr, Gordon, Leno, Lopez, Perry, Retherford, Stanton. **OPPOSED:** None. **ABSTAINED:** None.

CONSENT AGENDA

Mayor Clark reviewed consent agenda items. No items were pulled for discussion. It was noted that there is no financial report this month due to closing out the 2020-21 fiscal year.

MOTION: By Councilor Lopez, **SECONDED by** Ms. Stanton, to **APPROVE THE CONSENT AGENDA, AS PRESENTED.**

1. **AGENDA APPROVAL**
2. **JULY 8, 2021 ORS 190 ENTITY AND ALLIANCE BOARD MINUTES**
3. **BUILT FOR ZERO QUARTERLY REPORT**
4. **2021 GAPS ANALYSIS**
5. **COMMITTEE APPOINTMENTS: ASHLEIGH DUDA, COMMUNITY ACTION, ARCHES TO THE COORDINATED ENTRY COMMITTEE; NATALIE DOERFLER, EASTERSEALS OREGON, TO HMIS WORKGROUP, AND ACCEPT RESIGNATION OF BREANNA HARIG.**
6. **STAFF REPORTS INCLUDED COMMITTEE HIGHLIGHTS AND THE LATEST COC WORK PLAN AND BUDGET REPORT.**

Discussion: None.

Motion carried.

IN FAVOR: Clark, Boles, Corr, Gordon, Leno, Lopez, Perry, Silverman-Mendez, Retherford, Stanton, Wolf.
OPPOSED: None. **ABSTAINED:** None.

COORDINATED ENTRY EQUITY DEMONSTRATION PROJECT

Ms. Calvin reported that the Alliance has an opportunity to file an application for HUD technical assistance regarding racial equity in implementing Coordinated Entry. Technical assistance would upgrade the tools and processes. Ms. Stanton passed along a request from Commissioner Willis that the board see the application details. Since the application deadline has been extended to September 3, Mayor Clark suggested that staff bring the completed application to the Executive Committee on August 31. Mr. Dixon-McDonald asked if any service providers, like Community Action, are aware of or involved with this application? Ms. Calvin replied that Community Action staff proposed submitting the application.

MOTION: By Ms. Retherford, **SECONDED by** Superintendent Perry, to **APPROVE STAFF SUBMITTING AN APPLICATION TO HUD FOR THE COORDINATED ENTRY DEMONSTRATION PROJECT, AS PRESENTED.**
Discussion: None.
Motion carried.
IN FAVOR: Clark, Boles, Corr, Gordon, Leno, Lopez, Perry, Silverman-Mendez, Retherford, Stanton, Wolf.
OPPOSED: None. **ABSTAINED:** None.

ORS 190 ENTITY BUSINESS

Ms. Carlson reviewed the list of ORS 190 Entity business items.

The first item was to approve a letter initiating an ORS 190 Entity financial review. This will be the first review as an independent entity, with a financial review rather than an audit being required because the ORS 190 Entity expenditures did not meet the required threshold for an audit. The ORS 190 Entity is using the Mid-Willamette Valley Council of Governments (MWVCOG) auditors since its financial records are managed in the MWVCOG financial system.

MOTION: By Commissioner Gordon, **SECONDED by** Councilor Lopez, to **APPROVE A LETTER TO INITIATE THE ORS 190 ENTITY FINANCIAL REVIEW, AS PRESENTED.**
Motion carried.
IN FAVOR: Clark, Corr, Gordon, Leno, Lopez, Perry, Retherford, Stanton. **OPPOSED:** None. **ABSTAINED:** None.

The second item was to approve the template for a Coordinated Entry Assessment Site Agreement. Ms. Calvin explained that the Coordinated Entry committee is expanding opportunities for assessments. There are six sites currently, and soon there will be seven. There will be an agreement with each location. The template is provided in the packet.

MOTION: By Ms. Stanton, **SECONDED by** Councilor Lopez, to **APPROVE THE COORDINATED ENTRY ASSESSMENT SITE AGREEMENT TEMPLATE, AS PRESENTED.**
Motion carried.
IN FAVOR: Clark, Corr, Gordon, Leno, Lopez, Perry, Retherford, Stanton. **OPPOSED:** None. **ABSTAINED:** None.

The third item was to approve revisions to the ORS 190 Entity bylaws. Ms. Carlson explained that the bylaws require review annually. Proposed changes consist of correcting the legal name of the ORS 190 Entity in the bylaws and adding a provision regarding designation of alternates.

MOTION: By Commissioner Gordon, **SECONDED by** Ms. Retherford, to **APPROVE THE REVISIONS TO THE ORS 190 BYLAWS, AS PRESENTED.**
Motion carried.
IN FAVOR: Clark, Corr, Gordon, Leno, Lopez, Perry, Retherford, Stanton. **OPPOSED:** None. **ABSTAINED:** None.

The fourth item involved revisions to the Center for Hope and Safety ESG-CV Subrecipient Agreement. In reviewing the ESG-CV subrecipient template which was approved by the board in June, Ms. Jayne Downing expressed concerns about two provisions that affect domestic violence providers. The first is that domestic violence providers do not use the HMIS data system but do use a comparable system. The template that was approved requires the provider to use HMIS. The proposed revisions allow for the use of a comparable system. The second provision asked for clarification in agreement language requiring the provider to provide documents to the lead applicants and Oregon Housing & Community Services for monitoring and compliance purposes. Proposed language allows domestic violence providers to redact client personal information prior to releasing any documents. Mayor Clark asked if the motion was to approve the revised template solely for Center for Hope & Safety? Ms. Calvin replied that Sable House in Polk County is also an ESG-CV subrecipient, and the revised language should also apply to the Sable House agreement. Ms. Carlson recommended that the board revise the proposed motion to apply to any domestic violence provider.

MOTION: By Councilor Lopez, **SECONDED by** Ms. Stanton, to **RATIFY REVISIONS TO THE ESG-CV SUBRECIPIENT AGREEMENT TEMPLATE FOR DOMESTIC VIOLENCE PROVIDERS, AS PRESENTED.**
Discussion: None.
Motion carried.
IN FAVOR: Clark, Corr, Gordon, Leno, Lopez, Perry, Retherford, Stanton. **OPPOSED:** None. **ABSTAINED:** None.

The fifth item was to ratify an e-amendment to the ESG-CV grant agreement with Oregon Housing & Community Services. Ms. Calvin explained that a provision in the approved contract allows for e-amendments when budget changes simply move funds between categories without changing the scope of work or the overall grant amount. Specific changes are described in the justification on page 31 of the packet.

MOTION: By Ms. Stanton, **SECONDED by** Councilor Lopez, to **RATIFY THE E-AMENDMENT TO THE ESG-CV GRANT CONTRACT, AS PRESENTED.**
Discussion: None.
Motion carried.
IN FAVOR: Clark, Corr, Gordon, Leno, Lopez, Perry, Retherford, Stanton. **OPPOSED:** None. **ABSTAINED:** None.

The sixth item was to approve a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with Oregon Housing & Community Services regarding the transition of HMIS services. Ms. Calvin explained that the state agency is changing the process to create a statewide uniform HMIS system, based on recent approval of a legislative budget note. This MOU will allow Alliance data to be transferred and migrated to align with the statewide system. The Alliance will maintain control of its data. The process is essentially changing servers.

MOTION: By Ms. Retherford, **SECONDED by** Ms. Stanton, to **APPROVE THE MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING WITH OREGON HOUSING & COMMUNITY SERVICES REGARDING THE HMIS TRANSITION, AS PRESENTED.**
Discussion: None.
Motion carried.
IN FAVOR: Clark, Corr, Gordon, Leno, Lopez, Perry, Retherford, Stanton. **OPPOSED:** None. **ABSTAINED:** None.

The final item was to request board approval for an amendment to the agreement with the Mid-Willamette Valley Council of Governments (MWVCOG). Ms. Carlson explained that the board approved an agreement with the MWVCOG for administrative support to the Alliance in August 2020. This proposed amendment replaces the existing exhibit specifying MWVCOG reimbursement rates with the latest MWVCOG resolution, corrects the legal name of the ORS 190 Entity, and lists Scott Dadson, Executive Director, as the agreement contact person. Mayor Clark noted that all ORS 190 governmental members are also members of MWVCOG.

MOTION: By Councilor Lopez, **SECONDED by** Commissioner Gordon, to **APPROVE THE AMENDMENT TO THE MWVCOG AGREEMENT, AS PRESENTED.**
Discussion: None.
Motion carried.
IN FAVOR: Clark, Corr, Gordon, Leno, Lopez, Perry, Retherford, Stanton. **OPPOSED:** None. **ABSTAINED:** None.

UPDATE ON YOUTH HOMELESSNESS

Tricia Frizzell, Community Action, provided the board with information about Alliance activities addressing youth homelessness. At the August meeting, the board created a Youth Action Board (YAB). The "Youth & Young Adult Homelessness – Challenge Accepted" logo has been created by YAB members.

In describing the origins of Alliance involvement with youth homelessness, Ms. Frizzell went back to the 100 Day Challenge in 2017, a national initiative that, locally, centered on Marion County. The 100 Day Challenge group met weekly and focused on helping youth find stable housing and breaking down barriers. Resources were created and a lot was learned. Ms. Utz added that the immediate needs station is still in operation and is available to law enforcement and other first responders at all times. Since 2017, the group kept momentum going and met regularly. When the Mid-Willamette Homeless Initiative was formed, the MWVCOG coordinator served as a convener, and new partners were added. The relationship continued when the Mid-Willamette Homeless Initiative transitioned to become the Mid-Willamette Valley Homeless Alliance, creating a Youth & Young Adult Subcommittee of the Collaborative Committee with support from Alliance staff.

A platform is being used called Basecamp. The target is to continue breaking down barriers as we find them. It's a collaboration, not a competition, and the information is available to everyone. Goals include:

- Outreach – we have found that youth are not just on the streets. We need to go where they are.
- Data/Coordinated Entry – Young Adult data overlaps youth and adult groups. The HOST program Coordinated Entry site, operated by Northwest Human Services, is provisionally coming on board for those aging out of the youth system.
- Advocacy/Education – The group is passionate about advocating and educating whomever they can reach.
- Host Homes/Transitional Living – We are collecting data about implementing these strategies. Information releases for minors are inherently different than for adults.

The Youth Action Board (YAB) began organizing in June and has been meeting every other week. Voices of Lived Experience are included in the membership. There are between nine and thirteen youth attending the meetings, which are held in a family environment. The group is mutually supportive, and the youth are learning professional skills related to running a board. Members serve as resident experts because they are "There." Youth can receive a stipend of about $20 per hour, bus passes, and housing assistance. Meals are provided by staff and by donations from local restaurants. A statewide YAB is being formed to inform the state policymakers. The YAB will be meeting with Salem Mayor Chuck Bennett for a meal and a Q&A session.

Superintendent Perry stated her interest in setting up a similar meeting. Ms. Frizzell added that Salem-Keizer School District's numbers indicate that there are 63 unaccompanied (no guardian) homeless students in high schools. There are 22 unaccompanied youth in middle schools. There has been a two percent increase. Overall, there are 136 homeless middle school students and 173 homeless high school students.

Topics being worked on by the Youth & Young Adult Subcommittee include Coordinated Entry, a Polk County shelter (Falls City and Dallas have high populations), HMIS, Rural Services, Transitional Housing for minors and for nonemergency unaccompanied youth too old for the family shelters.

Ms. Wolf asked where the best youth shelter site would be in Polk County. Ms. Frizzell replied that it would be in Dallas or Independence. Five to seven beds should be sufficient. McKinney-Vento requires students to be bussed to their home school, so transportation to and from shelters in Marion County takes a significant amount of time. On average, about 60 youth are served at Taylor's House, although the numbers were different in 2020 because of COVID.

Mayor Clark offered her kudos for keeping the project going. She added that the MWVCOG Legislative Committee is interested in discussing legislative barriers and what to push to remove barriers. She will follow up with Ms. Frizzell. Ms. Frizzell replied that two items readily identified are:

- The definition of "homeless" for youth doesn't fit regarding "vulnerable." Couch surfing is not stable housing.
- The definition of "runaway" and the interpretation as to whether a youth is homeless or not is problematic. Law enforcement is required to return runaway youth to their families, which is not always the best solution.

Commissioner Gordon stated that he is very impressed and would like to meet with Ms. Frizzell offline to see how Polk County can help.

Ms. Frizzell reported that the State of Oregon has budgeted $3 million for homeless youth and has only one staff person. The State of Washington budgets $33 million. These amounts are statewide for one year. Both states have comparable numbers of homeless youth. In the last legislative session, about $3.5 million for the next biennium was earmarked. Youth under age 14 cannot use a taxi or Uber. Homeless adults don't want youth in their camps. State issued identification is not available because a youth does not have an address, so youth without an iD cannot apply for college. Staff is working with Chemeketa Community College on a way to work around that issue. Also, legislation regarding the documentation required to get an ID could help.

Recently a $17,000 grant from United Way and Capitol Auto Group was awarded to the YAB. Now the youth are learning about budgeting and monitoring expenditures.

Councilor Corr mentioned the rural issues workgroup and asked Ms. Frizzell to come speak. Youth are even more invisible than most people experiencing homelessness, especially in rural areas.

Mayor Clark thanked Ms. Frizzell for her excellent presentation.

OTHER BUSINESS

Ms. Munns announced that the Continuum of Care Notice of Funding Opportunity may be arriving soon.

ADJOURNMENT

Hearing no further business, Chair Clark adjourned both meetings at 4:44 p.m.

Janet Carlson, MWVHA Consultant