Mid-Willamette Valley Homeless Alliance

CoC Collaborative Committee

Wednesday, October 20, 2021

MINUTES

Welcome & Agenda Review

Kim welcomed attendees and requested name and affiliation be typed into the chat box. Today is Pronoun Day! Many organizations are celebrating by sharing learning opportunities about using gender-affirming pronouns and best practices for communications. Link: More about International Pronoun Day.

Meeting Minutes

Kim requested attendees express any opposition to approval of the 9/15/21 meeting. No opposition was expressed. Minutes passed "unanimously".

Housing and Discrimination Training – Fair Housing Council of Oregon

Shyle Ruder and Dario Hunter joined the meeting to provide a training on housing and discrimination, including how to effectively implement the Equal Access to Housing in HUD Programs Regardless of Sexual Orientation or Gender Identity, and in Accordance with an Individual's Gender Identity. The Fair Housing Council of Oregon is a civil rights organization. FHCO receives 2,000 contacts each year and approximately 75% are resolved with advocacy.

Fair Housing Laws are civil rights laws that promote equal access to housing which makes discrimination against groups of people illegal. Landlords are legally allowed to treat some applicants/tenants differently, such as criminal background, credit history, etc. Landlords must be consistent in their screening criteria determinations if exclusionary. If screening criteria are inconsistent, may be considered discrimination due to "cherry picking" and/or steering applicants away. Policies are a way to minimize risk. Anti-discrimination policies are helpful for landlords to adopt, especially anti-discrimination related to LGBTQ+ populations. Fair Housing trainings can be viewed here: https://vimeo.com/user25658681. Housing discrimination was one of the first forms of discrimination against the LGBTQ+ community. Fair Housing Laws also apply to stationary RV such as RV parks. Please fill out FHCO's evaluation: https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/B9DMHWZ.

Question asked: "Isn't there specific criteria on criminal background screening? e.g. denying an application for a misdemeanor, or denying using a time period since the conviction for a crime?" Shyle responded that there are no term limits in Oregon.

Question asked: "It's a broad question, but I'm curious about fair housing and local zoning code." Dario responded: "Municipalities should avoid measures that have a disparate impact on protected classes. FHCO has a great guide on our website for elected officials and well as guidance regarding land use on the website: fhco.org."

After the training, the group broke into small groups to discuss the training and what actions programs, organizations, and the CoC can take in response to what was just presented. Responses included:

- Neighbor to neighbor discrimination: ensure resident services staff are aware of this phenomenon and laws; impact to the individual or family experiencing discrimination is brutal

- What education do landlords and resident services staff have of these numerous laws?!
- The 5-year limit of criminal background appears to not be true if there are no term limits—consider adopting a local policy to set term limits; secure a housing advocate to help overcome criminal charges to help get into housing. Policies can minimize subjectivity. Can applicants getting denied have an automatic referral to a housing advocate proactively by a landlord?
- Eviction prevention is necessary component of successful housing and retention; advocates are critical component: more funding for resident services staff and programs
- Get this information into hands of case management—educate and provide training to housing case managers, train-the-trainer model to bring back more broadly to whole organization
- Health navigators to look at overall wellness, connection between trauma and affordable housing, and how to provide needed additional support to obtain and retain housing
- Integrate voices of lived experience to empower advocacy and changes to improve the system
- Education by brochures or physical handouts can be limited due to language proficiency; street outreach and/or video that can be shared minimizes disparities and barriers to knowledge
- Make fair housing a part of an organizational culture
- Integrate youth into this conversation to better understand discrimination (especially for those LGBTQ+ youth) to understand their experience and suggestions for change

Health and Safety Subcommittee Membership

Collaborative Committee approved a charter for the new Health and Safety Subcommittee last month. A proposed change has been made to include representatives of public safety organizations in the subcommittee membership. Jayne Downing motioned to approve proposed change to the charter. The motion was seconded by Shain Oleson. Motion passed with no opposition.

The Collaborative Committee charter states it will appoint initial subcommittee membership. Jan screen-shared proposed membership roster for the Health and Safety Subcommittee. Doug Odell made a motion to appoint the following members to the Health and Safety Subcommittee. Noelle Gore seconded the motion. Motion passed unanimously.

Agency	Contact	Health Care System	Health Care Provider	Homeless Services Provider	Homeless Services (pop.)	Lived Exp.	Public Safety	Serve All Marion & Polk	Serve All Marion	Serve All Polk	Serve only Urban	Serve only Rural
Center for Hope and Safety	Jayne Downing			1	DV				1			
Church at the Park	Samantha Dompier			1	All						1	
Easterseals	Carol Salter			1	Vets	1		1				
First Christian Church of Dallas	Darren Anderson			1	All							1
Marion County HHS, Behavioral Health	Cydney Nestor	1	1						1			
MWVCAA, ARCHES Project	Lindsay Dent			1	All			1				
Northwest Human Services	Kristin Kuenz-Barber		1	1	All						1	
Oregon DHS - District 3	Janet Scott			1	All			1				
PacificSource Acute Care Advisory Council	Christina McCollum	1						1				
PacificSource Community Solutions	Elaine Lozier	1						1				
Polk County Health Services, HS	Kerry Blum	1	1							1		
Polk County Health Services, Outreach	Kari Wilhite	1								1		
Salem Police Department	Treven Upkes						1				1	
Sheltering Silverton	Hannah Paysinger			1	All							1
Willamette Health Council	Justin Hopkins	1						1				
Retired, health care systems	Kathy Saviki	1						1				
On-call/PRN health care provider	Chris Barber		1					1				
		7	4	8	n/a	1	1	8	2	2	3	2
last updated 10/26/21		9		8			1	17				

Many thanks to Rachel Lakey and Stephanie Jensen from Willamette Health Council who will be providing staff support for this group. Please let Jan know if you'd like to be included in subcommittee notifications.

Winter Warming Plans – Emergency Response Shelters Network

Lindsay Dent, the chair of our Emergency Response Shelters Network, provided an overview of plans for the coming winter season. The warming season spans November 1-March 31, 2022.

- The only duration warming shelter is one in Salem, which Church at the Park manages with a waitlist.
- Several other shelters are temperature-activated throughout Salem. This year, transportation will be offered to shuttle people in Salem. Pick up locations will be offered each evening with returns each morning.
- Sheltering Silverton is offering temporary motel sheltering and exploring safe parking and congregate shelter options.
- The Polk County Warming Network is activating shelter when temperature falls within the warming range, offering a similar strategy as previous years: Falls City site hosting up to 15 beds and churches alternating every two weeks.

The Emergency Response Shelter Network meets quarterly, and the next meeting is next week. Jan will post warming shelter information to the website after the subcommittee finalizes the list.

Revised CoC Governance Charter

The revised CoC Governance Charter's revisions were approved by the board and posted on the CoC website. Revisions include the addition of two more people with lived experience to serve on the board with recommendations stemming from the Collaborative Committee. The group reviewed the process proposed for recommending individuals with lived experience to the board (attached).

Inclusion and equity practices for participation include offering compensation for participation by those with lived experience. The CoC is a governmental entity and due to barriers to paying for participation, the plan is for organizations to find ways to compensate individuals (including that the individual may be an employee of an organization that supports them serving on paid time).

Diana Cvitanovich commented: "It may be useful to ensure that a homeless person living very rural would be informative as this experience can be different than living homeless in the urban environment."

A request for 3-5 agency representatives interested in serving on the nominating committee was made. Renee Handcock, Bridgeway, Noelle Gore, Church at the Park, and Ali Swanson, NSUSN offered to participate. The Voices of Lived Experience Subcommittee meets next week and can likely support this work as well. Jan will follow up to set a time for the group to get together.

MWVHA Board, Committee, Subcommittee Highlights

Ian noted that written highlights can be found on pages 16-18 of the agenda packet, including the list of projects recommended for HUD funding through the NOFO. Thanks to the agencies, staff, and the Review and Ranking Subcommittee for all their work on this.

Updates provided include:

- HMIS Users Workgroup—Tim Weese and Elliott Lapinel are working to promote and train on HMIS across the region for interested agencies.
- Point-In-Time Count Workgroup—meets monthly on the 4th Monday of each month from 1pm-2pm via Zoom. October 25 is the next meeting.
- Last week the board had a discussion with a few McKinney Vento liaisons from different school districts around the region. For the past couple of months, the board has focused on the youth population and will continue to do so as the CoC develops its Coordinated Community Plan to address youth homelessness.

Announcements

- COVID-19 Testing and Vaccination events in Marion, Polk, Yamhill: Region 2 Testing and Vaccination Events | Teamup
- Join the Oregon Helpers Wellness Initiative – a service of Lines for Life – for a free interactive four-part wellness workshop. Centering Your Needs: Visioning and Planning for Wellness Tickets, Multiple Dates | Eventbrite

What's Next

Upcoming Collaborative Committee Meetings & Preliminary Agenda Topics:

November 17	December 15	January 19
• YHDP Planning • Statewide Youth Assessment • Mini-Training: Mental Health	• Case Management Survey • February CoC Summit • Mini-Training: Trauma	• Mini-Training: Cultural Humility

Attendance on next page

Agency	Contact	Attended 10/20/21	# Agencies	# Ind
A Ray of Hope, Today!/Neighbors	Ali Swanson	1	1	
A Ray of Hope, Today!/Neighbors	Claudia	1		
A Ray of Hope, Today!/Neighbors	Shawntel Black	1		
Bridgeway Recovery Services	Renee Hancock	1	1	
Catholic Community Services	Josh Graves	1	1	
Catholic Community Services	Nichole Dickey	1		
Catholic Community Services/FHI	Jill Sorensen	1		
Catholic Community Services/ISN	Jacqueline Gould	1	1	
Center for Hope and Safety	Jayne Downing	1	1	
Center for Hope and Safety	Tara Stephen	1		
Center for Hope and Safety	Sara Brennan	1		
Church at the Park	Mari Anne Gest	1	1	
Church at the Park	Noelle Gore	1		
City of Dallas, Asst. City Manager	Emily Gagner	1	1	
City of Salem Police Department, Lt.	Treven Upkes	1	1	
Curandi	Chris Barber	1	1	
DevNW	Amy Hamilton	1	1	
Easterseals	Catherine Todd	1	1	
Easterseals	Andrew Rice	1		
Easterseals	Natalie Doerfler	1		
Fair Housing Council of Oregon	Shyle Ruder	1	1	
Fair Housing Council of Oregon	Jamie Gatewood	1		
Fair Housing Council of Oregon	Dario Hunter	1		
Fair Housing Council of Oregon	David KW	1		
Family Promise	Doug Odell	1	1	
Marion & Polk Early Learning Hub	Kiara Yoder	1	1	
Marion County, CDBG	Tim Glisson	1	1	
Marion Co Health & Human Services, CHIP	Sierra Prior	1	1	
Marion Co HHS, HIV Prevention	Jessica Estrada	1		
Marion Co HHS, LEAD	Sean Bossen	1	1	
Marion-Polk Food Share	Ian Dixon-McDonald	1	1	
MWVCAA, ARCHES	Ashley Hamilton	1	1	
MWVCAA, ARCHES	Breezy Aguirre	1		
MWVCAA, ARCHES	Tim Weese	1		
MWVCAA, ARCHES, HMIS	Elliott Lapinel	1		
MWVCAA, ARCHES	Rachel Miller	1		
MWVCAA, ARCHES, Coordinated Entry	Ashleigh Duda	1		
MWVCAA, ARCHES, Outreach & CE	Robert Marshall	1		
MWVCAA, ARCHES, RRH	Glenn Muna	1		
MWVCAA, ARCHES	Kaela Lombardi	1		
MWVCAA, ARCHES	Lindsay Dent	1		
MWVCAA, HOME Youth Services	Shain Oleson	1	1	
NW Human Services	Kristin Kuenz-Barber	1	1	
Oregon DHS - District 3	Janet Scott	1	1	
Oregon Health Authority	Rich Malloy	1	1	
PacificSource, Community Health Coord.	Elaine Lozier	1	1	
PacificSource, Behavioral Health, Accute Care	Christina McCollum	1		
PacificSource, Behavioral Health	Teresa Warnock	1		
PacificSource, Integrated Care for Kids	Samantha Baker	1	1	
Polk CDC	Diana Cvitanovich	1	1	
Sable House	Deborah Thompson	1	1	
Sable House	Allison Wilson	1		
Salem Housing Authority	Betty Jordan	1	1	
Salem Housing Authority	Melanie Fletcher	1		
Shangri-La	Robin Winkle	1	1	
Shangri-La	Dominique Schoessler	1		
Silverton Sheltering Services	Hannah Paysinger	1	1	
St. Francis Family Housing	Jill Tucker	1	1	
Veterans Affairs HUD/VASH	Anna Lookingbill-Steele	1	1	
Willamette Health Council	Stephanie Jensen	1	1	
Willamette Workforce Partnership	Kim Parker-Llerenas	1	1	
WorkSource Salem, Disabled Vet Outreach	Dale Moffett	1	1	
unaffiliated	Patti Waters	1		1
		63	35	1