# Mid-Willamette Valley Homeless Alliance

## CoC Collaborative Committee

Wednesday, May 19, 2021 * 10:00-11:30 a.m.

### MEETING MINUTES

1. **Welcome & Agenda Review**
   Chair Kim Parker-Llerenas welcomed the group and requested attendees type their name and affiliation (organization) in the chat box.

2. **MEETING MINUTES**
   Nichole Utz made a motion to approve the 4/21/21 meeting minutes. Jack Elliott seconded the motion. Minutes passed unanimously.

3. **STRATEGIC PLANNING**
   The Mid-Willamette Valley Homeless Alliance ("Alliance") Strategic Plan includes seven overarching strategies and nine goals that support its mission: *To develop an evidence-based system of services, including stable housing, designed to meet the unique and complex needs of adults, youth, children, and families in Marion and Polk counties who are at risk of orare experiencing homelessness.*

   Jan Calvin screen-shared a timeline and outline of preliminary updates for the strategic plan. Updates include compiled feedback from various Collaborative Committee discussions, CoC committee discussions, etc. Feedback provided on preliminary strategic plan updates included:

   - Carol Salter requested to add substance use disorder to mental health (slide 14, Goal 1)
   - Levy Herrera-Lopez offered to distribute any Spanish-language presentations to Spanish radio stations throughout the Mid-Valley; Levy highlighted the unique needs of each area in a community and public education will need to be tailored to those unique areas, while also realizing the impact that each area (and its leaders) in a community has on the rest of the region—something to keep in mind; he also noted that public education should include educating leaders and community partners for alignment
   - Treven Upkes noted that educating the public should be an ongoing task; continuing coordination and sharing of resources in the community has been beneficial and needs to continue for alignment and competitive opportunities at state-level and/or larger funding
   - Nicole Utz requested opportunities be shared that would help housing authorities meet needs given limited resources, and to bring affordable housing opportunities to region; Nicole also noted a navigation center is not stressed enough as it is a big need for the community and for getting individuals into affordable housing; navigation centers are a steppingstone to getting individuals housed and into programs
   - Jamie Gatewood agreed with Levy on leveraging community partners to align support with need; she highlighted community desire to keep working on improving stereotypes and social norms for those experiencing homelessness; she shared an article to help understand how affordable housing is built: The cost of affordable housing: Does it pencil out? https://apps.urban.org/features/cost-of-affordable-housing/
   - Cristina Korkow highlighted the importance of wraparound supports and peer support,

being critical for those seeking to remain housed—she asked where in the system can individuals find a community of support while transitioning from being homeless to housed

- Lisa Miller echoed Cristina's point on the importance of wraparound and peer support, noting for those experiencing homelessness, having peers available to walk alongside them as they transition along the continuum of housing is critical, attributing successes seen with LEAD Project clients to the support received by peers as clients start the journey to reach their goals
- Char Tong agreed with strategic plan's step to assess case management needs, noting many individual and organizational styles and those processes and procedures influence the success of case management; also agreed with the mental health and substance use supports as a target for improving, expanding, and redefining the community's homeless population
- An attendee mentioned the information platform Unite Us is used for case management throughout the CoC system. Jack Elliott noted ServicePoint is a case management tool and used throughout the state
- Sarah White agreed with efforts focused on case management, stating consistency in case management creates more equity; Sarah noted the need for more long-term inpatient mental health care options and recovery options
- Sarah White suggested the CoC work with smaller communities to develop culturally responsive sheltering options, noting geography as a barrier
- Lisa Miller echoed the need for a navigation center; agreed with public education being incredibly important as community perception and understanding of the issues is key to move forward
- Michael Livingston wrote in the chat: "With respect to 'affordable housing,' the elected city and county officials who are on the Alliance Board should take affirmative action in their official capacities to remove the zoning, permitting and other impediments its development."
- Jack noted excitement with case management and expanding the connection between housing and case management; Jack stated the barrier appears to be a capacity, training, and systems issues; Jack noted Housing First is a powerful philosophy and is evidence-based; and how NIMBYism is a remarkable barrier to being able to develop new shelter options
- Kristin Kuenz-Barber highlighted the need to pull cross-agency case managers together to coordinate the community's services; permanent staffing at shelters needs to be explored, volunteers are often not the ideal situation; Kristin questioned how funding night be directed toward prioritizing services and staffing in shelters, especially for those who are chronically and mentally ill—this was echoed by Jill Bird, Lynelle Wilcox, and others
- Jayne Downing announced Project Turnkey was awarded to Center for Hope and Safety in partnership with Grand Ronde, a 52-room motel/hotel for domestic violence and sexual assault victims; the goal is to transition into transitional housing eventually, especially after HOPE Plaza is developed; HOPE Plaza is in development stages to provide co-located services, which will include housing, mass transit, peer support, etc.
- Lynelle Wilcox noted unstable mental health conditions are a barrier to sheltering; Safe Sleep has to turn individuals away sometimes if unstable with mental health conditions, some individuals live in an alternative reality and don't know how to communicate their needs

- Sam Dompier typed in the chat: "two ways that we can consider for sustainable funding for PSH are through support services only (grants) through HUD CoC program that pair with the vouchered units and looking into partnering with Health Systems/Insurance providers and billing Medicaid for supportive housing services under the Medicaid transformation"
- Lisa Leno highlighted the lack of notation and indication in Coordinated Entry when someone is affiliated with a tribe, the only way to know now is through demographic information but tribal affiliation could indicate additional resources
- Equity and Disparities Report & Recommendations: PACE Team recommendations were provided from the Equity and Disparities Report. More discussion at the next meeting.

**4. MWVHA Board, Committee, Subcommittee Highlights**

- **Youth and Young Adult Subcommittee** is convening a youth advisory group to engage youth and integrate youth voices into the CoC.
- **Warming Shelter Subcommittee** has been discussing emergency shelters beyond the warming network, identifying best practices for each model (warming center, managed camp, or emergency shelter).

**5. Agency Updates / Announcements**

- **Salem Housing Authority -** SHA received 34 emergency housing vouchers (West Valley Housing Authority received 15) which include financial assistance to remove barriers and get into housing—will be available July 1, 2021, individuals will be pulled from Coordinated Entry list.
- **ROCC** conducts homeless camp outreach regularly, feel free to join groups, align, and go out together.
- **Salem Human Rights Commission** is doing an assessment on discrimination in Salem, identifying feasible ways to reduce discrimination.

**6. What's Next**

Upcoming Collaborative Committee Meetings & Preliminary Agenda Topics:

| June 16 | July 21 | August 18 |
|---|---|---|
| • Strategic Planning<br>• Marion Co. Consolidated Plan<br>• Voices of Lived Experience | • Case Management Survey Plans<br>• NOFA & Local RFP<br>• SOAR Training Information | • <br>• <br>• |

MID-WILLAMETTE VALLEY HOMELESS ALLIANCE
MOVING TO END AND PREVENT HOMELESSNESS

| Agency | Contact | Attended 5/19/21 | # Agencies | # Indv |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| 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 | | |
| Church at the Park, Operations | Samantha Dompier | 1 | 1 | |
| City of Salem Police Department | Treven Upkes | 1 | 1 | |
| Confederated Tribes of Grand Ronde | Lisa Leno | 1 | 1 | |
| Curandi | Chris Barber | 1 | 1 | |
| Easterseals | Carol Salter | 1 | 1 | |
| Easterseals | Breanna Harig | 1 | | |
| Family Promise | Doug Odell | 1 | 1 | |
| Family Promise | Kandyce Williams | 1 | | |
| Habitat & Hope Village | Joe Dabek | 1 | 1 | |
| Mano a Mano | Levi Hererra-Lopez | 1 | 1 | |
| Marion County | Lisa Trauernicht | 1 | 1 | |
| Marion Co Health & Human Services, CHIP | Sierra Prior | 1 | 1 | |
| Marion Co Sheriff's Office, LEAD | Lisa Miller | 1 | 1 | |
| MWVCAA, ARCHES | Kaela Lombardi | 1 | 1 | |
| MWV Homeless Alliance | Jan Calvin | 1 | 1 | |
| MWV Homeless Alliance | Carla Munns | 1 | | |
| NW Human Services | Kristin Kuenz-Barber | 1 | 1 | |
| PacificSource, Behavioral Health | Christina McCollum | 1 | 1 | |
| SafeSleep UNITED | Lynelle Wilcox | 1 | 1 | |
| Salem Housing Authority | Nicole Utz | 1 | 1 | |
| Salem Housing Authority | Jack Elliott Vermeer | 1 | | |
| Salem Housing Authority | Lynette Brown | 1 | | |
| Shangri-La | Robin Winkle | 1 | 1 | |
| Shangri-La | Dominique Schoessler | 1 | | |
| Silverton Sheltering Services | Emily Neves | 1 | 1 | |
| Silverton Sheltering Services | Sarah White | 1 | | |
| Veterans Affairs HUD/VASH | Salguera | 1 | 1 | |
| Willamette Health Council | Stephanie Jensen | 1 | 1 | |
| Willamette Workforce Partnership | Kim Parker-Llerenas | 1 | 1 | |
| unaffiliated | Donna Megy | 1 | | 1 |
| | | **33** | **24** | **1** |