

Mid-Willamette Valley Homeless Alliance

CoC Point-In-Time (PIT) Count Workgroup

November 16, 2020 | 11am - 12:00pm

MEETING MINUTES

1. Welcome and Introductions

DJ Vincent, Committee Chair

Linda Strike was replaced by Matt Herbert as a Community Action Agency representative and will be attending meetings in the future. Ashley Hamilton gave an introduction to Matt and noted he is a real “go getter”—welcome Matt!

2. Workgroup Administration

Sara Webb made a motion to approve the October Meeting Minutes. Robin seconded. Minutes approved unanimously. The next Workgroup meeting is scheduled for December 21st which may interrupt holiday attendance. The group agreed to move the December meeting to **December 14th, 11am-12pm**.

3. Donation Communications for Incentives

Beth Hays with Community Resource Trust offered a donation to support the PIT Count. The donation will be sent to Mid-Willamette Valley Community Action Agency (Sara) to fill gaps and purchase needed items once the PIT Count date gets nearer. The City of Salem is donating \$3,000 to (likely) Salem Housing Authority’s navigator to fill needs as indicated for specific individuals. Gretchen Bennett noted the City will coordinate with Community Action Agency to assure funds are aligned and supporting the most useful needs. The last PIT Count event’s donations totaled approximately \$15k. Additional funds would be needed to reach this same target.

Carla screen-shared a draft donations request for the MWVHA newsletter’s holiday issue. Attendees reviewed and revised the request to support the PIT Count event. Carla Munns will send for inclusion of the newsletter.

4. 2021 PIT Count

a) HUD guidance on 2021 PIT Count was released earlier this morning (November 16, 2020) stating unsheltered counts/outreach is no longer required this coming PIT Count. Shelter counts are still required. Jimmy Jones suggested the community moves forward with surveying the unsheltered population if possible, noting the effort will be a big lift. HUD is offering a longer time frame to count and submit surveys (now offering up to 14 days)—the volunteer base in previous years has been largely considered in the range for being high risk for COVID, thus the unsheltered efforts will likely not be comprehensive and capture every individual experiencing unsheltered homelessness. The benefits to move forward with an unsheltered count are many, including: showing need and current reality for the region, grant writing, as well as more accurate data which will aid in advocacy efforts with public policy makers and government officials.

The region may not have another unsheltered PIT Count until 2023 if this year is skipped since HUD requires the unsheltered count be conducted every two years. Shelly Ehenger and Jimmy offered an alternate idea to wait to conduct an unsheltered count in the spring or next January even if it is not required. Jimmy noted recruiting volunteers for warming shelters will be a big lift already. Workgroup attendees agreed to focus Workgroup efforts on coordinating what is required for the upcoming year and allow agencies to determine capacity, feasibility, and organization of an unsheltered count.

- b) 2021 PIT Count Survey Questions were distributed via email.
- c) The Workgroup reviewed roles and responsibilities needed for a successful PIT Count. No volunteers responded to lead a particular function, noting the ambiguity of needs for 2021's PIT Count event. The Workgroup agreed to revisit next month.

Chair Vincent adjourned the meeting at 12:03pm.

PIT Count Workgroup Members:

DJ Vincent , Chair	X	Matt McWilliams , City of Independence	X
Sara Webb , Community Action Agency	X	Julie Conn-Johnson , SKSD McKinney-Vento	X
Robin Winkle , Shangri-La	X	Tricia Frizzell , Community Action Agency Alternate- Hailey	X
Adam Menning , Chemeketa CC		Andrew Copeland , Keizer Police Department	X
Matt Herbet , Community Action Agency		Wendy Roberts , SKSD Federal Programs	
Gretchen Bennett , City of Salem	X	Lt. Treven Upkes , Salem Police Department	Ex.
Eddie Maestas , Salem Housing Authority		Staff:	
Ben Crosby , City of Keizer		Carla Munns , Consultant MWWHA	X
Guests			
Lynelle Retherford- Safe Sleep		Denae Overman, PSU Intern	
Ashley Hamilton, MWVCAA		Shelly Ehenger, City of Salem	
Doug O'Dell, Family Promise		Susie Stuvland, Eastern Oregon	