MINUTES OF January 13, 2022

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
Commissioner Danielle Bethell, Marion County
Stephanie Bobb for Rhonda Wolf, CEO, United Way of the Mid-Willamette Valley
Ashley Carson Cottingham for Christy Perry, Superintendent, Salem-Keizer School District
Hank Crapser, Navigator, Law Enforcement Assisted Diversion (LEAD)
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
Leilani Slama, Chief Communications and Community Relations Officer, Salem Health
Nicole Utz, Housing Administrator, Salem Housing Authority for Council President Chris Hoy, City of Salem
David Zepeda, Subject Matter Expert
Ian Dixon-McDonald, Vice President of Programs, Marion Polk Food Share; Co-Chair, CoC Collaborative Committee
Eric Enderle, Veteran Services Officer, Polk County Veteran Services

MEMBERS ABSENT
Mayor Chuck Bennett, City of Salem
Dan Clem, Executive Director, Union Gospel Mission of Salem
Councilor Shannon Corr, City of Independence
Council President Chris Hoy, City of Salem
Christy Perry, Superintendent, Salem-Keizer School District
Rhonda Wolf, CEO, United Way of the Mid-Willamette Valley
Jimmy Jones, Executive Director, Mid-Willamette Valley Community Action Agency
Candace Jamison, Executive Director, Marion County Housing Authority
Christian Edelblute, Executive Director, West Valley Housing Authority
Kim Parker-Llerenas, Co-Chair, MWVHA Collaborative Committee

ORS 190 ENTITY BOARD
MEMBERS PRESENT
PRESIDENT: Mayor Cathy Clark, City of Keizer
Commissioner Danielle Bethell, Marion County
Ashley Carson Cottingham for Christy Perry, Superintendent, Salem-Keizer School District
Commissioner Jeremy Gordon, Polk County
Councilor Christopher Lopez, City of Monmouth
Tribal Councilwoman Lisa Leno, Confederated Tribes of Grand Ronde

Nicole Utz, Housing Administrator, Salem Housing Authority for Council President Chris Hoy, City of Salem

MEMBERS ABSENT
Councilor Shannon Corr, City of Independence
Council President Chris Hoy, City of Salem
Christy Perry, Superintendent, Salem-Keizer School District

STAFF AND GUESTS PRESENT
Jan Calvin, MWVHA Consultant
Janet Carlson, MWVHA Consultant
Lisa Trauernicht, MWVHA Consultant
Denise VanDyke, Admin. Specialist II, MWVCOG
Councilor Laura Reid, City of Keizer
Dana Schultz, Oregon Housing & Community Services
Robert Marshall, Mid-Willamette Valley Community Action Agency
Angie Wilson, Church@ the Park
Nicole Thomas, Word's Out PR
Laura Luthi, Word's Out PR
Chane Griggs, President, Rotary Club of Salem
Carla Munns, Community Business and Education Leaders Collaborative (CBEL)
Councilor Ali Swanson, City of Woodburn and A Ray of Hope!
Robert Steringer, Harrang Long Gary Rudnick, PC

CALL TO ORDER
Chair Clark called the joint meeting to order at 3:04 p.m. The presence of a quorum for both boards was noted.

INTRODUCTIONS AND JURISDICTIONAL UPDATES
Mayor Clark stated that the Gubser Miracle of Christmas fundraiser for Marion Polk Food Share was a success despite the weather. She said she is waiting for the final numbers.

Mr. Crapser reported that LEAD has changes happening. The program coordinator has moved on. Mr. Crapser has clients with two to three years clean and sober, one almost certified as an alcohol and drug counselor and recovery mentor.

Commissioner Gordon said that Polk County's Adopt a Family program was a success, serving 650 families. Polk County's application for the AOC-LOC legislative concept was accepted – one of eight counties to be considered during the short legislative session.

Ms. Carson Cottingham said that the Salem-Keizer School District is working hard to keep schools open.

Tribal Councilwoman Leno announced the development of 24 more housing units for our elders. The units will incorporate energy efficient design, including solar panels, battery packs and storage which will make consumer costs for electricity about $150 per year for the units.

Commissioner Bethell said that Marion County is establishing priorities which include assisting the unhoused. The commissioners had a great conversation with Ann-Marie Bandfield who manages the Psychiatric Crisis

Center. They are also having discussions about mobile crisis teams and high-level conversations with departments and community partners, seeking partnership opportunities. Marion County is working on bringing in USDA dollars for services in the Santiam Canyon.

Ms. Utz noted that today she is acting in capacity, representing Councilor Hoy for the City of Salem. Ms. Utz reported that the navigation center is serving as a temperature-activated warming center. Micro-shelter locations are being considered, with four properties under evaluation and communications underway with neighbors. The city is watching the Point-in-Time (PIT) Count closely and will not be displacing people until after the PIT Count is finished. The city council will be holding a work session related to homelessness. Salem Housing Authority has been working on Yaquina Hall and Southfair Apartments. It has been difficult finding resources to get electrical and plumbing completed. Sequoia Crossings, which will be 65 units, is next up and will be located on the border of Salem and Keizer. Shop with a Cop was a huge success. Ms. Utz gave a shout out to the law enforcement community.

Ms. Silverman-Mendez said PacificSource is convening health care providers and community organizations and is working to help connect the Oregon Health Authority with the community. PacificSource also granted funds for His Place, operated by Marion County, which will be a great benefit for the community.

Ms. Slama reported that Salem Health has an extremely high census currently. She asked that people not go to the emergency room for COVID tests unless the person is in an emergency situation.

Ms. Bobb is Development Manager at United Way. The rental assistance program in partnership with Marion County is moving forward, helping individuals behind in rent to not go through an eviction process and stay in their own homes. United Way will be providing snacks and water at ARCHES for the Point-in-Time Count. United Way is now taking bids for construction of the cottages, 29 units of affordable housing for ages 55+.

Mr. Dixon-McDonald said that the CoC Collaborative Committee is serving as a place of shared learning and increased connection. He referenced the statistics in the Committee Highlights report in the board agenda materials. The Collaborative Committee is conducting trainings and has several subcommittees. Thanks to Ms. Calvin, Ms. Munns, Ms. Trauernicht, and Ms. Parker-Llerenas for their work.

Mr. Enderle reported that Polk County Veteran Services had a great holiday project where children got to see Santa Claus.

Councilor Lopez said that he is excited to work with Polk County. The City of Monmouth passed resolution updating the Fair Housing standards for the Housing Rehabilitation Program for low and moderate-income households.

Mayor Clark added that the warming networks are doing great work.

CONSENT AGENDA

Chair Clark reviewed the consent agenda items. Ms. Carlson asked that Item #9 be deferred to the next meeting.

MOTION: By Commissioner Gordon, **SECONDED by** Commissioner Bethell, to **APPROVE ITEMS 1-8 ON THE CONSENT AGENDA, AS PRESENTED.**

1. **AGENDA APPROVAL**
2. **DECEMBER 9, 2021 MINUTES**

3. **YOUTH ACTION BOARD (YAB) MEMBER APPOINTMENTS: ARAYA J., CHRISTOPHER J., SIRR J., SAM N., RORY P., AH'ANA R., AND GRACIE R.**
4. **APPOINT HAILEY HULSEY, MWVCAA, TO THE PIT COUNT WORKGROUP AND ACCEPT THE RESIGNATION OF SHAIN OLESON**
5. **ACCEPT THE RESIGNATION OF SHAWNN HARTLEY FROM THE PERFORMANCE & EVALUATION COMMITTEE**
6. **APPOINT DAVID ZEPEDA TO THE MWVHA BOARD OF DIRECTORS**
7. **LETTER OF SUPPORT FOR EASTERSEALS OREGON SSVF GRANT APPLICATION**
8. **LETTER OF SUPPORT FOR COMMUNITY ACTION VETERAN SERVICES SSVF GRANT APPLICATION**

Discussion: None.
Motion carried.
IN FAVOR: Clark, Bethell, Bobb, Carson Cottingham, Crapser, Gordon, Leno, Lopez, Silverman-Mendez, Slama, Utz. **OPPOSED:** None. **ABSTAINED:** None.

ORS 190 ENTITY BUSINESS

Ms. Carlson stated that at the December meeting, the board authorized the board administrator to bring back a contract with Harrang Long for backup and specialized legal services. The contract, along with information about the law firm, was provided in the meeting materials. Mr. Robert Steringer was also in attendance to answer any questions.

MOTION: By Ms. Carson Cottingham, **SECONDED by** Commissioner Gordon, to **APPROVE THE CONTRACT FOR ORS 190 ENTITY BACKUP AND SPECIALIZED LEGAL SERVICES WITH HARRANG LONG, AS PRESENTED.**
Discussion: None.
Motion carried.
IN FAVOR: Clark, Bethell, Carson Cottingham, Gordon, Leno, Lopez, Utz. **OPPOSED:** None. **ABSTAINED:** None.

Ms. Calvin explained the HMIS Participation Agreement between the ORS 190 Entity and Oregon Housing & Community Services for the new statewide HMIS system.

MOTION: By Councilor Lopez, **SECONDED by** Commissioner Bethell, to **APPROVE THE HMIS PARTICIPATION AGREEMENT WITH OREGON HOUSING & COMMUNITY SERVICES, AS PRESENTED.**
Discussion: None.
Motion carried.
IN FAVOR: Clark, Bethell, Carson Cottingham, Gordon, Leno, Lopez, Utz. **OPPOSED:** None. **ABSTAINED:** None.

Ms. Carlson reminded board members that the second annual CoC Summit on February 10 will be from 3-6 p.m. Dr. Johnny Lake has agreed to be the keynote speaker, and also volunteered to host a breakout session. He is a dynamic speaker and reduced the speaker fee from his customary $3,000 to $2,000.

MOTION: By Commissioner Gordon, **SECONDED by** Councilor Lopez, to **AUTHORIZE THE CHAIR TO SIGN THE CONTRACT WITH DR. JOHNNY LAKE FOR A SPEAKER FEE OF $2,000, AS PRESENTED.**
Discussion: None.
Motion carried.
IN FAVOR: Clark, Bethell, Carson Cottingham, Gordon, Leno, Lopez, Utz. **OPPOSED:** None. **ABSTAINED:** None.

Ms. Carlson explained that the Youth Homeless Demonstration Program (YHDP) Planning Team has been holding planning meetings. On January 31 and February 1, there will be a System Modeling Workshop that will include a listening session for public input. Broadway Commons is a suitable venue to hold this meeting. The room fee was reduced from $750 to $550 for this two-day meeting. This cost will be covered by the YHDP planning grant funds.

MOTION: By Commissioner Gordon, **SECONDED by** Councilor Lopez, to **APPROVE THE $550 ROOM FEE FOR YHDP PLANNING MEETINGS AT BROADWAY COMMONS, AS PRESENTED.**
DISCUSSION: Ms. Calvin clarified that Broadway Commons has a no charge policy if the event is cancelled because of COVID.
Motion carried.
IN FAVOR: Clark, Bethell, Carson Cottingham, Gordon, Leno, Lopez, Utz. **OPPOSED:** None. **ABSTAINED:** None.

David Zepeda joined the meeting and was welcomed as the newest board member.

OPPORTUNITIES FOR PERMANENT SUPPORTIVE HOUSING

Dana Schultz, Permanent Supportive Housing (PSH) Program Manager, Oregon Housing & Community Services (OHCS), gave a PowerPoint presentation. PSH, a best practice, serves chronically homeless households and residents referred by the Coordinated Entry system or other OHCS-approved coordinated referral processes. PSH involves strict requirements to qualify. Projects must be affordable for 30 percent AMI or lower, be permanent, and must provide comprehensive, on site, voluntary tenancy support services. These can be integrated models and must have a priority to serve the most vulnerable populations. PSH is rooted in the Housing First philosophy. Other program requirements include project-based rental assistance, use of HMIS and Coordinated Entry, onsite support services, and rents that cannot exceed 27-30 percent of income. Development capacity is provided via an annual OHCS NOFA. Long-term, project-based rental assistance and PSH services funding are available. Technical assistance via Oregon Supportive Housing Institute (OSHI) is available. Ms. Schultz explained what the process for OSHI funding includes. Project teams apply, with 18 teams across Oregon. Salem Housing Authority Sequoia Crossings is a participating project. So far, there have been 415 PSH projects funded statewide, including two projects in Marion County. The 2022 NOFA is coming out in the next couple of weeks. The next OSHI applications open February 1. Applicants must participate in OSHI before participating in the NOFA. OSHI projects receive preference in the process. Ms. Schultz will provide her slides to Ms. Calvin to share with the board, including her contact information.

Mayor Clark asked where in the continuum of housing does PSH fit? Ms. Schultz replied that clients move from transitional housing to PSH, which can be a steppingstone or can be permanent for someone who needs the permanent support.

POINT-IN-TIME COUNT PREVIEW

Robert Marshall, ARCHES, and Angie Wilson, Church at the Park, provided an overview of the upcoming Point-in-Time (PIT) Count event. So far, there have been 47 new volunteers, but more are needed and are being recruited. The data collected is very important and used for many things. The PIT Count asks people where they slept on the night of January 24th. There will be a sheltered count and an unsheltered count. However, HUD does not ask us to count those who are doubling up or couch surfing. Pallet shelters and micro-shelters may not count as shelter for the PIT Count. There are different counting methods used for street outreach, stationary sites, and shelters. Stationary sites are to be kept small due to COVID precautions. HMIS data will be used for those shelters that use HMIS. The Counting Us app will be used. Data collected

through the app is submitted automatically and geo-tagged so we will be able to see results in real time to make "on the go" adjustments to the survey if needed. Ms. Wilson spoke about volunteering. So far, about 25 percent of volunteer slots have been filled. We have partners providing warehouse space, food, water, and other supplies. She provided a link to make monetary donations. First-time volunteers will be partnered with an experienced team member. Organizers have Marion and Polk counties broken down into regions as small as possible and have partnered with the Marion County Sheriff to ensure volunteer safety, especially in remote areas, such as the Santiam Canyon. The volunteer sign-up link was provided by Ms. Calvin. Organizers are incorporating the Salem Police Department into the PIT Count to help with locating camps. There will be a training on January 20 at the Salem Police Department. It will include Outreach 101/201 and an opportunity to engage the community. Organizers have also been working on press contacts. The Statesman Journal and Polk County Itemizer-Observer have already run articles.

Discussion of unsheltered versus sheltered took place, particularly regarding micro-shelters. This year, based on the HUD definition of "shelter," micro-shelters may not qualify as "shelter" for the purposes of the PIT Count. Lack of restrooms, showers, heat, and air conditioning can disqualify a unit from being considered a shelter. Mayor Clark stated that the definition of unsheltered is disheartening and could be misinterpreted by the public. The numbers need to be discussed in detail when we release the data. Ms. Calvin added that outreach and case management is also important. Lived experience stories can help share how the assistance works.

COMMUNICATIONS UPDATE

Nicole Thomas thanked board members for the work being done on homelessness. She stated that she signed up to volunteer for the PIT Count during the presentation. Her team will work with the PIT Count team to get the story clear and connect the press with appropriate contacts. She provided a PowerPoint presentation regarding the communications work that her team is doing for the Alliance, including background on her agency. Word's Out PR is based in Salem and Stayton. Its goals are to educate the community regarding the complexities of homelessness and the work being done, while making the Alliance a credible source of information regarding urban and rural work. Her team conducted a social media audit and developed a strategy for Alliance communications. The team is managing the Facebook account, website content, blog posts (one per month), bimonthly e-newsletter, traditional press releases (one per month), and are gathering photos and videos to create a content library. Ms. Thomas emphasized that photos of work being done are important. Images (with permission/release) can be of people experiencing homelessness, volunteers working, or meetings to prepare for events and projects. She provided a snapshot of the social media strategy, which includes reporting back to Alliance consultants monthly. The e-newsletter has been freshened up and the mailing list is being kept up to date. The communications team needs photos, information, and speakers available to the press at a moment's notice. Contact information was provided for Ms. Thomas and team members, Laura Luthi and Tori Terhune. Ms. Thomas asked that press inquiries be directed through the communications team.

OTHER BUSINESS

Commissioner Bethell asked if Ms. Carlson or Ms. Calvin were familiar with CASA of Oregon. The organization is working on locations specifically for Veterans in Albany and West Salem. Commissioner Bethell said she will share contact information. They could be a good partner in the future for constructing housing.

Chair Clark asked that board members please share information about the summit on February 10.

ADJOURNMENT

Hearing no further business, Mayor Clark adjourned the meeting at 4:48 p.m.

_____

Janet Carlson, MWVHA Consultant