MINUTES OF OCTOBER 14, 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
VICE CHAIR: Council President Chris Hoy, City of Salem
Councilor Shannon Corr, City of Independence
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
Christy Perry, Superintendent, Salem-Keizer School District
Kristin Retherford for Mayor Chuck Bennett, City of Salem
Josie Silverman-Mendez, Director, Marion-Polk County CCO, PacificSource
Leilani Slama, Vice President, Community Engagement, Salem Health
Commissioner Colm Willis, Marion County
Eric Enderle, Veteran Services Officer, Polk County Veteran Services
Candace Jamison, Executive Director, Marion County Housing Authority
Nicole Utz, Housing Administrator, Salem Housing Authority

MEMBERS ABSENT
Dan Clem, Executive Director, Union Gospel Mission of Salem
Rhonda Wolf, CEO, United Way of the Mid-Willamette Valley
Ian Dixon-McDonald, Vice President of Programs, Marion Polk Food Share; Co-Chair, CoC Collaborative Committee
Christian Edelblute, Executive Director, West Valley Housing Authority
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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PRESIDENT: Mayor Cathy Clark, City of Keizer
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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
Christy Perry, Superintendent, Salem-Keizer School District
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
Julie Conn-Johnson, McKinney-Vento Program, Salem-Keizer School District
Ryan Sticka, McKinney-Vento Program, Dallas School District
Molly Gehley, McKinney-Vento Program, Cascade School District
Maricela Fernandez, McKinney-Vento Program, Woodburn School District
Councilor Laura Reid, City of Keizer
Tricia Frizzell, Mid-Willamette Valley Community Action Agency
Mari Anne Gest, Church at the Park
Nicole Thomas, Word's Out PR

CALL TO ORDER
Mayor Clark called the meeting to order at 3:03 p.m. The presence of a quorum of the ORS 190 Entity board was noted and the ORS 190 Entity board meeting was called to order at 3:03. The presence of a quorum for the Alliance Board of Directors was noted by Chair Clark and the Alliance board was called to order at 3:16 p.m.

ORS 190 ENTITY BUSINESS
Ms. Carlson described a proposed Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with Salem Housing Authority that is recommended by the U.S. Department of Housing & Urban Development (HUD) in the annual Notice of Funding Opportunity (NOFO) application. Councilor Hoy stated for the record that he is president of the Salem Housing Authority board, but there is no conflict of interest with this agenda item.

> **MOTION:** By Commissioner Gordon, **SECONDED by** Commissioner Willis, to **APPROVE THE MOU WITH SALEM HOUSING AUTHORITY RELATED TO COORDINATED ENTRY, AS PRESENTED.**
> Discussion: None.
> Motion carried.
> **IN FAVOR:** Clark, Hoy, Corr, Gordon, Lopez, Willis. **OPPOSED:** None. **ABSTAINED:** None.

Ms. Munns described the second MOU with Catholic Community Services Fostering Hope Initiative, a collective impact initiative. Commissioner Willis stated that he serves on the Catholic Community Services board, but there is no conflict.

MOTION: By Councilor Hoy, **SECONDED by** Commissioner Gordon, to **APPROVE THE MOU WITH CATHOLIC COMMUNITY SERVICES RELATED TO THE FOSTERING HOPE INITIATIVE, AS PRESENTED.**
Discussion: None.
Motion carried.
IN FAVOR: Clark, Hoy, Corr, Gordon, Lopez, Perry, Willis. **OPPOSED:** None. **ABSTAINED:** None.

Ms. Carlson reviewed the three donation agreements with PacificSource, Union Gospel Mission, and United Way. She added that invoices will be going out soon for the governmental board members, and these donation agreements are for the non-governmental members. United Way's donation amount increased to $5,000, and Salem Health has already provided a community grant, so no agreement is needed for Salem Health.

MOTION: By Councilor Hoy, **SECONDED by** Commissioner Willis, to **APPROVE THE DONATION AGREEMENTS WITH PACIFICSOURCE, UNION GOSPEL MISSION, AND UNITED WAY, AS PRESENTED.**
Discussion: None.
Motion carried.
IN FAVOR: Clark, Hoy, Corr, Gordon, Lopez, Perry, Willis. **OPPOSED:** None. **ABSTAINED:** None.

Ms. Carlson provided background on the contract with Word's Out PR for communications services. Nicole Thomas is the principal of the company and is enthused to start. The starting date will be November 1.

MOTION: By Councilor Corr, **SECONDED by** Councilor Lopez, to **APPROVE THE CONTRACT WITH WORD'S OUT PR FOR COMMUNICATIONS SERVICES, AS PRESENTED.**
Discussion: None.
Motion carried.
IN FAVOR: Clark, Hoy, Corr, Gordon, Lopez, Perry, Willis. **OPPOSED:** None. **ABSTAINED:** None.

A special board meeting was held on September 28 for the ORS 190 Entity to accept a planning grant and authorize Mayor Clark to sign the contract.

MOTION: By Councilor Hoy, **SECONDED by** Councilor Lopez, to **APPROVE MINUTES OF THE SEPTEMBER 28, 2021 SPECIAL MEETING, AS PRESENTED.**
Discussion: None.
Motion carried.
IN FAVOR: Clark, Hoy, Corr, Gordon, Lopez, Perry, Willis. **OPPOSED:** None. **ABSTAINED:** None.

INTRODUCTIONS & "WHAT'S NEW"

Superintendent Perry provided an update on the Salem-Keizer School District. COVID is an issue, and the district is monitoring staffing shortages related to the vaccine mandate and providing services as best they can. She is working with McKinney-Vento staff to provide services to families experiencing

homelessness or at risk of homelessness. A big problem is the lack of transportation, especially for students required to be transported longer distances.

Commissioner Gordon reported that the Polk County Commissioners and representatives from Dallas, Independence, and Monmouth toured the Church at the Park microshelters site in Salem. They are looking at creating a similar project in Polk County.

Councilor Lopez added that he joined the tour and hopes that some similar sites can be built in Polk County.

Councilor Corr stated that a lot is going on behind the scenes in Independence, including come education for the City Council.

Ms. Slama said that Salem Health is preparing for the vaccine mandate deadline on Monday. The hospital is still full, although COVID numbers are going down.

Ms. Silverman-Mendez announced that PacificSource will be hosting a community presentation on November 17. This will be a virtual event with the topic of social determinants and community. All are invited, so please watch for more information.

Mr. Crapser said that LEAD just held its biweekly meeting with Keizer Police Department. Referrals have slowed down with COVID, but new staff are now on board, so LEAD hopes to see increased law enforcement referrals soon.

Tribal Councilwoman Leno promoted the Confederated Tribes of Grand Ronde rent and utilities assistance program. Tribal members, their descendants, and community members are eligible. She will share the phone number for referrals.

Commissioner Willis reported that Marion County received $5 million from the State of Oregon for semi-permanent housing for wildfire victims in need. There are still eleven families in hotels and a number in RVs. A tiny home neighborhood in the Canyon and an RV and tiny home site at the Gates Motel location will be established and will house forty families.

Councilor Hoy said that two new potential microshelter sites have been identified, one on Wallace Road and the other on 13th Street SE. So far, more than fifty units have been sponsored by community members at $5,000 per unit. Land has been donated to the United Way for tiny homes. The City of Salem met recently with Marion and Polk County Commissioners on topics of mutual interest, including joint staffing at Redwood Crossings.

Ms. Retherford said the City of Salem is moving forward with property acquisitions for Marine Drive right-of-way, acquiring entire properties to annex and partition as a land bank for affordable housing in future years.

Ms. Utz announced that November 18 is the signing day for Yaquina Hall. Salem Housing Authority is eager to get the project under construction and is seeking partners to enter into agreements for service provision. Environmental reviews are underway for Sequoia Crossing. Emergency housing vouchers are out in the community. Salem Housing Authority has a landlord navigator that has connected many voucher holders to apartments. SHA hopes to hire two more landlord navigators and another housing specialist to get the vouchers out and used faster.

Ms. Jamison reported that the Santiam Canyon housing project described by Commissioner Willis will be managed by the Marion County Housing Authority. The Canyon project will add 126 units.

Mayor Clark announced that the fundraiser for the Giving Basket program received more than double the anticipated donations. The City of Keizer is continuing its partnership with Simonka House and looks forward to partnering with Sequoia Crossing.

Ms. Carlson introduced Nicole Thomas, principal with Word's Out PR. Ms. Thomas said she looks forward to working with CoC staff, with the board, and with Alliance members. Councilor Hoy stated that he is eager to improve communications because the number one public perception in Salem is that there is a lack of coordination in homeless services. Ms. Thomas thanked Councilor Hoy for sharing that information. Ms. Carlson said she will distribute Ms. Thomas's contact information so that board members can share their ideas with her. Ms. Thomas said that the public relations work will be concentrating on getting the information out, using the right words to the right people to spread the right message. Mayor Clark added that we also need to inform people about how they can engage appropriately in the work. There are a lot of people who want to help, but many go about it the wrong way.

Mr. Enderle reported that Polk County Veteran Services is working to get Polk County unhoused Veterans onto a by-name list. Gale's Lodge has been funded through the year and just added case management capacity.

CONSENT AGENDA

Chair Clark reviewed consent agenda items. Ms. Carlson was asked to provide context for the Youth Action Board (YAB) resignations. The YAB is establishing a formal appointment process that will be brought to the board next month, and vacancies will be filled at that time. No items were pulled for discussion.

MOTION: By Commissioner Gordon, **SECONDED by** Commissioner Willis, to **APPROVE THE CONSENT AGENDA, AS PRESENTED.**

1. **AGENDA APPROVAL**
2. **SEPTEMBER 9, 2021, ORS 190 ENTITY AND ALLIANCE BOARD MINUTES**
3. **APPOINT HANNAH PAYSINGER, SHELTERING SILVERTON, TO THE COORDINATED ENTRY COMMITTEE AND HMIS WORKGROUP; AND ACCEPT THE RESIGNATION OF HILARY DUMITRESCU**

4. **APPOINT ANNA LOOKINGBILL-STEELE, US DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS, HUD/VASH, TO THE COORDINATED ENTRY COMMITTEE; AND ACCEPT THE RESIGNATION OF DAVID D'AUTEIL**
5. **APPOINT MICHELLE ARTMEN, DE MUNIZ RESOURCE CENTER, COMMUNITY ACTION, TO THE COORDINATED ENTRY COMMITTEE**
6. **APPOINT ISAIAH MILLER TO THE YOUTH ACTION BOARD, SERVING AS VICE CHAIR**
7. **ACCEPT RESIGNATIONS OF JOSE AGUAYO, SADEE BOSTON, MARISSA FRALEY, AND NAYELI HERNANDEZ FROM THE YOUTH ACTION BOARD**
8. **RATIFY LETTER OF SUPPORT FOR YOUTH HOMELESSNESS DEMONSTRATION PROJECT PLANNING GRANT**
9. **STAFF REPORTS, INCLUDING THE LATEST COC WORK PLAN AND BUDGET REPORT.**

Discussion: None.

Motion carried.

IN FAVOR: Clark, Hoy, Corr, Crapser, Gordon, Leno, Lopez, Perry, Retherford, Silverman-Mendez, Slama, Willis. **OPPOSED:** None. **ABSTAINED:** None.

NOTICE OF FUNDING OPPORTUNITY

Ms. Munns presented a summary of the Review & Ranking Subcommittee work. The Review & Ranking Subcommittee were convened in a lengthy meeting on October 5, with several previous meetings for training purposes. Subcommittee members scored the applications, which formed the basis for the ranking of projects on the Preliminary Prioritized List. There were no appeals submitted to the Appeals Committee, so the list now becomes the Final Prioritized List. The list was posted on the Alliance website, along with scoring tools used to evaluate new and renewal project applications. Ms. Munns went over the items required in the scoring tools. Renewal programs were rated significantly on past performance. The process for review and ranking was described. Nine projects submitted applications and were ranked as shown on the list. The Domestic Violence (DV) Bonus is a separate fund. Center for Hope & Safety, the highest ranked project, was proposed for DV Bonus funding. Renewal projects #2-8 on the prioritized list are proposed for Tier 1 funds specifically allocated for renewals. The ninth rated project, Sable House, applied for DV Bonus funds. Since it did not receive the highest score of the two competing projects, Sable House could be funded through CoC Bonus and other funds that the board reallocated. Ms. Munns and Ms. Silverman-Mendez reviewed the procedures for creating a final prioritized list and the next steps.

October 26 – All projects must be finalized in E-Snaps
November 4 – Board approval of the Consolidated Application
November 12 – Application submitted to HUD

Ms. Carlson reminded the board that full funding from HUD is not guaranteed. Contracts will be between HUD and the providers. This is the CoC's first NOFO application. Ms. Calvin asked Ms. Carlson to describe possible scenarios for funding Sable House at its requested amount, which was greater than the remaining CoC dollars allocated. Options included 1) HUD could cut the project entirely from the list; 2) HUD could add funds to the CoC allocation and fully fund the project; or 3) HUD could reduce the funding amount for Sable House to the dollars available in the CoC allocation. After discussion, board members agreed to include Sable House on the prioritized list at the funding level of CoC dollars available.

MOTION: By Councilor Hoy, **SECONDED by** Councilor Lopez, to **APPROVE THE FINAL PRIORITIZED FUNDING LIST, AS PRESENTED, WITH THE INCLUSION OF SABLE HOUSE AT $83,292.**
Discussion: None.
Motion carried.
IN FAVOR: Clark, Hoy, Corr, Crapser, Gordon, Leno, Lopez, Perry, Retherford, Silverman-Mendez, Slama, Willis. **OPPOSED:** None. **ABSTAINED:** None.

Congratulations were offered to all applicants.

PROPOSED CHARTER REVISIONS

Ms. Carlson described the annual charter review. Proposed revisions were included in the agenda packet.

- Add two new board members with lived experience within the past seven years, recommended by the Collaborative Committee;
- Add the provider contribution of one percent of grant awards, as previously approved in concept by the board;
- Specify agendas are "written;"
- Clarify duties of the Collaborative Committee;
- Clarify the Performance & Evaluation Committee's responsibilities to monitor CoC- and Emergency Solutions Grant (ESG)-funded programs;
- Establish the Youth Action Board as a standing committee;
- Clarify the names of CoC Reports to be published annually;
- Update vendor, program, and agency names in the HMIS section;
- Authorize staff to make any needed changes in scoring tools for board ratification after the NOFO drops;
- Incorporate the Coordinated Entry Handbook and the Performance Monitoring and Review Process documents into the charter by reference;
- Incorporate existing CoC policies into the charter, including letters of support policy, grant policy, anti-discrimination policy, and street outreach policy. Add the following to the policies section:
    - Anti-discrimination Policy, citing specific rules and statutes. After discussion, the Title IX citation was proposed to be removed because it is not applicable to this CoC's projects.
    - Eligibility for Educational Services Policy, related to the McKinney-Vento program, that requires CoC-funded programs to inform families about their eligibility for educational services and promotes coordination between school districts and the CoC.
    - Persons with Limited English Proficiency Policy, requiring reasonable steps to ensure clients with Limited English Proficiency have meaningful access to programs and services.

  Two more policies will be considered by the board in November: Standards for Rapid Re-Housing and Standards for Permanent Supportive Housing.

MOTION: By Commissioner Willis, **SECONDED by** Councilor Lopez, to **APPROVE THE REVISED CHARTER, AS DISCUSSED, WITH THE REMOVAL OF THE REFERENCE TO TITLE IX.**

Discussion: None.

Motion carried.

IN FAVOR: Clark, Hoy, Crapser, Gordon, Leno, Lopez, Perry, Retherford, Silverman-Mendez, Slama, Willis. **OPPOSED:** None. **ABSTAINED:** None.

BACK TO SCHOOL FOR YOUTH EXPERIENCING HOMELESSNESS

Ms. Munns introduced the McKinney-Vento liaisons in attendance: Julie Conn-Johnson, Salem-Keizer School District; Molly Gehley, Cascade School District; and Maricela Fernandez, Woodburn School District. Ryan Sticka, Dallas School District, was at the meeting earlier but had to leave before the presentation started. Ms. Conn-Johnson reported a drop off in students participating in the McKinney-Vento program while everyone was in distance learning during the pandemic. Now the liaisons are reacquainting themselves with returning families and with families newly at risk of homelessness or new to the area. Ms. Fernandez mentioned that a lot of families are in shared housing, which is not the best for students if the house rules are not conducive for being able to do homework. Transportation is also very challenging. Migrant families have become more difficult to engage. Ms. Gehley is new in her position and is also a Vice Principal. Cascade School District has hired a homeless liaison to work with families directly.

A question about any new challenges after COVID was asked. Councilor Reid replied that Chromebooks that were provided to students may or may not be prepped for class (brought in or charged). Because Chromebooks were signed out for the year, none are available for short-term use. Some students may be missing social behavior cues and acting out inappropriately. This could be related to stress, trauma, or anxiety, especially for those who are no longer used to having larger numbers of people around. Anxiety is huge – food insecurity, other insecurities, not having to follow the same rules while doing distance learning but now having to comply and possibly learn new rules. Teachers are having to re-educate students about cooperation, teamwork, and other social skills. Other things that are now challenges:

- For transportation, what is the "school of origin" for a student who has never attended a physical school location?
- Regular schedules are very important and provide stability.
- There is a shortage of teachers and substitute teachers – other school staff are being required to fill in.
- There is an uptick in the number of eligible students after holidays and now fewer supports are available.
- Parental insecurities transfer to the students and the students act out.

Mayor Clark stated that any suggestions to better connect at-risk families with services or assistance are welcome, especially regarding rental or utilities assistance.

A board meeting participant asked, how can the board and the community help you in the short and longer term?

- Ms. Fernandez – Transportation – Drivers are especially needed.
- Ms. Gehley – She is new to the program, so just knowing that support exists is great. She will call as needed.
- Ms. Conn-Johnson – It is great to see in the charter the commitment to get the word out. We need to normalize the conversation.

Chair Clark thanked the McKinney-Vento liaisons for sharing their points of view.

ADJOURNMENT

Hearing no further business, Mayor Clark adjourned both meetings at 5:03 p.m.

Janet Carlson, MWVHA Consultant