MINUTES OF SEPTEMBER 9, 2021

MID-WILLAMETTE VALLEY HOMELESS ALLIANCE BOARD OF DIRECTORS AND ORS 190 ENTITY BOARD OF DIRECTORS JOINT MEETING

Zoom Meeting

MWVHA BOARD

MEMBERS PRESENT

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
Elaine Lozier for Josie Silverman-Mendez, Director, Marion-Polk County CCO, PacificSource
Christy Perry, Superintendent, Salem-Keizer School District
Kristin Retherford for Mayor Chuck Bennett, City of Salem
Leilani Slama, Vice President, Community Engagement, Salem Health
Jessica Stanton for Commissioner Colm Willis, Marion County
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
Nicole Utz, Housing Administrator, Salem Housing Authority

MEMBERS ABSENT

Mayor Cathy Clark, City of Keizer
Dan Clem, Executive Director, Union Gospel Mission of Salem
Christian Edelblute, Executive Director, West Valley Housing Authority
Eric Enderle, Veteran Services Officer, Polk County Veteran Services
Candace Jamison, Executive Director, Marion County 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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Councilor Christopher Lopez, City of Monmouth
Christy Perry, Superintendent, Salem-Keizer School District
Jessica Stanton for Commissioner Colm Willis, Marion County

MEMBERS ABSENT
Mayor Cathy Clark, City of Keizer

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 Schools
Madeline Dohrer, HOME Youth Services
Kloi Spencer, Chair, Youth Action Board

CALL TO ORDER
Councilor Hoy called the joint meeting to order at 3:02 p.m. The presence of a quorum of both boards was noted.

INTRODUCTIONS & JURISDICTION/ORGANIZATION UPDATES
Julie Conn-Johnson reported that school is off to a roaring start. The Salem-Keizer School District is working to place homeless students in school.

Councilor Lopez said he had a wonderful meeting with Commissioner Gordon, received a wealth of information, and looks forward to working with him.

Ms. Lozier stated that she is attending for Ms. Silverman-Mendez. She serves as the community health coordinator for the Marion-Polk Coordinated Care Organization (CCO) through PacificSource. The CCO is focusing on vaccinations and working with hospitals as they discharge clients. About 34% of Oregon Health Plan members are vaccinated. The CCO is also addressing vaccination confidence.

Commissioner Gordon said he is excited to work with the cities and see city engagement. Kudos to Jan and Janet for their presentation to the Polk County Board of Commissioners. It sparked internal conversation about how to measure success.

Superintendent Perry reported that kids are back to school. The district is fine tuning the system, but it is important for houseless students.

Mr. Crapser introduced himself. He is a Marion County Health & Human Services employee representing LEAD and is honored to be here. He works with addiction and treatment services.

Mr. Dixon-McDonald reported that he had no updates for the CoC Collaborative Committee. Marion-Polk Food Share experienced a fire at the Woodburn site and is working to maintain services there.

Ms. Stanton is attending on behalf of Commissioner Willis. Marion County is offering property tax refunds for victims in the wildfire zone. She noted the memorials held over the past weekend in remembrance of the Labor Day fires a year ago.

Ms. Retherford is representing Mayor Bennett today. The City of Salem is focused on the Navigation Center site renovations to get it operational. The city is also expanding the warming center system.

Councilor Hoy added that he is pleased to have a Willamette University intern who started this week. The intern will be working with Councilor Hoy to expand the number of Safe Park sites. There are currently 20 funded, with 7-8 located.

Ms. Slama stated that COVID is "sucking the blood" out of Salem Health. Numbers are not going down. There were 93 COVID patients last week and 116 today. Get vaccinated!

Tribal Councilwoman Leno said the Tribe is working on vaccinations for their membership, and also looking at the issue of vaccinations in the workplace. There was a groundbreaking for the Tribe's home newest affordable home ownership project. There will be 35 units to start.

Ms. Utz reported that Salem Housing Authority is working on keeping COVID safe. Yaquina Hall closing will be November 18. There will be preference there for clients with Serious and Persistent Mental Illness. The housing authority is renovating other large projects. Sequoia Crossing is set to close next May. The housing authority has almost filled its emergency voucher slots, with 50 individuals to fill 34 slots. ESG Grant Navigators are out working to contact those in camps and connect them with resources. She also noted the pallet homes on Portland Road.

Ms. Wolf gave a shout out to the City of Salem regarding the Market Street property locations for affordable housing supported by United Way. Two of the projects closed today. These are homes for seniors on very fixed incomes to keep them from going into homelessness.

NOTICE OF FUNDING OPPORTUNITY

Ms. Carlson announced that the Notice of Funding Opportunity (NOFO) from the U.S. Department of Housing & Urban Development (HUD) dropped on August 18. The Alliance as a Continuum of Care is scored on our activities and achievements. The NOFO application process was waived in 2020 because of COVID, which was beneficial as our Continuum of Care is much more ready now. This is our first application, so we want to put our best foot forward. The application process closes November 16, and we plan to submit on November 12 to allow sufficient time to account for any delays in the electronic submission system. The November board of directors meeting, originally scheduled for November 18, will be moved to November 4 from 1-3 p.m. This is an important meeting where both boards will approve the application. We will need a quorum.

As part of the NOFO application, a local competition for Continuum of Care Program funding is required. The local competition is now open and closes on September 30. All current providers and new applications are eligible. After September 30, there will be an opportunity for applicants to appeal the Review & Ranking Subcommittee's recommendation. Staff is recommending that the Executive Committee serve as the Appeals Committee. To accommodate the local competition timeline, the Executive Committee meeting will be moved in October. Local competition scoring tools were approved by the board in July. In reviewing the hundreds of pages of NOFO instructions, staff realized that these scoring tools were not aligned with the NOFO. Staff spent many hours updating the tools, and the board will need to ratify the revised scoring tools today, along with approving the timeline. The reallocation letter to the Oregon Coalition Against Domestic & Sexual Violence is included in the agenda packet. This reallocation was approved by the board a year ago, before learning that the FY 2020 competition was waived. The board will need to vote on this reallocation again today. The board will also be voting on whether to assess a one percent administrative fee on the grant awards to cover Continuum of Care costs.

Ms. Munns reviewed the timeline for the local competition process.

- 9/15 – letters of intent due – these can be as simple as an email
- 9/30 – applications due
- 10/5 – Review and Ranking Subcommittee meets
- 10/6 – Preliminary Prioritized List released
- 10/8 – intent to appeal letters due
- 10/11 – appeals due
- 10/12 – Appeals Committee meets, if needed
- 10/14 – CoC Board meets to approve the Final Prioritized List

Ms. Calvin added information about the reallocation of funds. Domestic violence is of special interest in the NOFO. The collaborative application will include everything except the planning grant, which will be submitted separately. Local competition materials are available on the website. In this morning's technical assistance workshop, there were 11 participants for renewal applications and 27 participants for new applications.

Ms. Carlson noted that the announcement about the local competition was sent to the newsletter list, to the media (Salem Reporter published a story) and shared on Facebook.

MOTION: By Tribal Councilwoman Leno, **SECONDED by** Councilor Corr, to **RATIFY ADJUSTMENTS TO THE TIMELINE AND RFP LOCAL COMPETITION TOOLS, AS PRESENTED.**
Discussion: None.
Motion carried.
IN FAVOR: Hoy, Corr, Crapser, Gordon, Leno, Lopez, Lozier, Perry, Slama, Retherford, Wolf. **OPPOSED:** None. **ABSTAINED:** None.

MOTION: By Ms. Stanton, **SECONDED by** Commissioner Gordon, to **APPROVE THE REALLOCATION LETTER TO OCADSV, AS PRESENTED.**
Discussion: Ms. Carlson clarified the background of the previous allocation. In our region, there are multiple agencies providing domestic violence services. These funds will be allocated for new applications. The letter is to inform OCADSV of this decision.
Motion carried.
IN FAVOR: Hoy, Corr, Crapser, Gordon, Leno, Lopez, Lozier, Perry, Slama, Retherford, Wolf. **OPPOSED:** None. **ABSTAINED:** None.

MOTION: By Commissioner Gordon, **SECONDED by** Ms. Retherford, to **APPROVE DESIGNATING THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE TO SERVE AS THE APPEALS COMMITTEE, AS PRESENTED.**
Discussion: None.
Motion carried.
IN FAVOR: Hoy, Corr, Crapser, Gordon, Leno, Lopez, Lozier, Perry, Slama, Retherford, Wolf. **OPPOSED:** None. **ABSTAINED:** None.

MOTION: By Councilor Corr, **SECONDED by** Commissioner Gordon, to **APPROVE, IN CONCEPT, A CHARTER AMENDMENT TO ASSESS 1% OF GRANT AWARDS FROM COC-FUNDED PROVIDERS TO SUPPORT THE ADMINISTRATIVE/SYSTEM WORK OF THE CONTINUUM OF CARE, AS PRESENTED.**
Discussion: None.
Motion carried.

IN FAVOR: Hoy, Corr, Crapser, Gordon, Leno, Lopez, Lozier, Perry, Slama, Retherford, Wolf. **OPPOSED:** None. **ABSTAINED:** None.

RACIAL EQUITY DEMO APPLICATION

Ms. Calvin noted that at the August meeting, the board approved an application to participate in a racial equity demonstration project. After the board meeting, staff and partners participated in a webinar which provided additional information about HUD expectations. This is a wonderful opportunity, but it is a very heavy lift. HUD wants twelve people to meet about twelve times per month, and a lot of coaching meetings beyond that. We determined that it would probably be best to wait a year to be better prepared. No application has been submitted. HUD says that there will be another opportunity. Meanwhile, there is work that we can be doing – networking, building connections, and the like. No board action is needed at this time. DEI and Voices of Lived Experience work is helping to achieve some level of equity, and we are focusing on equity in the Coordinated Entry process.

CONSENT AGENDA

Councilor Hoy reviewed items on the consent agenda. No items were pulled for discussion.

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

1. **AGENDA APPROVAL**
2. **AUGUST 12, 2021 ORS 190 ENTITY AND ALLIANCE BOARD MINUTES**
3. **FINANCIAL REPORT**
4. **APPOINTMENT OF DJ VINCENT, CHURCH@ THE PARK, AND LUCY BRISENO, COMMUNITY ACTION OUTREACH COORDINATOR, AS POINT-IN-TIME COUNT WORKGROUP CO-CHAIRS**
5. **ACCEPT JOSH LAIR'S RESIGNATION FROM THE ALLIANCE BOARD OF DIRECTORS AND THE COORDINATED ENTRY COMMITTEE**
6. **STAFF REPORTS INCLUDING COC WORK PLAN AND BUDGET REPORT.**

Discussion: None.
Motion carried.
IN FAVOR: Hoy, Corr, Crapser, Gordon, Leno, Lopez, Lozier, Perry, Slama, Retherford, Wolf. **OPPOSED:** None. **ABSTAINED:** None.

Ms. Stanton announced that Marion County has appointed Hank Crapser as the replacement for Josh Lair.

ORS 190 ENTITY BUSINESS

Councilor Hoy and Ms. Carlson provided background on the role of the ORS 190 Entity to support the Mid-Willamette Valley Homeless Alliance. Ms. Carlson reviewed the list of ORS 190 business items.

MWVHA consultants are on flat rate contracts and do not have capacity to do needed communications work: newsletters, website, adding social media, and creating human interest stories to share. Ms. Carlson sent a request for quotes to three organizations, and two responded. Word's Out PR was deemed the most cost-effective proposal. The City of Salem was assisting the Alliance temporarily with staff services for communications; however, that person is no longer available. Word's Out PR has more than 10 years experience, and the principal has experience working with rural communities. Ms. Carlson has been in conversations with the principal who understands the communications effort needs to be county wide. Ms. Carlson reviewed the budget forecast to show that there are funds available. Ms. Carlson submitted an application for a $6,000 grant from the Siletz Tribes to help cover this, which will be announced in early

November. If the board gives direction, staff will bring a contract for board consideration to the October meeting.

MOTION: By Ms. Stanton, **SECONDED by** Councilor Lopez, to **AUTHORIZE STAFF TO ENTER INTO NEGOTIATIONS FOR A CONTRACT WITH WORD'S OUT PR, AS PRESENTED.**
Discussion: Councilor Lopez expressed his appreciation for staff bringing this to the board with a conservative budget and explanation. Public relations is important and often overlooked. He is very supportive of this idea.
Motion carried.
IN FAVOR: Hoy, Corr, Gordon, Leno, Lopez, Perry, Stanton. **OPPOSED:** None. **ABSTAINED:** None.

Kloi Spencer, Youth Action Board Chair, stated that she is thankful to be here and to have the opportunity to participate.

PROPOSED CHARTER REVISIONS

The CoC Governance Charter requires an annual review. Ms. Carlson provided a list of proposed revisions. The Youth Action Board (YAB) was established as a standing committee and needs to be added to the charter. The 1% assessment of CoC-funded providers that the board just approved in concept needs to be added, as well as all other CoC policies, such as antidiscrimination, street outreach, and letters of support. Additional policies were highlighted in the NOFO. Staff would like to bring these to the board for approval, if feasible. These new policies include specifying the use of written agendas, incorporating the Coordinated Entry policy manual, and monitoring standards. The CoC Collaborative Committee has recommended adding representatives with lived experience. HUD's minimum standard is to have at least one board member who is homeless or formerly homeless. This representative has been the LEAD Navigator. The recommendation would be to continue having the LEAD representative and adding one or two representatives with lived experience, especially with recent lived experience. Ms. Calvin pointed out that some prefer the term "lived expertise." In the NOFO, HUD asks if any CoC board and committee participants have lived experience within the last seven years.

Mr. Dixon-McDonald stated that the Collaborative Committee has discussed diversity, including recent lived experience. Appointing more than one representative helps avoid the air of tokenism. The support system changes over time, however, so more recent experience could provide a different point of view. There may need to be mentorship or other support for new board members, particularly regarding being able to attend meetings. Ms. Carlson pointed out that in our Continuum of Care model, organizations are members, not individuals, so perhaps ARCHES or other provider organizations could be asked to provide assistance with technology or transportation for meetings.

Ms. Carlson asked that if there are additional suggestions regarding charter revisions, to let her know.

Ms. Lozier asked if stipends could be made available. Ms. Carlson replied that there could be difficulties associated with giving stipends to some, but not all, board members. However, staff could work with a program for support or could reimburse expenses. We need to be careful to avoid even the appearance of conflicts of interest. Ms. Calvin and Mr. Dixon-McDonald were asked to send Ms. Carlson suggestions on board representatives with lived experience.

BOARD MEET & GREET

Ms. Munns introduced Kloi Spencer, Chair of the Youth Action Board (YAB), and Madeline Dohrer, support staff for YAB. The group calls itself "Backbone."

Ms. Dohrer commented that there has been an amazing level of engagement in the YAB. The participating youth are able to behave professionally and be organized from the get go. Youth are already networking with a group in Portland and working towards doing more advocacy with youth on the streets.

Ms. Spencer shared some details about herself. She was homeless for about four years and is currently 17 years old. Being in this group has helped her see more hope by helping others. She shared details about her life on the streets. She is proud of how far out of that situation she has been able to come.

Ms. Munns explained that the YAB is meeting every two weeks. A connection with each other, meals, and an opportunity to connect with resources are provided. These youth are driven to change their lives and get to a safe, stable life situation. Youth are more significantly challenged because they are minors, often without proper identification.

Ms. Spencer added that adults are often unwilling to risk themselves to share a tent with minors, so the minors sleep in the open, which can lead to being assaulted or sexually assaulted. Some youth self-medicate with drugs or alcohol. She has seen a lot of friends end up dead and doesn't want to see any more.

Councilor Hoy stated that he is in awe of Kloi's strength and thanked her for sharing her story.

Ms. Spencer went on to share that in adult camps, people will scream at kids and drive them off. In the best case, they will help because they don't want to be seen as a pedophile. Adults often take the possessions of minors.

Ms. Munns said that youth are generally seen as runaways and that means police attention. There is no good place for youth to camp safely. The continuous stress and fear have an impact on developing brains at a crucial time in their development. Ms. Spencer was asked what needs there are that the board might be able to help with. It was pointed out that minors are not able to do contracts. Ms. Spencer said that it is hard to attend school in person or by Zoom. Phones and phone plans are not available to everyone. Service animals are not accepted in most communal living situations. Cigarettes are important socially but are too much to quit in addition to drugs and alcohol in treatment situations. It seems that the treatment programs do not understand this.

Ms. Dohrer said that things that are needed for distribution are maintenance tools for bikes, scooters, and skateboards; watches; duffel bags for larger items that won't fit in a backpack. The tools are generally overlooked when bikes and scooters are handed out. If a youth's only means of transportation breaks and they don't have the tools to fix it, they are stuck. Superintendent Perry asked Ms. Spencer if she is in school and how schools can provide support. Ms. Spencer replied that she is getting started in an online school. Superintendent Perry added that feedback from youth is important because the district wants to keep helpful programs that were made available because of the pandemic going long term.

Ms. Munns suggested that Superintendent Perry and others get topics they want feedback on to the YAB for discussion.

Ms. Utz mentioned that the immediate needs station, which is available through police, fire, and other providers, will be adding tools. The station is available 24/7. She would like everyone to know.

ADJOURNMENT

Hearing no further business, Councilor Hoy adjourned both meetings at 4:59 p.m.

Janet Carlson, MWVHA Consultant