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

Zoom Meeting

MWVHA BOARD
MEMBERS PRESENT
CHAIR: Mayor Cathy Clark, City of Keizer
Gretchen Bennett for Council President Chris Hoy, City of Salem
Commissioner Danielle Bethell, Marion County
Councilor Shannon Corr, City of Independence
Hank Crapser, Navigator, Law Enforcement Assisted Diversion (LEAD)
Commissioner Jeremy Gordon, Polk County (recusal during YHDP item)
Tribal Councilwoman Lisa Leno, Confederated Tribes of Grand Ronde
Councilor Christopher Lopez, City of Monmouth (recusal during YHDP item)
Christy Perry, Superintendent, Salem-Keizer School District
Josie Silverman-Mendez, Director, Marion-Polk CCO, PacificSource
Leilani Slama, Chief Communications and Community Relations Officer, Salem Health
Kloi Spencer, 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
Jimmy Jones, Executive Director, Mid-Willamette Valley Community Action Agency
Adam Mennig, Director, Academic Development, Chemeketa Community College; Co-Chair, CoC Collaborative Committee
Nicole Utz, Housing Administrator, Salem Housing Authority

MEMBERS ABSENT
Mayor Chuck Bennett, City of Salem
Dan Clem, Executive Director, Union Gospel Mission of Salem
Council President Chris Hoy, City of Salem
Commissioner Colm Willis, Marion County
Rhonda Wolf, CEO, United Way of the Mid-Willamette Valley
David Zepeda, Subject Matter Expert
Christian Edelblute, Executive Director, West Valley Housing Authority
Jason Icenbice, Acting Executive Director, Marion County Housing Authority

ORS 190 ENTITY BOARD
MEMBERS PRESENT
PRESIDENT: Mayor Cathy Clark, City of Keizer
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Commissioner Danielle Bethell, Marion County
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

MEMBERS ABSENT
None

STAFF AND GUESTS PRESENT
Marianne Bradshaw, MWVHA Consultant
Jan Calvin, MWVHA Consultant
Janet Carlson, MWVHA Consultant
Lisa Trauernicht, MWVHA Consultant
Denise VanDyke, Admin. Specialist II, MWVCOG
Ashley Hamilton, Mid-Willamette Valley Community Action Agency
Hailey Hulsey, Mid-Willamette Valley Community Action Agency
Michael Livingston, CANDO Neighborhood Association
Sarah Owens, CANDO Neighborhood Association
Megan Jane Wai, Senator Patterson's office
Derek Wentorf, CSH

CALL TO ORDER
Chair Clark called the joint meeting to order at 3:03 p.m. The presence of a quorum was noted.

CONSENT AGENDA
Chair Clark described the list of Consent Agenda items. Items #1, 2 and 6 were pulled for discussion.

MOTION: By Commissioner Bethell, **SECONDED by** Commissioner Gordon, to **APPROVE ITEMS 3-5 ON THE CONSENT AGENDA, AS PRESENTED.**

1. **APPOINT KATHLEEN CALDER, EASTERSEALS OREGON, TO THE HMIS WORKGROUP AND ACCEPT THE RESIGNATION OF NATALIE DOERFLER**
2. **APPOINT ALISA PARKER, CATHOLIC COMMUNITY SERVICES, TO THE PERFORMANCE & EVALUATION COMMITTEE AND ACCEPT THE RESIGNATION OF NICHOLE DICKEY**
3. **RATIFY COC LETTER OF SUPPORT FOR THE YOUTH HOMELESSNESS DEMONSTRATION PROGRAM**

STAFF REPORTS, INCLUDING THE LATEST COC WORK PLAN AND BUDGET REPORT

Discussion: None.
Motion carried.
IN FAVOR: Clark, Bennett, Bethell, Corr, Gordon, Lopez, Perry, Silverman-Mendez, Slama, Spencer.
OPPOSED: None. **ABSTAINED:** None.

Item 1 – Agenda. Chair Clark requested adding public testimony to the meeting agenda between agenda items B and C, and to add the Notice of Funding Opportunity (NOFO) under Other Business.

MOTION: By Commissioner Gordon, **SECONDED by** Councilor Lopez, to **APPROVE THE AGENDA, AS AMENDED.**
Discussion: None.
IN FAVOR: Clark, Bennett, Bethell, Corr, Gordon, Lopez, Perry, Silverman-Mendez, Slama, Spencer.
OPPOSED: None. **ABSTAINED:** None.

Item 2: June 23, 2022, Joint Board Meeting Minutes. Ms. Spencer pointed out that Ben's pronouns (he/him/his) were not correctly reflected in the minutes. Ms. Carlson will make the corrections.

MOTION: By Commissioner Gordon, **SECONDED by** Ms. Spencer, to **APPROVE THE MINUTES, AS CORRECTED.**

Discussion: None.

IN FAVOR: Clark, Bennett, Bethell, Corr, Gordon, Lopez, Perry, Silverman-Mendez, Slama, Spencer.

OPPOSED: None. **ABSTAINED:** None.

Item 6: Approve a Letter of Support for Community Action's Project Turnkey Grant Application.

Commissioner Bethell requested clarification regarding whether there was information received about the project. Mr. Jones explained that Community Action is looking to acquire properties to move the Veteran's shelter and for a medical respite for homeless persons requiring transitional shelter after receiving medical treatment. A property has been identified. As negotiations are in process, he could not go into much detail, but it is a 76-room hotel. Commissioner Gordon and Councilor Lopez recused themselves from the vote, as they are members of the Community Action Board of Directors.

MOTION: By Commissioner Bethell, **SECONDED by** Councilor Corr, to **APPROVE THE LETTER OF SUPPORT FOR COMMUNITY ACTION'S PROJECT TURNKEY GRANT APPLICATION, AS PRESENTED.**

Discussion: None.

IN FAVOR: Clark, Bennett, Bethell, Corr, Crapser, Perry, Silverman-Mendez, Slama, Spencer.

OPPOSED: None. **ABSTAINED:** None. **RECUSED:** Gordon, Lopez.

WORK PLAN

Chair Clark requested that page 15 of the agenda packet be shared on the screen. She noted that committees are meeting during the summer and work is continuing. She asked Ms. Carlson and Ms. Calvin to present the work plan items. Councilor Lopez thanked staff for their continued dedication to the work.

Councilor Lopez requested that the Zoom Chat feature be turned back on. Chair Clark stated she spoke with her city attorney about the issue and learned that the Chat can serve as a conversation outside the public view. It is important for all to be in the same conversation at the same time. Ms. Slama asked if the Alliance's attorney had been consulted and why this was not discussed with the board before implementing the change? Chair Clark reiterated that it is important to keep everyone focused on the same conversation and be transparent to the public. Councilor Corr asked where the authorization is to not have Chat available. Chair Clark referred to the Oregon public meetings law and said that the Alliance attorney can be consulted. Councilor Corr asked how the public is to comment during a meeting. Chair Clark said that the public can speak during the public comment section of the agenda, or when they are invited to give testimony for a specific item. Commissioner Bethell stated that she is on another public group, and they have been advised to not use the Chat. Superintendent Perry clarified that the Chat is not disabled for school board meetings, but it is not used other than to excuse oneself from the meeting. Chair Clark said that the ORS 190 Entity is a governmental agency, and the board includes elected officials, so the organization must comply with public meetings law. Commissioner Bethell mentioned that, based on the format of this type of Zoom meeting, both public and board members should be able to see the Chat. Chair Clark said that in the past, non-board members contributed to the discussion via Chat, and she did not catch it in time. Councilor Lopez acknowledged the intent to prevent silos from being created but understands the public meetings requirements. Chair Clark said that we need to keep everything clear and be fully engaged in our conversations in the public eye. If we need to take more time to ensure everyone is heard, we can. She thanked the board for a good conversation.

PUBLIC COMMENT
None.

YOUTH HOMELESSNESS DEMONSTRATION PROGRAM (YHDP) DEBRIEF
Chair Clark noted that the ORS 190 Entity held a special meeting last week and thanks were given to Superintendent Perry for drafting a letter of apology to the Youth Action Board members. Superintendent Perry reminded everyone that this is a draft, and the wording needs to be refined. She suggested there could be a link to the youth survey to acknowledge that we are aware of it. The emphasis needs to be on doing better and not assuming that we know the answers or what the youth need, and that we need to listen to the youth.

Ms. Slama said she didn't think that the letter went far enough. She recommended thanking the youth members for continuing to participate on the Youth Action Board and give multiple concrete ways on how to contact board members. Commissioner Bethell suggested that a list of board members with contact information could be provided. She has traded contact information, herself, and has heard from seven of the youth. Chair Clark cautioned that we should not be publishing the email addresses of the youth. Ms. Bradshaw said that she has contact information for all the Youth Action Board members. Chair Clark said she would be glad to have that information, but it is vital to protect privacy, especially of our youth. Ms. Spencer added that there has not been much time to debrief with the Youth Action Board members. There were less than half of the membership at the recent luau get together. At the next Youth Action Board meeting, she wants to have a discussion. Chair Clark asked Ms. Spencer to please pass on what information would be helpful for that conversation from staff or others, and to please speak up if she has any questions at any point. Councilor Lopez said that the letter should include openness, accessibility, and listening. He thanked Superintendent Perry again for the first draft and the opportunity as a group to write the letter. Mr. Dixon-McDonald said that he has some experience with equity work in other organizations and is pleased to see the letter. An apology is important, but more important are actions and not repeating mistakes. Inclusiveness can be hard, and we need to learn from this situation. We have the DEI Subcommittee with folks who have lots of experience. Chair Clark said that it is a great suggestion to capitalize on the collective wisdom of the DEI Subcommittee. Mr. Menning noted that Robert's Rules and inclusion are not always compatible, especially with deadlines added in. We should help people understand how to function within the process. The words used can make a difference and help keep us from being adversarial while working towards "yes." Superintendent Perry asked Ms. Spencer for her opinion on whether the letter will help or hurt as far as the Youth Action Board members are concerned. Ms. Spencer replied that it should help show that the board has identified the situation and is addressing it. The other youth members don't come to Alliance board meetings and hear the conversations. Ms. Slama thanked Mr. Menning for his words. She asked Mr. Wentorf what has worked well for other communities. Mr. Wentorf said that balancing voices is important. Make clear the committee purview transparently and the complexity of decisions. Open communication is important. A foundation of trust is vital and is relationship focused. This is one of the most difficult processes. Also, it should be addressed how, in process, to respond to input received. When done well, it works well. Chair Clark thanked Mr. Wentorf for his input. Mr. Menning asked if there are examples of communities to look at that did this well? Mr. Wentorf said that there are 33 YHDP communities, some of which are still in process. He would like to be able to share the bright spots, but he can only talk about generalities. The short answer is to stay tuned for future news. Ms. Calvin mentioned that the HUD report on the first round was included in the email announcing this meeting. Chair Clark suggested that the HUD report would be good to provide to Ms. Spencer for the Youth Action Board to see and walk through at their meeting.

Items to consider adding to the letter include:

- Acknowledge youth survey
- Thanks to the youth for participating and continuing to serve
- Sincerity of intent to learn and do better; accessibility, openness, listening
- How are they to reach us? Whom shall they speak to? (attachment, board member contact information)

Superintendent Perry, Chair Clark, Councilor Lopez, and Councilor Corr volunteered to work on the letter. Commissioner Bethell recommended emailing the letter with everyone, using a blind copy to avoid a potential serial meeting. The goal is to have the letter to the Youth Action Board for the July 18 meeting.

The board continued with a debriefing discussion. Ms. Calvin referred to the draft Review & Ranking Committee debrief meeting document. This report is a draft because not all the Review & Ranking Committee members were present (four of six) at the debrief meeting. The other two committee members are being asked to provide additional input. Ms. Slama asked if it was premature to review the document at this point. Chair Clark replied that the board can have a conversation now and get additional recommendations later. Ms. Slama recommended looking at the scoring criteria. Chair Clark responded that the scoring tools were provided to the applicants as part of the Request for Proposals documents and cannot be changed once they are published. Scoring criteria depend on grant requirements. Mr. Mennig noted that while exceptions to the process are allowed, a lot of exceptions were made this time in the interest of providing needed services in the community.

Ms. Bradshaw added that the July 18 Youth Action Board meeting will be a training by the technical consultants from CSH. It is possible to have the August 1 meeting include a debriefing. Mr. Wentorf noted that the RFP process is different in different communities. Commissioner Bethell said that perhaps we all need a refresher along with the youth. Chair Clark pointed out that the ORS 190 Entity is governed under Oregon procurement law and Requests for Proposals must be conducted in a transparent and fair method. Ms. Utz acknowledged the difficulties of adhering to HUD regulations while including DEI and other voices. Even people doing the work at Salem Housing Authority day-to-day need to go to the experts sometimes. Mr. Jones agreed that it is very complex, and some smaller organizations do not have the capacity to manage federal requirements. Mr. Wentorf stated that the technical assistance consultants want to hear about pinch points regarding regulations.

Ms. Calvin said that she wants to be clear that the scope of work being requested by the board is envisioned as a full analysis of the Youth Homelessness Demonstration Program local competition process from multiple sources. For example, we need to hear from Backbone about the Backbone experience, not from the entire Youth Action Board about the experience of the three youth members who served on the Review & Ranking Committee. Councilor Lopez thanked Ms. Calvin for her insight. He is interested in hearing from the Review & Ranking Committee members for their point of view directly and possibly other committees. Commissioner Bethell agreed that it is relevant to hear from the committees about their points of view, especially from participants newer to the Request for Proposals process.

Superintendent Perry commented that there have been lots of opinions expressed, but not a board direction. She proposed that the consultants create a plan to evaluate the entire YHDP Request for Proposals process, including both “what we should do” and “what is nice to do” and to send this out by email to the board members for feedback. The plan should also include cost implications, should items require funding beyond the current budget. Board consensus was that this is the action for staff to take. Ms. Carlson added that it would be most respectful to gather feedback from the Youth Action Board by Alliance board members attending a YAB meeting, rather than expecting youth to attend an Alliance

board meeting. Chair Clark recommended setting up a "work session" with the Youth Action Board as soon as possible, if YAB is open to it. Ms. Utz said that the Salem Housing Authority has a large enough space to host that meeting.

Next meetings:

- August 2 – MWVHA Executive Committee-ORS 190 Entity Leadership meeting
- August 11 – MWVHA-ORS 190 Joint Board meeting

In response to Chair Clark's request for information, Ms. Carlson stated that the annual Continuum of Care Notice of Funding Opportunity (NOFO) has not yet been released. HUD has released a special NOFO to address unsheltered homelessness that has an October 20 deadline. There is a meeting scheduled next week with local service providers to discuss whether there is interest and if the CoC has the capacity to conduct the local competition, related to the expectations of the solicitation.

The System Performance presentation was deferred until the August board meeting.

ADJOURNMENT

Hearing no further business, Chair Clark adjourned both meetings at 5:20 p.m.

Janet Carlson, MWVHA Consultant