Mid-Willamette Valley Homeless Alliance
Youth and Young Adult Subcommittee Meeting

Friday, June 17, 2022 I 9:30am - 11am

ZOOM: https://us02web.zoom.us/j/88380935385

A. Introductions and Win Wall! **Marianne Bradshaw**

Share a "win" (or two) of successes, kudos, and/or partner spotlights. Since our meeting is focused on DEI goals, option to add a comment about how/where you see DEI in your work

Marianne Bradshaw: YHDP has been very busy. The youth and young adults who participated on the R&R Committee are amazing. Dedication to carefully reviewing the materials and engaging in conversations. DEI: Want to highlight that equity is top of mind for the YYAs. As we've talked about the vision for the CCP and the scoring tools, it's something they bring up.

Alisa Tobin: This weekend is dad's retirement party. Going to beach in WA. DEI: Agency has a DEI committee. Been using a consultant to help with the efforts. Met with her yesterday. Good plan going forward.

Shanta Frisbee: Drop-in client just got housing. Moving into her own apartment in July. Exciting to traverse this path with her and all her growing experiences and getting her into a safe place.
DEI: Still relatively new. Recently hired someone. Interested to see how trickles down. Always have growing experiences at HOST.

Carol McKiel: City Council in Monmouth. 2nd Pride celebration this last weekend. Last year we had our picnic on the day it was 110. Expanded this year. 21 business agreed to put up a pride flag on Sat 6/4. About 120 people who came out including many young people. They walked around to the businesses and get stickers on a passport. They were walking from one business to another saying, "This is my town that wants me." An amazing positive community event.

Lexi Meyer: Within the next two weeks will have 2 new clients moving in. Beginning of this month, resource center slowed down. But pace has picked up. 12 people here yesterday.

Julie Conn Johnson: McKinney Vento made it through another year of transitions and people being pulled in every direction. Able to meet with more students. Numbers are back up where we expect them to be. DEI: That's what our program is all about. We have students from every demographic and we make sure they are supported. are or what they look like or sound like.

Levi Herrera-Lopez with Mano a Mano: We have been working for about a year to expand number of community health workers. The contracting for that is basically done. We are ready to hire a project coordinator. DEI piece is not only are we focusing on BIPOC, but we are also creating training curriculum in Spanish.

Carla Munns, Contractor and passionate about YYAs. Win is getting to work with HOME to provide behavioral youth support. Working with Alisa. DEI: Able to provide a DEI training to the Salem Chamber a few months back. I was at my husband's bank and someone who attended the training was there. Offered positive feedback on the training and application of the principles. Meaningful!

B. Committee Administration **Shanta Frisbee**

- Approve May Meeting Minutes

Carol McKiel made a motion to approve May minutes. Carla Munns seconded that motion. Passed unanimously.

C. Discuss DEI Goals for YYA Subcommittee **Marianne Bradshaw**

[Referring to Goals/Objective/Action Steps from the CCP]

CCP Action Item:

6.1.1 Hold discussions in each CoC group (Youth Action Board, YYA Subcommittee, and other workgroups) to identify DEI goals for each group

The goal of the today's conversation is to begin this work.

2.3.4 Increase and improve emergency shelter options designed for youth (i.e., developmentally appropriate for minors, supportive and affirming for LGBTQ and gender non-conforming youth, trauma informed for youth survivors of family violence and survivors of human trafficking, etc.)

Alisa Tobin shared reflections on removing barriers and things youth see as barriers. She commented that we see a lot of youth that have some barriers. Taylor's House is considered a low barrier shelter but maybe they don't want to come in. Substance. They may not know that we will work them on those things. Those barriers aren't necessarily things that would exclude them from sheltering. We are also working through barriers for gender non-conforming youth.

Carla Munns commented on the work CBEL is doing. It's a collective impact group of community business and education leaders. They have a racial justice/reconciliation group. Focused on children and families. They are doing community cafes across the region to get input from the community. Developing a housing community from crisis emergency, family unit all the way to transitional housing with wrap around supports, all the way to home ownership. They are doing a lot of work around DEI.

6.5 Develop strategies to address the needs of special populations such as LGBTQ+, gender non-conforming, minors, justice-involved, Foster Care involved, and survivors of sexual trafficking and exploitation

Carol McKiel brought up 6.5 and commented on it. She highlighted the opportunity to develop strategies to address the needs. Lack of awareness on the part of community leaders about what youth are experiencing. They don't know enough about the difficulties the youth face. Some people may assume the kids are taken care of because there's foster care. There is an opportunity here to educate community leaders about the needs of youth experiencing homelessness.

Julie Conn Johnson agreed on the importance of bringing in the youth perspective. She commented that when the CoC was first set up there was so much focus on adults and visible homelessness. Taylor's House happened with many layers of support from the community. . The more voices at the table, the better.

Levi Herrera-Lopez shared about the work at Mano a Mano and offered great perspective. He explained that they work primarily with Latino youth, specifically Latino youth you are disconnected from the system. As he shared about his work and point of view, he shared the following:

- Culture. A lot of them have received messages that their culture is not an asset but rather something that can be harmful to them. We try to counter all of those negative messages. Use their culture and identity as an asset. Not another box we have to consider but part of who they are.
- Intersectionality. They are not only experiencing houselessness, but also LGBTQ, color. How have the experienced systemic trauma on top of the individual trauma? Layers.
- Direct service and navigation. Yes, we need to give them a safe place to stay. Make positive changes. But there may still may other systems in the community that continue to inflict trauma beyond housing. Approach is to meet the need, provide the direct service, and also try to look upstream and downstream. What are the systems that will be impacting them?
- CoC and multitude of partners. The benefit of the CoC is the multitude of partners who are here. You can actually connect with city government leaders and providers.
- Couch surfing, domestic issues. Most youth are experiencing houselessness as couch surfing. Dealing with domestic issues that are causing them to look for a safe place to stay for a couple of nights. And then, might go back.
- Challenge the idea that institutionalized services are great for youth. So if a youth becomes involved in the juvenile system, then we see that as a good thing. But that hasn't worked from the youth I've worked with. If a youth has to be charged with a crime so they can get services, that's a bad thing. We've got to really make sure that we have a strong community base network of programs that are not institutionalizing youth. Not criminalizing their behaviors.
- Listen and be humble: The people we are working with sometimes say things we don't want to hear. We need to be humble and listen and see what we can change.

The Subcommittee members expressed appreciation to Levi for his many insights and great work. Carol McKiel asked if there an agency doing this type of youth focused work in Polk County. Levi mentioned Eco Youth Program back in 2000.

Hailey Hulsey suggested conducting a needs assessment. She was in a meeting with other case managers who were discussing doing a survey or a study about "what we need as case managers." We could also do a needs assessment among youth/young adults and hear from specific populations. We could ask Backbone and youth in general.

Julie Conn Johnson shared that they are in the midst of the RFP process for a Navigator to work with families they are working with. She added that it has been piecemeal but now will have a one stop shop.

There was mention that the start of school is an opportunity for assemblies and packets and posters. Giving youth and young adults low barrier ways to connect.

D. Program or Client Needs **Alisa Tobin**

[None discussed]

E. Follow Up Tasks / Recap / Closing **Alisa Tobin**

- July meeting was planned to be in-person on 7/13 but that in-person meeting is being rescheduled.
- July meeting will be on zoom, Friday 7/15 9:30-11:00am