Mid-Willamette Valley Homeless Alliance

CoC Collaborative Committee

November 16, 2022 Minutes

1. **Welcome & Agenda Review –** Ian Dixon-McDonald welcomed everyone and ask people to enter their name in the Chat and an email address if we don't have it. People new to the group introduced themselves. Kudos were shared in appreciation of people throughout the region.

2. **Meeting Minutes –** Adam Mennig moved approval of the October meeting minute; Jayne Downing seconded; approved by consensus

3. **Polk County Rural Homeless Prevention Plan**
   Brent DeMoe, director of Polk County Family and Community Outreach provided an overview of collaborative efforts to address homelessness in rural Polk County, noting that this is a "manageable area" with a population of 50,000 people. They have formed an advisory committee that includes elected officials and city managers from throughout the area and Ashley Hamilton from Community Action Agency. They will be creating a 5-year strategic plan, which he anticipates will focus 80% on prevention and 20% on working with people who are unsheltered. Polk County has contracted with Marianne Bradshaw to assist. Beyond the strategic plan (due in May 2023), the role of the advisory committee is to develop financial sustainability for the efforts.

   Brent described a range of existing services, including co-location resource centers in Dallas and Monmouth-Independence, foodbank, rental and utility assistance, Coordinated Entry, staff who serve as resource connectors, case managers, and OHP assisters. The cities of Monmouth and Independence have contracted with Polk County to provide a range of services. Family Promise recently housed two staff in the Monmouth-Independence center.

   Polk County funds the area's warming centers, which operate Thursday-Sunday, regardless of weather conditions. The Family and Community Outreach Department also manages the Service Integration Teams (SIT), prevention and positive youth development, and school-based mental health. The department has recently added a position to provide "robust case management" for people experiencing homelessness. Ben Smith introduced himself and described those services. In addition, Polk County FCO recently signed a contract with West Valley Housing Authority to have FCO do case management and provide financial assistance to housing authority clients.

   Brent shared an example of one church providing a house to serve as a transitional shelter for one family at a time as one small thing that can happen in rural communities. He stated that Polk County plans to do many small things.

   Related Resources:
   HB 4123 Pilots :: League of Oregon Cities (orcities.org)

4. **City of Salem Protection Against Discrimination based on Housing Status**
   Gretchen Bennett shared the news that the City of Salem recently added protection against discrimination based on housing status to the Salem Revised Code. The effort was championed by the Salem Human Rights and Relations Advisory Commission after reviewing survey results about

people experiencing discrimination based on being homeless. The protections go into effect 11/24/22. For more information, visit humanrights@cityofsalem.net

5. **Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion – Equity Lens**
   Last month the Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion Subcommittee introduced an "equity lens" for use throughout the CoC. DEI Subcommittee chair Jesse Peone III invited people to join breakout rooms to discuss ways to use this tool. The group agreed to put the topic on the December agenda to consider recommending that the CoC Board adopt the Equity Lens. Adam also mentioned the tool might be useful to assist in shaping agendas for meetings.

   Related Resources:
   COVID-19 Homeless System Response: Racial Trauma and Trauma-Informed Services (hudexchange.info)

6. **PIT Count**
   Plans are underway for the 2023 PIT Count. Lisa Trauernicht provided highlights, answered questions, and describe ways people can be involved this year.

   Related Resources:
   Point-in-Time (PIT) Count 2023 – Mid-Willamette Valley Homeless Alliance (mwvhomelessalliance.org)

7. **Announcements**

   November 22 – Polk County Resource Academy

   November 30 – YHDP Summit

   4:00-6:30 p.m. with a meal at Salem Housing Authority, 360 Church St. SE in Salem.
   Learn about and help shape the implementation of four local projects for youth and young adults, 18-24 years old and under age 18, funded through the Marion-Polk Youth Homelessness Demonstration Program.
   RSVP: https://www.signupgenius.com/go/70A0B4AAEAC22A0FD0-yhdp2

What's Next

December 21	January 18	February 9th (3:00-5:00 p.m.)
• Public Health Focus • Mini-Training: PIT Count	• New Services Focus • Mini-Training: TBA	Joint Meeting with CoC Board *(no meeting 2/15/23)*