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

Friday, August 19, 2022 9:30-11:00am

A. **Introductions and Win Wall!**
   a. **Shanta Frisbee.** HOST Program Manager. Said goodbye to a client this morning. Has a place and a job in Portland. Has been on his own for 3-4 months. Bittersweet. We've said goodbye to 4 clients in the past 6 months. For the first time in a while, we have a waiting list.
   b. **Heather Pascoe.** Willamette Health Council**.** System of Care meeting. Shout out to Karen Perkins with Marion County for great facilitation.
   c. **Laurie Shaw Casarez.** City of Salem, youth development. Finished our summer service leadership program. 12 high school students in it this year. Did an amazing job. Partnered with City Parks, wanted to work on building more pollinator gardens. Worked on 17 huge garden beds at the Civic Center. Will integrate with Isaac's Room, ongoing partnership.
   d. **Carol McKiel,** Monmouth City Council**.** Wonderful family vacation with kids and grandkids in San Diego. Monmouth's 2nd Annual Celebration for Hispanic/Latino month. This year we are going to have a celebration on Main Street Park on 9/24 from 12-5. There will be a band and a dance group. Jimmy Jones came to Monmouth City Council Meeting a month ago and gave a presentation. Information was well received. Very excited about the great work.
   e. **Julie Conn Johnson.** McKinney Vento program with Salem-Keizer School district. Nice to see staff back. In the midst of hiring two people. Interviewing great candidates next week. Put out an RFP to hire a service navigator to assist families connect with services. Having students back in school this fall. Administrators are actually listening to the need to have outreach to students experiencing homelessness. Being able to assist with pencil pouches or information packets.
   f. **Philip Blea.** Marion County Human Services. Post-covid it's back to be back to in-person services. Group activities with young adults. Everyone has been impressed with attendance. They're actually coming! Appreciative of the engagement. Youth are

excited to be back to services and able to do some typical activities.

g. **Allan Rainwater.** Marion County Human Services, Crisis Center. Looking forward to and trying to add staff. 11 applicants. Position interviewing for today. Getting ready to go back into the schools.
h. **Matt Herbert.** Church @ the Park. Seen several people transition, families with children. Hoping for another win on Monday. We were originally going to have a Safe Parking spot on Front St. Asking City of Salem to reallocate funds to a transitional housing program on Turner Rd. for young adults 18-24.
i. **Carla Munns.** C-Suite. Adulting 101 classes. Had a bunch of guest speakers who came in and talked about credit scores and how to apply for an apartment and budgeting, conflict resolution. Attendees paid a stipend, treated it like a job. Youth were really engaged. Diverse group. Maxed out registration in two days. 26 youth. Only 5 of them were white.
j. **Alisa (Tobin) Nelson.** Home Youth Services. Shout out to team. I was gone for two weeks. Team held things together for two weeks while I was gone. Kudos to my team. Yesterday was my first official day back. Got married! Moved!
k. **Lexi Meyer.** Resource Center and Outreach Coordinator for HOST. Two weeks ago we had a client who has been accessing services for a couple of years. He secured housing with a roommate through Salem Housing. Able to reconnect with his mother (has had a broken relationship with her). Was able to talk through issues. Said he forgives her for how he was raised and what he went through. Seeing him be able to move past two big things that have been big burdens on him. Exciting!

B. **Committee Administration** **Shanta Frisbee**

Approve July Meeting Minutes: Motion from Carol McKIel and second from Heather Pascoe. July minutes approved unanimously.

C. Discussion Topics All

⇒ Back-to-School packets/pencil pouches/QR Code

Julie: Typically going into school years we are doing a personal outreach. The idea last year to do pencil pouches for each teacher. A real push for ways to use the funding that would be outreach. Identification. Sustain the students. Personally and quickly. We've set aside some funding to assist with. Posters had been discussed. My team is on board with that. A poster into all schools. And funding for the pouches themselves. For the Salem-Keizer school area. There's so much going on. So much happening. Staffing. The faster we can get this done, the better this

off this will be. I'm asking that funding from my budget can be documented as gong to Salem-Keizer schools. That might free up other funding to go out to other schools like in Dallas, Monmouth, Woodburn.

Alisa: Last year sent out pouches to every teacher. Distributed pouches last year to teachers. We are on a tight timeframe to order things, get them collated and then distributed. Maybe we do a resource fair in the spring. Get a date on the calendar. Resource Fair could be at HOME or at a school. Having supplies or resources for youth. Open House

Laurie asks: Last year was everything ordered online and waited for shipping? How can we speed it up with local purchasing

Julie: School district warehouse. Might be able to pick up some. I have some on hand. Don't know how many. We also might be able to go on a scavenger run through local stores and pick them up also. The timeliness is important.

Matt Herbert suggested: Referral process on the website for families with children.

Shanta commented: We had school counselors calling at the end of the school year about students who would experience homelessness upon graduation.

Plan: Marianne/Alisa/Hailey to work out a plan offline

⇒ Backbone Recruitment

Marianne announced: Several Backbone members have resigned for various reasons including moving. Currently have 13 members and can have up to 20. Opportunity to recruit additional members. Particularly looking to add members from rural areas to offer representation from across our counties. Looking to YYA members to get info out to youth and young adults ages 11-24 with lived experience of homelessness who live primarily in Marion or Polk counties. One opportunity for young people to get info is to attend a Recruiting Party on 9/19 5-7pm at Howard Street Charter School.

C. **Presentation: Outreach 101 Lexi Meyer E. Program or Client**

Shanta: Introduced Lexi. Explained that we'd had a workbook from Street Works for a while and found it useful. Knew they offered training. Lexi attended and is applying what she learned and becoming a leader in that position.

Lexi: Attended a 40 hour training over two weeks through Street Works. I was the only person on the training from Oregon. Pretty everyone else was in Minnesota. Was really cool to share

how things are here in Oregon. I blew the trainer's mind several times with how things are in Oregon. I mentioned Backbone and he wanted to have a whole conversation about Backbone. It was really cool to learn and share. Similar with housing frustrations.

What is outreach? Bringing services and information to people where there are. Can be the spaces where they live or spaces where they hang out. In Salem, Transit is a big hot spot for youth. It's a good space to be able to connect with them. Provide resources to community partners who are the local hang out spots. I go down to Transit and talk to the security guards. Are you seeing big youth population? Here are some flyers. If you see youth, feel free to call us. Networking with agencies as well as the youth themselves. Depends on your city geography where you will do outreach. Here in Salem, it's all over the place. Camps are constantly moving. We've been seeing more youth coming from couch surfing situations. Typically when they are in the camps they are a little more hidden. Youth are resilient. One of biggest struggles is finding youth.

Personal safety is #1. When you are going out, the golden rule is to go out at least in pairs of two. He suggested an approach to Outreach that I hadn't thought about it. If you are going out with your partner, decide who will be the main contact person and who will be the secondary person. The secondary person pays attention to surroundings and have a code word if something changes. One person interacting with youth, partner may observe some other people coming over and it may be a drug deal about to go down. Important to be aware of your surroundings. That's why the networking piece is huge too.

Wallace Marine Park past the softball field, don't go out there unless you are in a big group. Lots more issues back there, weapons. Not a safe situation for even a pair of two. Know your city and know where the safe places are and aren't. If someone is interested and new, need to partner up with someone experienced who knows. For me, take into account that I'm a female. I love going out with Be Bold Street Ministries and going out with one of the bigger guys.

Dynamics of street culture. When you are out there, recognize the different dynamics of street culture. Some people aren't going to be the nicest because they are in that survival mindset. Understand gang affiliations in local area. Recognize the signs of trafficking, of a pimp dynamic. A few years ago, the previous outreach worker Laney teamed up with Center for Hope and Safety. Went out with their trafficking person. Got educated on the local pimps. Learn and be able to recognize them on the streets. If you walk up and they are zipping up all the kids in the tent, that might be a sign of something. Understanding when it may or may not be a good time to approach people. Keep your safety in mind and also their safety.

Guiding principles to help youth overcome homelessness.

- Being journey oriented. Realizing where they came from and where their journey is leading them. Being trauma informed.
- Creating trusting youth/adult relationships (we are trying to show them a different way).
- Being strength based (Looking at what they are good at – how we can encourage them toward their strengths). Not sitting in what they can't do but what they can.
- Motivational interviewing.
- Positive Youth Development model.
- Collaboration (always working with the youth and what they feel is best for them, not bringing in adultism and doing what we think is best. Need to recognize what they are wanting)

Planting seeds. Successful outreach doesn't always show results right away. Being aware of stages of change. Contemplation phases. When is a good time to intervene and when is a good time to keep planting seeds. Making interactions at the community agencies, different businesses.

Respect People's Homes. When you are on street outreach. Recognize that the spaces you are going into are people's homes. Treat their space as their home. Announcing yourself. Is it ok if I come up to your tent and speak with you. Be respectful. If they say no, say ok. Do you want me to leave a little hygiene kit here? Keep that in mind.

Networking with Community Partners/Businesses: Street outreach has a mix of boots on the ground and networking. It depends on your agency too and if you are receiving grants. Where you put your focus. If you are required a certain number of hours to be out on the street. At HOST, we try to do a mix of streets and networking. Now we are trying to make more network connections. Educating the community that wea re here. A lot of our referrals are coming from community partners. We aren't seeing as many youth on the streets now.

Story from Trainer: Went out on outreach with a partner who had a reputation as a great outreach worker. Ended up stopping at a barber shop. She just sits there for half an hour chit chatting with the barber. Asked questions like, "Hey does your condom dispenser need to be refilled?" She had created a situation with this local barber where she provided stuff for safe sex. When he had youth coming in and was doing haircuts, he could refer. If he had a youth there when she popped in. Networking in those spaces. Trainer at first wondered why are we at a barber shop but then saw it was really effective.

What do you carry? Backpack with supplies. Hygiene kits with toothbrushes, hand sanitizer, etc. It also depends on the season. In the winter we carry gloves and scarves and hats and hand warmers. If it's been raining for 5 days, we take socks. With Food Share, we randomly get bags

of dog food. When I see dogs out there, that tugs at my heart strings. I like to make sure we have ziplock bags of dog food with our stuff. People are happy to get food for their dogs. Feminine hygiene products. First aid items. I'm not medically trained so I won't do wound care but we do have a medical team.

Young people with an older partner. A lot of them have an older partner who can't come to our resource center. Partner would go to ARCHES. She was much younger. Reassured both that it was a safe space. Partner could walk her down. Come outside of HOST to check in.

Meetings about Outreach ebb and flow. Arches did a collaboration meeting where every other week or once a month. All get on the call to talk about what they are seeing. If they are needing help. A bigger team somewhere. If anybody has concerns. Outreach communication on Basecamp.

Matt commented: Arches outreach team gives out more resources like tents, supplies. Church @ the Park is going out and getting people connected with our shelters. We are trying to be more housing focused. Case management. Connecting them with housing assessments.

Alisa commented: Trying to expand. Not only in Salem. Doing some in Polk County. Also, there's a need to train outreach workers on how to identify and engage with unsheltered minors, as they are often "protected" by their street family within camps

Group Comments/Posts in Chat to thank Lexi!! Great job!!

F. Follow Up Tasks / Recap / Closing Alisa Tobin Next Meeting: In-person Fri 9/16 10:15am-12:00pm at Salem Public Library, Anderson A, with focus on CCP goals/objectives/action items and opportunity to support distribution of back-to-school materials