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

Friday, October 21, 2022 9:30-11:00am on Zoom

DRAFT MINUTES

A. Introductions and Win Wall!

- **Shanta Frisbee, HOST**. Inspiring to onboard a new client on Monday, and she already had a job interview on Wednesday. We've had at least 4 interviews this week.
- **Tricia Frizzell, Salem Health.** Yesterday did a history of Salem tour and learned a ton and connected with some new people and bragged about YYA. Being able to dig in at the hospital on the impact and uses of fentanyl. Bring it back to the table after the loss of David. Catalyst for more conversation. Doing a conference on fentanyl in the spring. Started automatically including fentanyl in the blood screens. Collecting this data will help us make data-informed decisions.
- **Julie Conn Johnson, S-K McKinney Vento.** In the last two weeks, we went from 50 unaccompanied youth to 81 identified in the school district. Sad to see such a high # in the school district this early. But positive that the word is getting out that they can reach out and get help. Attendance specialist is doing awesome. Graduation person has hit the ground running. It's the perfect fit. So happy to have that.
- **Laurie Shaw Casarez, City of Salem Youth Development.** So great to be able to gather youth together again. Been great to start to see youth come back in for shoe cleaning sessions and to serve on committees. Spurs you on, energizes you, reminds you why you do what you do.
- **Kat Fox, PacificSource.** New to YYA. Learning a lot in new role. And it's Friday!
- **Alisa Nelson, HOME.** It's Friday and tomorrow is a long day of football!
- **Lexi Meyer, HOST.** We've been working with a Drop-In client for about a month. We got her set up for an eye appointment. There were some issues with her OHP. Got her OHP switched over, rescheduled appointment. She did most of it on her own.
- **Jan Calvin, CoC Staff Consultant.** Going to a meeting in-person! Monday night went to Backbone meeting at HOST and got to participate with Backbone and the providers. It was great. The energy. The people. Great way to kick off the week.
- **Heather Pascoe, Willamette Health Council.** Seeing a lot of growth in a youth from the youth council. At first was really shy. He stuck it out through the ups and downs of the past two years. He has just really blossomed. Got a new computer. On his own and in an apartment. Been popping up and turning his camera on. Cool to see him actively engage and make connections. Also, kicking off strategic planning.
- **Sean Robertson, Church @ the Park.** Backbone meeting on Monday. Just getting into the youth culture in Salem. Hearing the Backbone members talk about their stories.

Their adversity. To own it as if they are adults. Inspiring. We got really good information for our outreach team.

- **Matt Herbert, Church @ the Park.** Working with outreach team.
- **Rory Love, Backbone.** New microshelters are being built, serving 18-24. Popped up on my Instagram and made me so happy. So amazing how we made that happen!
- **Marianne Bradshaw, CoC Staff Consultant.** Backbone meeting Monday evening. The providers asked great questions and appreciated the input from the youth. The young people shared their experiences and perspectives and advice. They supported each other. I just sat in the back smiling because felt like how YHDP is supposed to be.

B. Board Administration

September Meeting Minutes: motion to approve the September minutes made by Heather Pascoe, seconded by Lexi Meyer, unanimously approved.

C. Recap: Authentic Youth Collaboration Training

Joint work session held on 10/19 with Backbone members and MWVHA Board members. Training session led by Angel Brown of True Colors United. Slides available here: https://docs.google.com/presentation/d/1ai6IdDX07dW7zN1evDAvsZU3yCQeYqVX/edit?usp=sharing&ouid=109802619031523482238&rtpof=true&sd=true

Rory from Backbone shared some highlights about the training. They talked about adultism (see slide 20) and explained this is when older adults discriminate against youth because they are younger. Our culture has an attitude of "older and wiser" but the youth on Backbone have expertise. Shouldn't dismiss people just because they are young.

Tricia commented that adultism isn't about a clash between the generations. It's not about "us vs. them" or putting the youth on top, it's about mutual respect.

Marianne put up a slide (17) asking "What do YYA Need? Authentic Partnerships, Tools and Training, Clarity of Roles/Responsibilities, Understanding of the Work." Marianne commented she really liked this slide with specific things to do to support YYAs in our collaboration. Rory highlighted the importance of coaching and guidelines.

Laurie also attended the training on 10/19 and commented that she was excited when she saw slide 17. She highlighted that it's important older adult partners take the time to explain the work and give tools and training and be approachable for questions. Don't make assumptions.

D. Update: YHPD Projects

Transitional Shelter Village for 18-24 year olds
Update by Matt Herbert and Sean Robertson, Church @ the Park

Matt Herbert explained that Church @ the Park is working on a micro-shelter village for 18-24 year olds. Opening will likely be in February. Have funds to help with rental deposit assistance. Will offer support with getting GED and also to connect to a primary care physician.

In response to a question from Kat about mental heath supports, Sean introduced himself as the resident psychologist. He commented that they will offer mental health services on site as residents are requesting it. Available to people now that connect with through outreach. Goal is to offer 1:1 as well as group supports. Funded for peer wellness specialists.

Jan indicated that the overnight shelter is coming in a few months but that the outreach part of the project has already launched.

Matt agreed and shared that they have an outreach team with three members. Just this week the team went through the camps. Not a lot of 18-24 yr olds at Wallace Marine Park. Focusing on transit downtown. Tons of young adults there. Outreach at this point is less resource focused and about building relationships. They want to connect with people. Might sit down at a coffee shop. Help them start walking through the process of getting ID and documentation.

Housing Options for 116-24 in Polk County (TH-RRH project)
Update by Alisa (Tobin) Nelson

Alisa shared from the conversation with Backbone on Monday. The YYAs gave feedback we can put into practice with current and future projects. The next step is submitting an application for funding. They are also wanting to engage the community – local leaders, school boards.

They are looking for a site. Ideally it would be a house with some acreage or some land next to it where they could build the RRH site. Want a situation where youth can move directly from TH to RRH. Also working to partner with other landlords in the community. Youth choice.

Julie asked where in Polk County they are looking? West Salem is in the Salem-Keizer school district but the rest of the county is not. Alisa responded that they are looking in Monmouth or Independence.

Coordinated Entry from Youth 16-24
Update by Alisa (Tobin) Nelson

Alisa gave some foundational information. Coordinated entry is the assessment individuals take to enter into housing system. The questionnaire that's being used is not very youth-friendly. Designed more around adults who have experienced chronic homelessness. Part of this project is to develop a system that is youth friendly.

Alisa went on to say that right now they are working on policy & procedures. Working with community partners. Looking for input from YYAs on things that work and things that don't work. How can we design and develop a system that does work.

Marianne reminded the group that Caitlin Campbell from Portland was a guest speaker at the July YYA meeting. She shared their intake interviews. They have an interview tailored for young

adults 18-24 that seems pretty straightforward. But their process for <18 is convoluted and complex. We have an opportunity to learn from other communities about how they are doing this. And we also have Backbone members who will give us excellent feedback about it.

Alisa shared that at the recent Backbone meeting, they asked, "What barriers have you experienced with housing intake and interviews?" The youth gave them great feedback! Youth aren't bombarded with a bunch of questions right at the very beginning. Maybe let them sleep a night before going super deep. It's intimidating to share your story all of a sudden when you first meet someone. They also gave feedback about creating a more trauma informed space. Cozy. Inviting. Maybe meet first somewhere that's public. Sparked a lot of great ideas for current intake processes.

Laurie asked, "Who is leading this?" And Alisa answered they are working closely with Arches and Jan.

Support Services and Polk County Outreach
Update by Alisa (Tobin) Nelson

Alisa described this project as an outreach hub or a resource access center for youth. They asked Backbone, "How you find out about services?" And the youth listed: Colorful advertisement, business cards, posters. They asked for materials that don't blast out to people that they are a youth experiencing homelessness. Talked quite a bit about social media, mostly Tik Tok and Instagram.

Alisa acknowledged that there's some stigma when "Drop-In Center" and "Homeless" are used together. They are reframing how they explain it so it's not as scary.

A question was raised about staffing. Will they be hiring new people or reassigning current staff? Alisa answered that tit will likely be both.

Another question was raised about the location. Alisa said it could be Monmouth/Independence but they don't know yet. They are figuring that out with input from community partners and Backbone.

E. Follow Up Tasks/Recap/Closing
Next Meeting: Fri Nov 18, 10:15-11:45am in person (w/ zoom option)
Northwest Human Services Clinic in West Salem
Cascade Conference Room
1233 Edgewater St NW, Salem, OR 97304

Because it's a medical facility, you need to wear a mask as you come in through the lobby. Once you are in the conference room, you may choose to leave your mask on or to take it off.