

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

Friday, November 18, 2022 10:15-11:45am in-person  
Cascade Conference Room, NWHS West Salem Clinic  
and on Zoom

*11/18/22 Draft Minutes*

**A. Introductions & Win Wall**

Alisa (Tobin) Nelson, HOME  
Ana Lopez, Church @ the Park  
Bianca, Church @ the Park  
Calvin Smith, Church @ the Park  
Carol McKiel, City of Monmouth  
Domonique G, Backbone  
Esther Nelson-Garrett, Safety Compass  
Gretchen Bennett, City of Salem  
Heather Pascoe, Willamette Health Council  
Julie Conn Johnson, Salem-Keizer Schools  
Kat Fox, PacificSource  
Laurie Shaw Casarez, City of Salem  
Lexi Meyer, HOST  
Lisa Trauernicht, CoC Staff Consultant  
Marianne Bradshaw, CoC Staff Consultant  
Matt Herbert, Church @ the Park  
Sean Robertson, Church @ the Park  
Shanta Frisbee, HOST  
Theo G, Backbone

**B. Committee Administration**

Motion to approve the 10/21/22 meeting minutes was made by Alisa Nelson, seconded by Shanta Frisbee, and approved unanimously.

**C. Announcements**

**Housing Status added to Human Rights Code in Salem - Gretchen Bennett**

Gretchen shared that Housing Status has been added to the City of Salem's human rights code. City Council approved at their meeting on 10/24 and it will be effective 11/24. It expressly prohibits discrimination on the basis of housing status. She shared that this work originated several years ago when Marianne Bradshaw's Western Oregon Class was doing surveys for the City of Salem's Human Rights Commission about experiences of discrimination. They found that experiencing discrimination is nearly universal for the city's population who are experiencing homelessness.

Marianne shared that it was an eye-opening experience for students to sit and talk to Salem residents who are experiencing homelessness and hear them share how people yell at them or look at them in the

grocery store. Many told students that they experience discrimination “every day.” She expressed that it has been an honor to be a small part of the long and dedicated effort to bring this change to Salem’s code. She also mentioned that most city and state codes do not include housing status and that she thinks it exciting that Salem is at the forefront on this.

Gretchen thanked the YYA for welcoming her. She is working to get the word out about this change and has made similar announcements at Backbone and at the Collaborative Committee. She asked YYA members to please help get the word back to the Human Rights Commission when there are instances of discrimination on the basis of housing status. They are looking to understand how and when this is happening, and they are equipped to help.

Website with contact info:

<https://www.cityofsalem.net/government/equity-accessibility/human-rights-resources>

### **PIT Count (1/24, 25, 28) - Lisa Trauernicht**

PIT Count 2023 is coming! It’s a really important time each year to gather data about homelessness in our counties. Shannon Corr and Danielle Bethell are the PIT Count Workgroup co-chairs. This will be a “all hands on deck” event. Lisa expressed that gathering input from the youth & young adult population requires a different approach and she is coming to YYA to ask for assistance.

Volunteers came forward to form a PIT YYA work group: Matt Herbert from Church @ the Park, Lexi Meyer from HOST. Alisa from HOME said they would participate, and she would get back to Lisa on who. Marianne Bradshaw asked about someone from Polk County and requested that she be included in the correspondence until a Polk County representative is identified.

Last year, a Google Form was put together with a link that could be sent directly to youth and young adults so that they could self-administer the PIT Count interview. And they could share the link with their friends. Responses were then manually entered into the Counting Us App. The question was raised if we will do that again. There is interest in an option like that and the PIT YYA work group will work on this. A comment was also made about asking Backbone members to go out with PIT Count Volunteers.

West Coast Convening is hosting a webinar about YYA efforts for PIT Count called “Youth Counts.” It will be on Tuesday 12/13 at 1:00-2:00pm. YYA subcommittee members were encouraged to attend and to be active in the chat with questions and ideas. Here is the link to register:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/meeting/register/tZUlfu-uqzwwHtUKmh9cIAmkTqeX1EEWUunZ>

PIT Count will need lots of volunteers. There will be a web-based training to complete. Sign up here to volunteer:

<https://mwvhomelessalliance.org/point-in-time-pit-count/>

### **D. Coordinated Community Plan: Action Items Addressing Trafficking**

Marianne introduced this portion of the meeting by referring to the Coordinated Community Plan. She indicated that there are several action items about trafficking. They are:

3.6.2 Train outreach workers on human trafficking so they can identify red flags and refer to services in a trauma-informed way

6.5.6 Identify/create a common screening tool for providers to use to identify survivors of sexual trafficking and exploitation and refer individuals to a confidential advocate

6.5.7 Identify additional ways to increase YYA access to trafficking support

YYA invited Esther Nelson-Garrett of Safety Compass to come today to help us develop an action plan and figure out how we can make progress on these action items.

[esther@safetycompass.org](mailto:esther@safetycompass.org)

<https://safetycompass.org/>

Esther began by introducing herself and Safety Compass. Safety Compass extends hope and navigational support to survivors of commercial sexual exploitation. They have a 24-hour survivor support line.

A request was made for a one-pager about trafficking. A request was also made for stickers or other materials that can be distributed. A question was asked about where Safety Compass provides services. They are in Marion, Clackamas, and Washington counties but not currently in Polk County. Questions were asked about a screening tool. Esther explained that there is a screening tool that has been tested and is in use by Clackamas County law enforcement. There are other tools as well.

There was a request to do a training. It's one of our CCP action items and the group felt it is needed and a smart place to start. The first hour of the training will be "Trafficking 101." The second hour of the training will be more about screening—what to look for, what to ask and how to ask it. A suggestion was made that in follow up to the training, Safety Compass go out with the outreach teams to do some hands-on training and application. A request was also made that the training be offered both in-person and online to allow more school-based folks to participate.

Training will be:

Wednesday 1/4/23

12:30-2:30pm

In-person and on Zoom (link TBA)

In-person: Cascade Conference Room

Northwest Human Services Clinic in West Salem

1233 Edgewater St NW, Salem, OR

#### **E. Follow Up Tasks/Recap/Closing**

Alisa thanked Marianne for her work as staff support. Her contract concludes 11/30.

Next YYA Meeting: 12/16 9:30-11:00am on Zoom (look for a new link)

Training on Trafficking Awareness & Prevention: 1/4/23 12:30-2:30, in person and on Zoom