

# Mid-Willamette Valley Homeless Alliance

## PERFORMANCE AND EVALUATION COMMITTEE

**Tuesday, March 7, 2023**

### MEETING MINUTES

ATTENDANCE		
Member	Organization	Attended
Chair: Michael Livingston	CANDO Neighborhood Association	Yes
Chris Berg	Oregon Housing and Community Services	Yes
Dan Clem	Union Gospel Mission	No
Julie Conn-Johnson	24J McKinney Vento Program	Yes
Margie Lowe	Marion-Polk Early Learning HUB	Yes
Josie Silverman Mendez	Willamette Health Council	No
Aryn Walker	Marion County Health and Human Services	Yes
<b>Consultants and Guests</b>	Janet Carlson, MWVHA Consultant	
	Jan Calvin, MWVHA Consultant	
	Commissioner Jeremy Gordon, Polk County, Alliance Chair	
	Ami Maceira, Willamette Workforce Partnership	
	Jimmy Jones and Ashley Hamilton, Mid-Willamette Valley Community Action Agency	
	Marianne Bradshaw, Consultant, Polk County	
	Oregon Housing & Community Services: Lise Stuart, Hunter Belgard, Brandy Bordos, Carolyn Struve, Rosalee Jurado, Cody Peak, Janis Short, Amanda Ogle	

### 1. Welcome and Introductions

Michael Livingston called the meeting to order at 3:02 pm.

### 2. Committee Administration

Approval of 2/7/22 Minutes: Margie Lowe moved approval of the minutes. Julie Conn-Johnson seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.

Conflict of Interest/Code of Conduct Annual Forms Reminder: Janet Carlson congratulated the committee in having 100% submission of the annual forms.

Committee Membership Discussion: Michael asked committee members to be thinking about potential new committee members to recruit.

April CoC-Funded Program Site Reviews: Janet reminded committee members of the sign-up opportunity for site reviews. Michael requested videoconferencing options. Margie asked for addresses to the site locations to estimate travel time required.

### 3. ESG-Funded Programs

Guests in attendance made self-introductions. Jimmy Jones launched the discussion by explaining that the Mid-Willamette Valley Community Action Agency is monitored every year as the agency receives a large number of grants. However, the ESG-funded project has not been monitored each year.

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Lise Stuart described the Oregon Housing & Community Services (OHCS) process for fiscal monitoring, including General Ledger sampling and employee compensation sampling.

Cody Peak discussed the use of ESG funds for ARCHES day center, noting that ESG funds have been more flexible because of COVID. He has been working with consultant Rex Porter to develop a more formal monitoring process. Focus has been on on-site fire inspections, health inspections, building inspections. In response to Margie's question about what going back to normal looks like, Cody replied that the OHCS goal is to keep the focus similar to what it has been, working with the program teams.

Jimmy cited the House Bill 2100 Task Force, which is recommending an increase in state funding for state homelessness programs.

Michael noted that the HUD manual is vague on performance standards for this grant source and asked how OHCS measures and tracks outcomes. Lise replied that compliance is not performance. OHCS is working on measuring improvements to performance through quarterly reports, system query options, and disaggregated data in tableau reports and dashboards. She added that day centers are challenging to measure since the outcome is service provision and how people in a day center environment are leveraging other services. Discussion included day center users in Coordinated Entry and HMIS, Polk County day center operations, and usefulness of CAPER data. Lise noted that OHCS has changed the way it measures returns to homelessness. Instead of asking projects to reach out six and twelve months later, OHCS will use data in HMIS, at least for core services. Ashley Hamilton said it is helpful to think of the day center as the beginning of a "continuum."

Janet asked about the role of the Continuum of Care vis a vis ESG-funded programs, referencing CFR 576.400 which states:

**Consultation with Continuums of Care.** The recipient must consult with each Continuum of Care that serves the recipient's jurisdiction in determining how to allocate ESG funds each program year; developing the performance standards for, and evaluating the outcomes of, projects and activities assisted by ESG funds; and developing funding, policies, and procedures for the administration and operation of the HMIS.

Jan pointed out that the recipient is the state and asked if that meant that OHCS would be coordinating with the Continuum of Care? Lise replied that she would research the question. Jimmy described the process Community Action has been following to get approval from the Continuum of Care as the grant renews. In response to a question about the annual amount of funding, Jimmy replied that it is \$250,000.

Michael thanked participants for a productive conversation.

## 4. Annual SPM Report to HUD

Michael introduced the topic by explaining that Jan had recently submitted the annual System Performance Measures (SPM) report to HUD for the period from October 1, 2021 through September 30, 2022. Jan presented slides illustrating the data (see attachment).

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Committee members focused on Measures 1, 2, and 7 for discussion. For Measure 1, Length of Time Persons Remain Homeless, Margie asked whether the data improvements reflect an increased capacity in services, meaning that there was more shelter space available? Michael responded that was a possibility and added that a related question is what is the vulnerability of people being placed in shelter; i.e., are they chronically homeless?

For Measure 2, The Extent to Which Persons Who Exit Homelessness to Permanent Housing Destinations Return to Homelessness, Michael raised several questions: the difference between the number of people moving to permanent housing from emergency shelter compared with people moving from transitional housing; could we do a better job as we're moving people from emergency shelter to permanent housing; do we move people to transitional housing before permanent housing? Jan replied that Stella P can provide that information. Chris Berg added that this is why HUD likes us to do the Longitudinal System Analysis. Michael added a question about how are people assessed? Margie raised the question about whether people are finding the most appropriate placement for their needs. Chris reiterated that Stella P is a good resource for these questions.

For Measure 7, Successful Placement from Street Outreach and Successful Placement in or Retention of Permanent Housing, Jan noted that the region had many more street outreach people during this reporting period through the ESG-CV grant funds that resulted in the large increase people involved with street outreach. The large increase in overall numbers influenced a reduction in the percentage of successful placements. Jan noted that street outreach programs may have different objectives – some are focused on survival, rather than moving people into permanent housing. Chris Berg added that what HUD calls “community context” is important, citing that Oregon is one of the three fastest growing states in the nation vis a vis housing costs, with the Marion-Polk region costs growing faster within Oregon than costs in other areas. Capacity constraints in the rental market could be creating barriers to housing placement. Jan noted that rapid re-housing providers have discussed the value of tracking the reasons why people exit without moving into housing.

Janet noted that street outreach is one of the services that could be funded with upcoming grants through the Governor’s Emergency Declaration.

## **5. Planning for Cross-Committee Discussion on Homeless Services Gaps**

The remaining time was limited, so the committee had just a brief discussion about this topic. Committee members expressed a need for more information about other Alliance committees and what they do. Janet offered to compile a summary of committee presentations that have been made to the board over the past several months.

## **6. New Business**

Michael asked Ami Maceira to introduce herself. Ami provided information about her background with performance and evaluation issues through U.S. Department of Labor programs.

## **7. Adjournment**

With no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 4:27 pm.