Mid-Willamette Valley Homeless Alliance

CoC Collaborative Committee

Wednesday, October 18, 2023 * 10:00-11:30 a.m.

Zoom: https://us02web.zoom.us/j/82165607357?pwd=S0dKbk5hTDh1Y3JYazdrNEJtMndFZz09

AGENDA

1. **Welcome & Agenda Review** **Ian Dixon-McDonald, Committee Co-Chair**
   Please type your name and organization in the chat box. Add your email address if we don't have it. If this is your first Collaborative Committee meeting, please come off mute and introduce yourself.

2. **Kudos / Comments of Appreciation**
   An opportunity to give a shout out to an individual or agency in this group who you've been working with, who you'd like to recognize for what they do or just who they are.

3. **Committee Business**
   - **Minutes** – Approval of 9/20/23 meeting minutes (pages 3-4)
   - **Common Goals Workgroup** – Update

4. **Quarterly Conversation with Alliance Executive Director**
   Elaine Lozier will visit to provide updates on the Alliance, and to provide a forum for committee members to share their thoughts and ask questions.

5. **MWVHA Board and Selected Committee, Subcommittee Highlights**
   - Board of Directors Report
   - A Picture is Worth a Thousand Words – Recommendations for Leadership in Preserving the Dignity and Safety of People Experiencing Homelessness (see page 5)

6. **Data Notes** **Adam Mennig, Committee Co-Chair**
   - Preview of 1-2 data points to be included in the Annual Gaps Analysis
   - PIT Count – Polk count up/Marion count down; total relatively steady
   - Voices of Youth Count – Preliminary results

7. **Governor's Executive Order 23-02**
   - Update on Progress to Expand Shelter Beds and Rapidly Rehouse Unsheltered Households.
   - Learnings from the First Four Months.
   - Looking Toward the Future.

8. **Announcements**
   Opportunity to share about recent milestones or upcoming events. See next page.

- Eligible non-profits and for-profits serving Salem residents are invited to submit proposals for City of Salem Community Development Block Grant (CDBG), and HOME Investment Partnership funding. Applicable funds are for the 2024 Program Year, beginning July 1, 2024.

- **October 24:** QPR Train the Trainer. Learn more about QPR at QPR Institute | Practical and Proven Suicide Prevention Training QPR Institute (en-US) Register HERE

- OHCS is offering a series of technical assistance sessions on selected Wednesdays at 9:00 a.m. **You can officially register for the Zoom meetings here.** Topics to be covered include:
    - **October 25**: Shelter information
    - **November 29**: Housing problem solving
    - **January 24**: Street outreach with behavioral health supports
    - **February 28**: Rapid Rehousing basics

- **Registration is OPEN for the fall Polk County Resource Academy Training!** The training will be on **November 3** at the Northwest Human Services Edgewater Clinic, 8:30 am - 5:00 pm. The training is open to anyone but is best suited for partners who are new to Polk County and/or Service Integration, client-serving individuals, those who serve as the first point of contact in their office, or anyone who provides resource referrals for families and individuals. The training is FREE to anyone who registers. Space is limited. Training Registration Link: https://polkoregonjotform.jotform.com/232694525403052

CoC COLLABORATIVE COMMITTEE MEETINGS

3rd Wednesday of the Month

10:00-11:30 a.m.

Zoom Link: https://us02web.zoom.us/j/82165607357?pwd=S0dKbk5hTDh1Y3JYazdrNEJtMndFZz09

Meeting ID: 821 6560 7357 Passcode: 028983

One tap mobile +12532158782,,82165607357#,,,,*028983#

The purpose of the CoC Collaborative Committee is to assist the Mid-Willamette Valley Homeless Alliance Board of Directors in accomplishing the responsibilities of the Continuum of Care, as outlined in Article IV of the CoC Governance Charter.

Mid-Willamette Valley Homeless Alliance

CoC Collaborative Committee

September 20, 2023 Minutes

WELCOME – Adam Mennig welcomed everyone and invited people new to the group to introduce themselves, then facilitated kudos.

COMMITTEE BUSINESS

Minutes of the 7/19/23 meeting were approved without objection.

Charter Review – The group conducted its annual charter review. Ian noted that his second term as co-chair will be ending in January and explained the duties of the position. He invited people who are interested in serving to contact Jan Calvin. There were no suggestions for charter revisions.

MWVHA BOARD AND SELECTED COMMITTEE, SUBCOMMITTEE HIGHLIGHTS

Board – Adam noted that the September board meeting was moved to 9/21 to align with the NOFO process. The previous meeting was August 3 and included approval of the application scoring tools and an update on the projects funded by the Governor's executive order.

YYA Subcommittee – Jan shared that the Youth & Young Adults Subcommittee, which actually existed prior to the Homeless Alliance, has had a long-standing goal to improve local data related to youth experiencing homelessness. They spent the past two years crafting youth outreach and engagement activities for the PIT Count, but the results have been disappointing. This year, with the leadership of Northwest Human Services HOST Program, the YYA Subcommittee is conducting a Voices of Youth count the first week in October. For information or to help, contact Lexi Meyer at lmeyer@nwhumanservices.org

GAPS ANALYSIS

Lisa Trauernicht will highlight data from the preliminary Gaps Analysis and gather input to finalize the document that is slated for board approval in October (*postponed to November*).

COLLABORATIVE COMMITTEE PURPOSE, FOCUS, AND PLANS

Ian reminded the group that the top goal from the spring survey was for this group to develop common goals, projects, and action plans. The preferred approach, identified at the July meeting, is to have a small group develop plans, present ideas, and get feedback from the full group over the next three months. The following people expressed interest in serving on the small group: Christina Bertschi, Sarah White, Amber Brady, Andrea Soemadi, Kristin Kuenz-Barber, and Mercedes Thornton.

HIGHLIGHT: Governor's Executive Order 23-02

Jan shared an update on the efforts of the projects funded under EO 23-02 to expand low-barrier shelter beds, rapidly rehouse unsheltered households, and prevent homelessness. From April through yesterday (9/19/23), nearly 1,100 clients have been served by the following projects:

Provider	Client Count	EE Count
C@TP - EO 23-02 Micro Shelter for Young Adults(8741)	22	22
MWVCAA - Arches Inn (Turnkey)(8411)	73	76
MWVCAA - EO 23-02 - Eviction Prevention(8729)	179	184
MWVCAA - EO 23-02 - RRH Partnership - Marion - Street Outreach - SO(8750	62	62
MWVCAA - Navigation Center(8710)	52	55
PFCO - EO 23-02 - Eviction Prevention(8743)	4	4
PFCO - EO 23-02 - Street Outreach - RRH Partnership(8768)	22	22
Salem Housing Authority - EO 23-02 - RRH Partnership - Barrier Removal(876	51	56
Sheltering Silverton - EO 23-02 Congregate Shelter - ES(8756)	15	37

The next EO 23-02 Implementation Team meeting is Friday, October 6, 9:00-10:30 a.m.

Additional Funding - The State reached out to ask if our region could surpass its goals if more funding were provided. Elaine Lozier worked with providers to prepare a response, which could bring additional funding to the region. Jan also noted that the State is developing a method to distribute additional funding approved by the Legislature for ongoing operations of shelter beds and support for households served in the new EO 23-02 RRH projects.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

- **Local! In-Person!** Sept 21: QPR Suicide Prevention Training at Salem Health
- **Online!** Sept 22: Understanding Stress & Substance Use among LGBTQ+ Adolescents
- **October 11:** Town Hall on Salem's wage tax. **GET YOUR FREE TICKETS HERE**
- **October 24:** QPR Train the Trainer. Learn more about QPR at QPR Institute | Practical and Proven Suicide Prevention Training QPR Institute (en-US) Register HERE
- **Marion County Health & Human Services** is piloting a Family Rental Assistance Program to provide assistance for up to two years.
- **Marion County Health & Human Services** provides housing navigation for people on TANF and will soon be able to focus on people with serious and persistent mental health diagnoses, IDD and substance use disorders once the Medicaid waiver goes into effect.
- **HomeShare Oregon** is celebrating two years of operation in the region and is interested in sharing information about how the program works. Contact Judy Smith, judy@homeshareoregon.org
- **Northwest Human Services** provides medical bus on Tues, Thurs, and Fri for people experiencing homelessness to receive free medical care. HOAP also has a drop-in clinic on Wednesdays, 9:30 -12:00.
- **Marion County Health & Human Services** will provide Ready to Rent classes on site at shelters or transitional housing programs. Contact Christina Bertschi, cbertschi@co.marion.or.us

NEXT MEETING

Wednesday, October 18
10:00-11:30 a.m.

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I asked the Homeless Alliance Board to consider making a resolution or value statement, recommending that communications about homelessness focus on our perspectives, *without* photos or videos that reflect negative imagery.

With the current homeless crisis and addiction crisis, it seems like we're seeing more people living and sleeping outside, more people passed out from drugs, more people dying from overdoses and from the struggle to live outside without shelter and other basic human needs.

Online and in person, people understandably share their frustrations, sadness, ideas, and solutions, as well as photos and videos. Some of the photos and videos include pictures of people experiencing homelessness amid trash piles and debris.

I worry about that part - wishing that people would share all the words they want, without photos or video that can so easily convey people experiencing homelessness as dirty, drug addicts, dangerous people.

So many people already have that perception, and it's a broad and inaccurate paintbrush. While those photos and videos portray truth about what we see in some places, those photos and videos are dehumanizing and create more paths for some people to "other" people experiencing homelessness.

As more discussions happen about Measure 110 and how we want to address the addiction crisis, more people may share comments and opinions, with photos and videos attached of people experiencing homelessness and addiction. The photos and videos enable some people to make negative perceptions bigger, and that puts our unsheltered neighbors into more real danger. When photos and videos contribute to other-ing unsheltered individuals, it becomes easier for people who already don't like "those people" to justify harm.

We've all heard stories of unsheltered individuals with a machete chasing a sheltered person. We don't know or share that one of those times happened because an unsheltered individual came home from work and found a sheltered person in his tent, taking pictures, so he picked up what was closest to him - his machete, and chased the person. We don't talk about the fact that there are more and more unsheltered individuals attacked, assaulted, raped, beaten, and even murdered by people who are sheltered. Some of the violence is done by KIDS. I can't fathom that, and it breaks my heart. Sharing negative photos and videos puts the lives of people we serve at risk.

What if there was a shared value, and resolution, or value statement to share our words, positive, negative, or neutral, without adding photos or videos that reflect what we see, yet also reflects otherness, and puts the lives of unsheltered individuals at higher risk?

Words are powerful and words can reflect compassion, solutions, things we might try, or words can reflect understandable frustration, how this is not acceptable, how we must do better, even with different ideas about what "better" would look like, or words can even convey beliefs that we're enabling people or attracting more people. Words are powerful, even without superfluous, negative photos, that may incite violence.

And... whether or not we can make out faces in photos or videos, none of us would want to have our lowest moments in life immortalized forever in public photos and videos. Might we have a shared value to not do that to others?

Besides those photos and videos creating more other-ness, and putting more unsheltered lives at risk, those photos and videos are contrary to our city's narratives about being a welcoming, inclusive, and safe community.

I wondered if there's a way for the city and Homeless Alliance to make a statement, resolution, or values goal about offering dignity and respect to all people, with words to encourage all community members to share their perspectives, opinions, and suggestions without photos and videos that dehumanize people and create actual dangers to our unsheltered neighbors?

Of course, no resolution or statement is enforceable. Yet sometimes it's worth making a statement, on principle, with implied onus on leaders and homeless service providers and advocates to set the example.

- Lynelle Wilcox