

# Mid-Willamette Valley Homeless Alliance

## CoC Collaborative Committee

Wednesday, November 15, 2023 \* 10:00-11:30 a.m.

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

### AGENDA

#### 1. Welcome & Agenda Review

Adam Mennig, 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 10/18/23 meeting minutes (pages 2-4)
- **Values Statement Workgroup** – Recommendations (pages 5-6)
- **Common Goals Workgroup** – Update (page 7)

#### 4. Rural Polk County Strategic Plan

Ian Dixon-McDonald, Committee Co-Chair

Ryan Pollard and Marianne Bradshaw will present the [Rural Polk County Strategic Plan to Prevent and Address Homelessness](#). The plan was approved in October and reflects a range of strategies for this geographic area, many of which are already up and running.

#### 5. MWVHA Board and Selected Committee, Subcommittee Highlights

- Board of Directors Report
- DEI Subcommittee Update

#### 6. Governor's Executive Order 23-02

- Update on Progress to Expand Shelter Beds and Rapidly Rehouse Unsheltered Households.
- New Funding to Sustain Work begun under the Governor's EO

#### 7. Announcements

Opportunity to share about recent milestones or upcoming events.

- Sheltering Silverton will host a ribbon cutting for their new shelter and resource center **November 21**.
- 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:
  - **November 29:** Housing problem solving
  - **January 24:** Street outreach with behavioral health supports
  - **February 28:** Rapid Rehousing basics

*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

October 18, 2023 Minutes

**WELCOME** – Ian Dixon-McDonald welcomed everyone and invited people new to the group to introduce themselves, then facilitated kudos.

### COMMITTEE BUSINESS

**Minutes** of the 9/20/23 meeting were approved without objection.

**Common Goals Workgroup** – Ian reminded the committee that the Spring Survey identified the that we wanted more concrete actions, specific things to act on. Collaborative Committee priority and committee discussion identified the related task:

**PRIORITY:** *Develop common projects, goals, milestones, and action plans.*

**TASK:** *Develop an action plan with timelines and agreements*

A workgroup was formed last month to guide the process and work in between the larger Collaborative Committee meetings to move things forward. The workgroup members are: Christina Bertschi, Sarah White, Amber Brady, Andrea Soemadi, Kristin Kuenz-Barber, Mercedes Thornton, and Collaborative Committee co-chairs, Ian Dixon-McDonald, and Adam Mennig. Six of the eight workgroup members were able to meet earlier this month to develop initial thoughts about how the members of the Collaborative Committee could develop some common goals, projects, and action plans.

[Common-Goals-update-for-10.18.23.pdf \(mwvhomelessalliance.org\)](#)

Christina Bertschi shared the group's thoughts about what an action plan might look like.

Ian Dixon-McDonald talked about the guiding framework or criteria.

Kristin Kuenz-Barber shared some ideas the group came up with for common projects or goals that are best achieved by a collective.

Jan asked, "Are we on the right track?" Feedback from meeting participants included:

- Like the idea of doing together what can't be done individually.
- Look at policies and procedures that create barriers or create more trauma.
- Identify gaps & barriers and work intentionally on behalf of populations (e.g., families, SPMI, rural).
- Find ways for more people to understand the good work being done – and how complex it is. Counter the narrative about "how to get rid of these people."

### QUARTERLY CONVERSATION WITH ALLIANCE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

Elaine Lozier shared that she has intentionally spent her first 90 days observing and listening. She asked, how many know the mission of the Alliance?

Mission: *To develop an evidence-based system of services, including stable housing, designed to meet the unique and complex needs of adults, youth, children, and families in Marion and Polk counties who are at risk of or are experiencing homelessness.*

We have grown so fast, and, with the work everyone is doing (along with things that happen like Covid, wildfires, floods) it's hard to keep up with everything. She shared that she is the kind of person who likes to do a few things really, really well, rather than a lot of things fairly well.

Elaine would like to address the pathways we have now and make sure they work really well. Perhaps some realigning, without upsetting the good work that is happening. Seeking to empower each person to be fully engaged and share perspectives and make a difference.

In exploring one area, she noted that there needs to be better communication and cooperation between housing and health care. They can't really be pulled apart, and there are emerging opportunities we can maximize. Waiver 1155, perhaps moving the Health & Safety Subcommittee to report directly to the board, and other ideas to address the gaps and needs.

In addition, the importance of communications keeps coming up in all different ways. She looks forward to ongoing conversations.

### 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

Lynelle Wilcox spoke at the last board meeting, raising concerns about the negative images depicting people experiencing homelessness. She asked if the board could make a resolution or some statement to help counter this. The board requested that the Collaborative Committee bring a recommendation forward for board action.

A dozen members of the Collaborative Committee spoke eloquently about the issue and suggested ways to move forward. The following people volunteered to help craft a statement and a plan: Mercedes Thorington, Toni Whitler, Lynelle Wilcox, Kahlil Haamid, and Chris Barber. Jan will convene the group.

### DATA NOTES

Jan gave a quick report on data that was submitted with the response to the annual HUD NOFO. This information was included in the packet.

### GOVERNOR'S EXECUTIVE ORDER UPDATES

Jan provided a brief update on the progress toward the Governor's goals to establish new low-barrier shelter beds and rapidly rehouse people experiencing unsheltered homelessness. The data below was as of October 6, 2023.

Emergency Shelter Projects	Goal	Actual				Targets				Goal	Difference
		June	July	Aug	Sept	Oct	Nov	Dec	1/10/24 EST as of 10/6/23		
Church @ the Park - Polk Shelter	40								0	40	-40
Center for Hope & Safety – Mosaic	10								0	10	-10
SafeSleep United	31								31	31	0
Sheltering Silverton	20	5	12	15	15	15	20	20	20	20	0
Church @ the Park - Young Adults	38				30	38	38	38	38	38	0
Community Action Agency - Family Shelter	36								0	36	-36
Catholic Community Services - Warehouse	32							32	32	32	0
<b>Contracted Beds</b>	<b>207</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>12</b>	<b>15</b>	<b>45</b>	<b>53</b>	<b>58</b>	<b>90</b>	<b>121</b>	<b>207</b>	<b>-86</b>
		2%	6%	7%	22%	26%	28%	43%	58%	100%	
<b>EO 23-02 Plan Beds</b>	<b>79</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>12</b>	<b>15</b>	<b>45</b>	<b>53</b>	<b>58</b>	<b>90</b>	<b>121</b>	<b>207</b>	<b>128</b>
		6%	15%	19%	57%	67%	73%	114%	153%	262%	

Rapid Rehousing Projects	Goal	Actual				Targets				Updated Goal 11/1	Difference
		June	July	Aug	Sept	Oct	Nov	Dec	1/10/24 EST as of 10/6/23		
Community Action/Polk County - Polk RRH Partnership	50					5	13	22	27	50	-23
Sable House RRH	20	7	12	18	24	24	30	35	39	39	0
Community Action - Marion RRH Partnership	50				7	15	24	35	40	50	-10
SHA Marion/Polk/Salem Barrier Removal	65	4	8	14	18	26	35	44	50	65	-15
<b>Contracted Households</b>	<b>185</b>	<b>11</b>	<b>20</b>	<b>32</b>	<b>49</b>	<b>70</b>	<b>102</b>	<b>136</b>	<b>156</b>	<b>204</b>	<b>-48</b>
		6%	11%	17%	26%	38%	50%	67%	76%	112%	
<b>EO 23-02 Plan Households</b>	<b>158</b>	<b>11</b>	<b>20</b>	<b>32</b>	<b>49</b>	<b>70</b>	<b>102</b>	<b>136</b>	<b>156</b>	<b>182</b>	<b>-26</b>
		7%	13%	20%	31%	44%	56%	75%	86%	100%	
		Calculations based on original goal				Calculations based on updated goal					

## ANNOUNCEMENTS

- 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

3<sup>rd</sup> Wednesday of the Month (Next on November 15<sup>th</sup>)

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#

# Values Statement Workgroup Report

## **Participants:**

Toni Whittler, City of Salem Urban Development Department  
Lynelle Wilcox, SafeSleep United  
Mercedes Thorington, Community Action HOME Youth Services  
Chris Barber, Curandi  
Jan Calvin, MWV Homeless Alliance

## **3-part plan:**

1. Values Statement – Collaborative Committee reviews at 11/15/23 meeting and recommends the Alliance board adopts at 12/14/23 meeting.
2. Identify plans to use the values statement in specific ways. See some initial ideas and resources below.
3. Create tools to advance the intent.

## **Ideas to consider:**

- CoC Code of Conduct – update to reflect the values statement
- Equity Lens - type of tool. Ways to check – impact has to match our intent
- Hold space for and elevate the voices of people experiencing homelessness
- Ways to affect change:
  - Example photos (compare & contrast?)
  - Stories
  - Examples of changing protocols
  - Comment/captions
  - Pictures with permission (informed and limited use)

## **Resources:**

- Simon on the Streets  
[How to show respect for people facing homelessness | Simon on the Streets](#)
- The Night Ministry, Chicago – Good Neighbor Guide  
[Good Neighbor Guide Provides Suggestions for Engaging with Unhoused Community Members - EasyBlog \(thenightministry.org\)](#)

## Values Statement – Draft for 11.15.23 Collaborative Committee Meeting

### Whereas,

- The Mid-Willamette Valley Homeless Alliance is a collaborative organization engaging in a communitywide commitment to coordinate, leverage, and align efforts and resources to prevent and end homelessness.
- The Alliance uses images and information that honor the dignity of people experiencing homelessness. The Alliance acknowledges and has concerns when images and information (e.g., photographs, articles, social media) violate a person’s dignity and humanity.
  - Depicting people experiencing homelessness at their worst immortalizes one moment and projects an inaccurate representation.
  - This perpetuates stereotypes that are too broad for a moment in time or to accurately describe the circumstances or experiences.
  - The negative stereotypes dehumanize our fellow human beings, and create division, “othering” or “us versus them” mentality.
  - This “othering” contributes to real harm (verbal and physical abuse) besetting those experiencing homelessness.

### These concerns directly conflict with Alliance values, as it strives to reflect and advance...

- Dignity, first and foremost,
- Respect,
- Inclusivity, and
- Humanity.

### The Alliance believes...

- All people deserve dignity and respect.
- Actions, however well-intended, should never cause harm.
- Ending homelessness requires both individual and community-based commitments to dignity, respect, inclusivity, and a common humanity.
- Collectively and intentionally, we can bring about the changes we seek.

### The Alliance will...

- Educate,
- Advocate,
- Demonstrate leadership,
- Commit to building human connections, and
- Continue to use images and information that honor the dignity and humanity of people experiencing homelessness.

**As an Alliance, we will hold ourselves accountable and invite all individuals, organizations, and communities throughout the Marion-Polk region to demonstrate similar commitment.**

*Adopted this 14<sup>th</sup> day of December 2023.*

# CoC Collaborative Committee Common Goals Update

**PRIORITY: Develop common projects, goals, milestones, and action plans.**

TASK	PROCESS	NOVEMBER PROGRESS UPDATE
Develop action plan with timeline and agreements	<p><b>Smaller group to develop a draft</b>, Collaborative Committee respond to the draft, iterative process; link it to data (why we do what we do and what we expect to change).</p> <p><b>Have a committee working between meetings with a back and forth with the larger group for feedback.</b> Breakout groups to provide feedback.</p> <p>Review progress at Collaborative Committee.</p> <p>Include “boots on the ground” with a report to Collaborative Committee, then maybe a half-day session.</p>	<p>The “Common Goals Group” shared <b>initial concepts</b> and gathered feedback at the 10/18/23 Collaborative Committee meeting (see below).</p> <p>The group crafted three <b>options</b> to present at the 11/15/23 Collaborative Committee meeting (see below).</p>

**Common Goals Group Participants:** Ian Dixon-McDonald, Adam Mennig, Kristin Kuenz-Barber, Amber Brady, Andrea Soemadi, Christina Bertschi, Jan Calvin

## Initial Concepts:

**The task is to develop an action plan with a timeline and agreements. What does that look like?**

- A plan is great, but it must include tangible/measurable steps for tracking progress.
- Structures/meeting(s) on selected goal(s) need to be focused for impact, traction for action!
- Action plans must evolve, be nimble enough to respond to current/emerging realities.
- Action plans need to be relevant for local community/communities.
- Efforts/activities should enhance coordination of services.
- Focus on relationships as a primary avenue/strategy for action/change/progress.
- Vet ideas with people who have different opinions/thoughts.

**What is the guiding framework or criteria?**

- Something the collective can accomplish together that individual organizations can’t do alone (e.g., set a standard/expectation to change media or community norms).
- Project(s)/activities should have an impact in the community.

**What are some ideas for common projects or goals that are best achieved by a collective?**

- Raise the voices of people with lived experience (for a particular purpose).
- Support/tend to the workforce (feed the staff so they don’t eat the clients).
- Give voice to what is being done, so the community sees/understands effort/progress.
- Develop talking points/messages that support a desired outcome (e.g., legislative action, funding, community involvement).
- Be a strong voice in the community, educating and advocating.

**Feedback from 10/18/23 Collaborative Committee. Are we on the right track? If so, what are the next steps?**

- Like the idea of doing together what can’t be done individually.
- Look at policies and procedures that create barriers or create more trauma.
- Identify gaps & barriers and work intentionally on behalf of specific populations (e.g., families, SPMI, rural).
- Find ways for more people to understand the good work being done – and how complex it is. Counter the narrative about “how to get rid of these people.”

## Options:

1. Build on the Values Statement and work collectively to affect change. Develop common talking points, data, communication strategies and tools. Educate beyond the readership of Salem Reporter and the Statesman Journal.
2. Identify and mitigate or eliminate one policy or widespread practice that creates barriers for people who experience homelessness.
3. Develop a culture of self-care among homeless services staff. Identify new norms and ways to intentionally lift each other. Walk the talk of best practices in work/life balance to prevent burnout and infuse hope day-to-day.