MID-WILLAMETTE VALLEY HOMELESS ALLIANCE

Youth & Young Adults Subcommittee

March 14th, 2025 Minutes

PARTICIPANTS

Jacob Oyer, Church at The Park
Patrick McDermott, Northwest Human Services, HOST
Megan Perez, Community Action, David's House
Jay Greenfield, Punx with Purpose
Laura, Helping Hands
Erron Harris, Youth Era, The Salem Drop
Jan Calvin, MWV Homeless Alliance
Jason Christensen, Intern at HOST
Justin Arana, Acres of Hope
Michelle Helbling, Charlie Health
Kira Hand, Community Action, David's House
William Keith, YYA Program Outreach Coordinator
Sarah White, Sheltering Silverton
Marianne Bradshaw, Independent Consultant
Sarah Whisenhunt, Chemeketa Community College
Raquel Morales, Community Action

INTRODUCTIONS & WIN WALL

Laura – on vacation! Helping hands has been able to maintain their open hours and acquire new volunteers
Jan Calvin – DOE has new interactive map for active shelters and housing
Justin – New funding and purchases for infrastructure at the ranch
Kira – Three youth pulled into RAY program
Megan – One youth into RAY program and able to acquire own apartment this week; two youth pulled into RRH
Sarah White – new youth being connected into their program for supports
Michelle – PNW outreach team has had the most admits in the country in recent
William – 2nd week on the job!
Jay – PITP planning; August 31st @ Riverfront

CONSENT CALENDAR

Motion to revise agenda to allow for presenters to go first, before review of YYA goals. And to reschedule Polk County Family & Community Outreach presenter due to unavailability. Motion issued by Patrick, Seconded by Jay. Approved by consensus.
Motion to approve minutes from February 28th YYA meeting. Motion issued by Patrick, Seconded by Megan. Approved by Consensus.

TOPIC 1 – Community Partner Presentations

Laura – Helping Hands; Offering free clothing closet and resources for houseless individuals. Offerings include clothes, backpacks, household goods, kitchen utensils, cleaning, etc. Supporting families and individuals when moving into new places. Minimum requirements: basic information including name, ethnicity (for grants), and number of people in household. Obtain a membership card and can access the closet once every 7 days, for one bag of items and one large carryable item. Special needs and circumstances can be worked around. 100% volunteer support and donations. Reported over 20,000 touches in 2024 – which means closer to 60,000 people supported due to household sizes.

Justin – Acres of Hope Youth Ranch; Launched in 2020, located on Highway 22 between Dallas and West Salem, pairing youth in the community with horses for therapeutic support and healing. 100% free service, community funded through donations and grants. Focus on ages 12-19, can be flexible based upon need. Emphasis on youth with mental health needs and past trauma; non-clinical support. Connect youth with a mentor for whom they work with for 10+ months, typically aligned with the school year. Serving 80 youth/week during school year, down to ~12/week in the summer. Offer a variety of programs – monthly sessions, archery, weekly sessions, group meetings, 'teen time', and parent support. How to sign up? – Online registration and by phone. Immediate access to Teen Time and Individual Monthly Sessions. During sessions, driven by youth interest – not always centered on involvement with equines – barn cats, art, music, etc. - acresofhopeyouthranch.org

Michelle – Charlie Health; 10-12 week *Intensive outpatient program* for mental health. Ten to eleven hours of counseling and therapy per week. Support ages 11-50. Regular commitment per week includes 9 hours of group, 1 hour of one-on-one, 1 hour of family therapy. Rapid turnaround for support once connected, less than 24 hour turnaround time. Placement into curated group therapy sessions with 6-8 peers based on background, need, age, etc. In network with all OHP providers in Oregon and all major providers in the state. Can work with SUD and eating disorders as comorbidity, but not as primary diagnoses. Open Community Support Groups for partners and providers.

- Question about referral process. Include agency in referral when connecting clients to care. ROIs necessary for ongoing connection.

Patrick – HOST; multiple programs on offer including a daily resource center for youth under the age of 25, and a Transitional Living Program for youth ages 18-24. Youth in TLP are able to reside at HOST for up to 12-18 months. TLP places an emphasis on life skills and building independence and self-sufficiency for youth, with the ultimate goals of housing and employment. Youth are engaged in case management and have an ISP that outlines their goals. HOST Staff assist in connecting youth like a 'train station' to other services and resources in the community. HOST is able to connect youth to medical, dental, and mental health care through the agency's West Salem Clinic. HOST has a mental health professional that works at HOST on Fridays to lower the barrier to engagement in mental health care for youth. At the end of the program, clients have the option of renting a unit on the property for up to another 12 months where they are able to live more independently, and build rental history and savings. HOST also offers a Savings Match program to incentivize client's to save for the future by matching up to $1000 saved when client's are ready to exit the program.

TOPIC 2 – Reviewing and Finalizing YYA Subcommittee Goals

Primary Goals

1. Amplify and develop voices of YYA with lived experience.
   (Would be awesome to have youth here at YYA! Share their experience/journey)

2. Expand street-level and other forms of Outreach.
   (Join in, events? YYA collaborate and go do a presentation at a school, do outreach together?)

3. Advocate for the use of, and funding for, evidence-based practices.

Supporting Goals

1. *Develop a Coordinated Entry System for youth that blends into the system for adults.*
   Communicate with local providers about the youth Coordinated Entry System and expand access and use
   Decrease barriers and expand access to the youth Coordinated Entry System to increase usage

   Support the entire system beyond first step of getting assessment done

2. *Improve local youth data, starting with the Point in Time (PIT) Count in January 2020. (update this – not 2020).*

   Improve local youth data gathering and sharing

3. *Establish a Host Home program that fits the needs in communities in the Marion-Polk region*.

General questions:
How can we make these SMART goals? Add strategies? Timelines?
Consider that maybe 'goal' isn't the right word, and speak more to the YYA missions/values.

Meeting adjourned @ 11:35am