MID-WILLAMETTE VALLEY HOMELESS ALLIANCE

Youth & Young Adults Subcommittee

April 11th, 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
Michelle Helbling, Charlie Health
Kira Hand, Community Action, David's House
Marianne Bradshaw, Independent Consultant
Sarah Whisenhunt, Chemeketa Community College
Mel Keller, ODHS
Elijah Calvillo, Youth Era
Cassie Stafford, Willamette Education Service District
Aimee Rea, MVP
Amanda Foster, Northwest Human Services, HOST
Will Wacha, RRH-RAY
Christopher Lopez, MWVCAA
Carol McKiel, Monmouth City Counselor
Cassandra Bay, Homeless Alliance

INTRODUCTIONS & WIN WALL

- **Michelle Helbling** – Celebrating reliable Wi-Fi access.
- **Mel Keller** – Appreciating a sunny day yesterday.
- **Cassandra Bay** – Recognizing the excitement of it being Friday.
- **Jay Greenfield** – Announced an upcoming pop-up event in Fall City next month.
- **Elijah Calvillo** – Welcomed three new youth to his caseload.
- **Cassie Stafford** – Completed and cleared all pending emails.

- **Marianne Bradshaw** – Completed the PIT count data.
- **Aimee Rea** – Secured a van to transport youth to school.
- **Amanda Foster** – Noted that by the 11th, over 100 youth had already been served this month.
- **Will Wacha** – Successfully signed several new contracts.
- **Christopher Lopez** – Program is progressing through licensing, monitoring, and reporting; currently 75% complete.
- **Carol McKiel** – Expressed enthusiasm about attending YYA meetings both in-person and virtually.
- **Jacob Oyer** – Assisted three young adults in securing housing.
- **Kira Hand** – Welcomed two new youth into David's House.
- **Megan Perez** – Partnered with PWP and Taylor's House to transition youth into David's House. Kira has also taken a lead in youth mental health training initiatives.
- **Patrick McDermott** – Onboarded two new clients into TLP; also looking forward to upcoming vacation next week.
- **Sarah Whisenhunt** – Supported a youth in enrolling in a Spanish-language GED program

CONSENT CALENDAR

TOPIC 1 – Reviewing and Finalizing YYA Subcommittee Goals

Discussion Overview:

- **Patrick** initiated the conversation on reviewing and refining the **primary goals** of the YYA Subcommittee, emphasizing the importance of clear, unified language that guides the group's direction and vision.

Primary Goal 1: Amplifying Youth Voices

- **Chris Lopez** suggested enhancing the language to ensure the voices of youth and young adults are integrated across all areas of the subcommittee's work.
- **Cassandra Bay** questioned whether amplifying and developing youth voices should be separate goals.
- **Marianne Bradshaw** supported keeping the goal as written but acknowledged its application may vary year to year.
- **Megan Perez** noted that although Backbone is interested in engaging, their availability is limited.
- The subcommittee agreed that the goals can be utilized across individual teams, not just within YYA.

Primary Goal 2: Outreach and Engagement

- **Chris Lopez** proposed rewording this goal to include outreach, events, presentations, and collaboration.
- The group discussed the potential of quarterly outreach events to foster cross-agency collaboration.

Primary Goal 3: Data and Funding Application

- Feedback indicated this goal lacks specificity.
- Suggestions included focusing on how data informs funding decisions and evidence-based practices, rather than political trends.
- **Patrick** emphasized prioritizing access to mental health services and strategic fund allocation.
- **Chris** and **Jay** discussed whether the goal should center on measurable funding strategies or implementation of best practices—ultimately deciding these may need to be addressed separately.

Supporting Goal 1: Youth CE System Accessibility

- This goal has been achieved but needs updated language.
- Suggestions included:
    - Communicate more effectively with local providers about the Youth CE system.
    - Decrease barriers to access and expand use beyond initial assessments.
    - Improve follow-up care processes.
- **Will Wacha** and **Megan Perez** supported revisiting this goal to make it more actionable and collaborative.

Supporting Goal 2: Data Sharing

- Agreed that language needs updating from its 2020 context.
- Revised language: *"Improve local youth data gathering and sharing with community partners."*
- **Marianne** emphasized not limiting data sharing to PIT counts.

Supporting Goal 3: Host Homes

- Original goal: *"Establish a Host Home program that fits the needs of communities in the Marion-Polk region."*
- Discussion revealed uncertainty around making this a formal goal.
- **Patrick**, **Chris**, and **Marianne** agreed on possibly removing or reframing the goal.
- **Carol McKiel** suggested focusing on community education around Host Homes rather than full program development

TOPIC 2 – Community Partner Presentations

Will Wacha – RRH-RAY and Youth Coordinated Entry

- Serves youth ages 16–24.
- Offers at least one year of rental assistance with case management aimed at long-term stability.
- Services include resume development, mock interviews, and coordination with West Salem Clinic.
- Program entry is via referral and coordinated entry.
- Clients gradually assume responsibility, starting with a $25 electric bill payment by month four.
- 43 households have been served to date.
- Currently experiencing delays due to a referral backlog. Operates as a referral pool rather than a waitlist

Michelle Helbling – Charlie Health

- Presentation postponed to the next YYA Subcommittee meeting. Motion to revise the agenda since we were out of time to allow Michelle Helbling to have more time to present at a later date. Motion issued by Jacob, seconded by Christopher. Approved by consensus.

Meeting adjourned @ 11:30AM