Meeting Minutes of:

MID-WILLAMETTE VALLEY HOMELESS ALLIANCE (MWVHA) YOUTH & YOUNG ADULT SUB-COMMITTEE

Meeting Date & Time:
May 09, 2025
10:00 a.m. – 11:30 a.m.

Location:
Zoom
&
MWVCOG, 100 High St SE, Salem, OR 97301

PARTICIPANTS PRESENT

Co-Chair, Church at the Park, Jacob Oyer
Co-Chair, Northwest Human Services, Patrick McDermott
Co-Chair, Punx with Purpose, Jay Greenfield
Chemeketa Community College, Sarah Whisenhunt
Church at the Park, Angel Marine
City of Monmouth, Carol McKiel
Consultant, Marianne Bradshaw
Monias Mission, Alena Castro
MWVCAA, Jocelyn Biggar
MWVCAA, Kira Hand
MWVCAA, William Keith
MWVHA, Cassie Bay
Rainbow Youth, Claire Folsom
ODHS, YEHP, Adam Jenkins
ODHS, YEHP, Brianna Rubio
ODHS, YEHP, Frea Nehila
ODHS, YEHP, Jennifer Kellam
ODHS, YEHP, Jenne Bauer-Leffler
Youth Era, Elija Calvillo
Youth Era, Faye Sanders

INTRODUCTIONS

Co-Chair Patrick McDermott called the meeting to order at 10:00 a.m followed by introductions. Due to the number of presentations on the agenda, the Win Wall activity was skipped.

CONSENT CALENDAR

MOTION TO **APPROVE** MAY 9, 2025 AGENDA BY **JACOB OYER**

Seconded by: Jay Greenfield
In favor: Unanimous
Opposed: None
Abstentions: None

MOTION TO **APPROVE** APRIL 2025 MEETING MINUTES BY **JAY GREENFIELD**

Seconded by: Marianne Bradshaw
In favor: Unanimous
Opposed: None
Abstentions: None

RAINBOW YOUTH PRESENTATION

Claire Folsom, the new youth program coordinator with Rainbow Youth, presented on their organization and recent grant funding. She explained that Rainbow Youth has been around since 1995 and recently received a grant called SOGI Youth Community Empowerment. The grant will fund initiatives for the next three years to support youth empowerment within the LGBTQ+ community in Marion and Polk counties.

Claire outlined six main points of the grant:

1. Youth safety campaign: Creating a directory of safe spaces, businesses, and resources for LGBTQ+ youth.
2. Online resource directory: Providing information on various services including food security, clothing, scholarships, and job assistance.
3. Youth mentorship program: Connecting youth with mentors in areas of interest.
4. Mobilized community council: Hosting town hall meetings to gather community feedback.
5. Community activity calendar: Centralizing information on LGBTQ+ friendly events and activities.
6. Steering committee: Building connections with partner organizations and supporting internships.

Claire emphasized the importance of addressing intersectionality in their work, including cultural specificity, disability access, and financial insecurity. She also highlighted the increased risk of bullying, harassment, and suicide among LGBTQ+ teens in Oregon, noting that having one affirming adult can decrease suicide risk by about 40%.

The presentation concluded with a discussion on how Rainbow Youth is addressing various challenges and a call for collaboration with other organizations present at the meeting.

YOUTH EXPERIENCING HOMELESSNESS PROGRAM PRESENTATION

Jen Kellam, the internal agency and housing coordinator for the Youth Experiencing Homelessness (YEHP) program, introduced her team and provided an overview of their work. The program, previously run by Matt Rasmussen for 8 years, has expanded to a team of 7 members since 2021.

Adam Jenkins, the systems change coordinator, explained his role in following legislation, providing analysis to elected officials, and offering technical assistance on specific interventions. He mentioned his background in host home programs and offered support for developing such interventions.

Jen Bauer-Leffler, the data and performance analyst, described her work in processing qualitative and quantitative data to report on program functioning and grantee performance. She manages grants and contracts, and leads workshops on technical aspects of the program.

Brianna Rubio, the strategic youth engagement coordinator, discussed her work with the statewide youth action board, which consists of 10 youth aged 14-24 with lived experience of homelessness. She also mentioned her role in processing tuition and fee waivers for youth experiencing homelessness.

The team addressed questions about grants for space openings, data collection and sharing, and the Direct Cash Transfer (DCT) program. They explained that the DCT program, which provided $1000 monthly payments to youth, had concluded its pilot phase in February and was awaiting further funding through Senate Bill 5526.

The presentation emphasized the importance of collaboration with local organizations and the need for continued support to maintain their programs and data collection efforts.

POINT-IN-TIME COUNT PRESENTATION

Reviewing Marion/Polk PIT Count Data

Marianne Bradshaw presented the Point-in-Time (PIT) Count data for Marion and Polk counties. She explained that the count included both sheltered and unsheltered populations. The total count was 2,154 individuals experiencing homelessness, with 953 unsheltered and 1,201 sheltered.

Key points from the presentation included:

1. Unsheltered homelessness increased by 9% since the 2023 count.
2. There was a significant increase in family households with at least one child and one adult.

3. The number of minors counted increased from 12 in 2023 to 86 in 2025, attributed to improved counting methods and collaboration with McKinney-Vento liaisons.
4. The largest percentage of unsheltered individuals (32%) were sleeping in vehicles, with higher percentages in rural areas.
5. 47% of respondents reported experiencing homelessness for the first time.
6. The age distribution of those experiencing homelessness spanned all ranges, with increases noted in both youth and senior populations.
7. The racial and ethnic breakdown showed the largest group as white only, followed by Hispanic/Latino only.

Marianne emphasized the importance of data quality and completeness in HMIS systems and encouraged continued efforts to improve counting methods, especially for hard-to-reach populations like those sleeping in vehicles.

She thanked all organizations involved in the count, particularly highlighting the efforts to better capture data on youth and families experiencing homelessness. The presentation concluded with a call for continued collaboration and improvement in future counts.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

None

ZOOM CHAT MESSAGES

00:21:22	read.ai meeting notes:	Esther added read.ai meeting notes to the meeting.
00:21:33	read.ai meeting notes:	View live transcription and summaries at https://docs.google.com/document/d/1XyakZjFw_C-fsaiQPza7wT_naO-IOH_XZ0UDEaCj0Tg
00:25:06	Monias Mission:	Aleyna Castro I am outreach for Monias Mission
00:32:16	Freya Nehila (she / her):	For YEHP Presentation please fill out this form and I will connect with you to confirm
00:32:49	Freya Nehila (she / her):	Jennifer Kellam – Internal Agency & Youth Housing Coordinator jennifer.kellam@odhs.oregon.gov
00:33:16	Freya Nehila (she / her):	Adam Jenkins – Systems Change Specialist adam.n.jenkins@odhs.oregon.gov
00:33:30	Freya Nehila (she / her):	Jenne Bauer-Leffler – Performance and Data Coordinator

jennifer.bauer-leffler@odhs.oregon.gov

00:34:32 Freya Nehila (she / her): Brianna Rubio - Strategic Youth Engagement Coordinator

brianna.a.rubio@odhs.oregon.gov

01:09:41 Carol Mc Kiel: can you give that data about supported students and suicide?

01:17:22 Jay Greenfield: Great presentation! Thanks, Claire! PWP is super stoked to partner moving forward!

01:24:48 Homeless Alliance: https://docs.google.com/spreadsheets/d/1NV7w4Eom7zXQNVn9MqZqqh0MRg4AR1Xk/edit?usp=sharing&ouid=109802619031523482238&rtpof=true&sd=true

01:50:49 Carol Mc Kiel: are you sending out these slides?

01:51:24 Jay Greenfield: I need to drop. Have a great afternoon everyone! 🙂

01:54:12 Carol Mc Kiel: thank you! very valuable information

01:55:01 Monias Mission: Thank you very much for all of the valuable information

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 11:35 AM.