Meeting Minutes of:

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

Meeting Date & Time:
September 12, 2025
10:00 a.m. – 11:30 a.m.

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

PARTICIPANTS PRESENT

Co-Chair, MWVCAA, David's House, Megan Perez

Co-Chair, Punx with Purpose, Jay Greenfield

Backbone, Youth Action Board – President, River Woods

Center for Hope and Safety, Sydney Kanelis

Chemeketa, Director of HS Partnerships, Sarah Whisenhunt

Greater NE Keizer Neighborhood Association, President, Tammy Kunz

Independent Contractor, Marianne Bradshaw

MWVCAA, HOME Youth Services, Kira Hand

MWVCAA, Youth CE Program Coordinator, William Keith

Oregon Employment Department, Worksource Oregon, Megan Belliard

Oregon DHS, Youth Experiencing Homelessness Program (YEHP), Mel Keller

Pacific Source, Kat Fox

Youth Era, Faye Sanders

Youth Era, Tayah Dennis

WELCOME & WIN WALL

Co-Chair Jay Greenfield opened the meeting at 10:05 am. The group began introducing themselves and sharing their wins for the week.

AGENDA AMENDMENT

Jay noted that Polk County Outreach was unable to present and to replace their spot, he offered Megan Belliard from the Oregon Employment Department, Worksource Oregon to share the services they offer to the group.

MOTION TO AMEND AGENDA MADE BY: **PEREZ**

Seconded by: Fox
In favor: Unanimous

Opposed: None
Abstentions: None

JUNE 2025 MEETING MINUTES

MOTION TO APPROVE JUNE 2025 MEETING MINUTES BY **KELLER**

Seconded by: Stafford
In favor: Unanimous
Opposed: None
Abstentions: None

VOTE & FINAL APPROVAL OF YYA SUBCOMMITTEE GOALS

DISCUSSION

Jay Greenfield reviewed the proposed subcommittee goals for 2025:

1. Amplify and develop voices of youth and young adults with lived experience
2. Utilize community partnerships to expand street-level and other forms of outreach, events, and collaboration
3. Advocate for the application of data and evidence-based practices in funding decisions
4. Expand access and improve collaboration and use of the youth CE system
5. Improve local youth data by gathering and sharing with community partners with the goal of developing adequate services

Megan noted that the collaborative committee had requested adding the phrase highlighted in red to the fifth goal: "with the goal of developing adequate services." This addition was presented for the subcommittee's approval.

MOTION TO APPROVE YYA GOALS WITH COLLABORATIVE COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION MADE BY: **PEREZ**

Seconded by: Keith
In favor: Unanimous
Opposed: None
Abstentions: None

CENTER FOR HOPE AND SAFETY

Sydney Canelis presented on the Center for Hope and Safety's services. The organization has been around since 1973, formerly known as Mid Valley Women's Crisis Service, and changed its name in 2014 to reflect that they serve all genders experiencing domestic violence, sexual assault, stalking, and human trafficking.

Sydney explained their confidential advocacy services, emphasizing they are not mandatory reporters, allowing them to provide a higher level of confidentiality than nurses or attorneys.

They operate a 24-hour bilingual crisis line in English and Spanish, with about 40% of staff being bilingual and bicultural in Spanish. They also have access to ASL interpretation through partnership with Bridges Oregon and a language line offering over 200 languages.

Their services include:

- Court support (helping with restraining orders and emotional support through legal processes)
- Housing support (coordinated entry for rapid rehousing for those 18 and older)
- Co-located advocacy with ODHS in self-sufficiency and child welfare spaces
- PREA (Prison Rape Elimination Act) support for adults in custody
- Support groups in English and Spanish for domestic violence survivors
- Outreach and community education

Sydney highlighted their emergency shelter called Mosaic, which was purchased in 2020 through the Project Turnkey grant, converting a former Best Western hotel into independent living spaces for survivors. The shelter provides approximately 12,000 nights of shelter to survivors and their children annually, with spaces for families of up to 8 people. They also opened Hope Plaza about a year ago in partnership with Salem Housing Authority, offering 20 units of low-income permanent housing attached to vouchers.

William Keith asked about resources they might need help with, and Sydney mentioned they always need diapers, pull-ups, and comfortable clothing. Jay noted the potential for partnership between Center for Hope and Safety and William's youth coordinated entry program for cases involving youth that the Center might not have housing for.

LINES FOR LIFE - 988

Craig Weetz, director for Youth Line Oregon at Lines for Life, presented on their services. Youth Line is celebrating its 25th anniversary this year, providing help, support, and crisis intervention to youth ages 10-24.

Key aspects of the Youth Line service include:

- A peer-to-peer crisis service staffed by teen volunteers and young adult interns from 4-10 PM Pacific every day
- Support via call, text, chat, or email
- Adult crisis workers answering calls outside the 4-10 PM window
- Annual service to approximately 25,000 youth across the country, with at least a third from Oregon

- Accreditation from the American Association of Suicidology

Craig explained that Youth Line has five call centers across Oregon: their headquarters in Portland, OSU Cascades campus in Bend, the Confederated Tribes of Warm Springs, McDaniel High School in Portland, and the University of Oregon's Ballmer Institute. They are also establishing a call center on Maui to expand their hours of peer-to-peer support.

The volunteers receive over 65 hours of training, including evidence-based suicide prevention and intervention programs. Many volunteers go on to careers in helping professions. Craig noted that they are able to get nearly 100% of callers to commit to safety without requiring emergency services intervention.

Youth Line also provides education and outreach, conducting mental health lessons in middle and high schools, participating in community events, and maintaining a social media presence. They offer free promotional materials like brochures, stickers, and posters for organizations serving youth.

WORKSOURCE OREGON

Megan Belliard from WorkSource Oregon explained their services for both job seekers and employers. She clarified that they provide employment services rather than unemployment benefits, though they do help with unemployment claims.

Services for job seekers include:

- Resume and interview skills development
- Workshops, including a state application workshop
- Mock interviews with feedback
- One-on-one meetings to identify career goals and address needs

For employers, they offer three types of recruitment assistance:

1. Self-referral postings where anyone can apply
2. Staff-assisted referrals where WorkSource screens candidates and sends the top 3-5 qualified applicants
3. Staff identification of potential matches for employers based on job seeker visits

Megan mentioned they work with many community partners and can help with job development for motivated youth, even when specific positions aren't listed in their system. They can reach out to employers to create opportunities for candidates they believe would be a good fit. They also offer on-the-job training and can provide presentations for youth groups to familiarize them with their services.

ZOOM CHAT MESSAGES

00:27:14 Tayah Dennis: I seem to be having trouble with my mic. I'll type it here! One sec

00:28:25 Tayah Dennis: I'm also with Youth Era! I'm the new Program Manager here. My wins for the week are getting to connect more with some of our new and longstanding youth this week, and getting more familiar with community partners we have here in Salem.

00:29:43 Tayah Dennis: Thank you!

00:33:57 Kat Fox: i

00:34:02 Faye Sanders (she/her): i

00:34:06 Tayah Dennis: I

00:54:46 Sydney Kanelis (CHS): Feel free to email me any questions or if you wish you connect further! I'd love to hear from you! Sydney.kanelis@hopeandsafety.org or 503-378-1572.

00:56:14 Jay Greenfield: Reacted to "Feel free to email m..." with ❤️

00:57:12 Tayah Dennis: Reacted to "Feel free to email..." with ❤️

01:17:35 Cassie Stafford | she, her WESD: Thank you for the presentation - so important and thank you for your work!

01:17:49 Craig Leets (he.him.his): Craig Leets

YouthLine at Lines for Life

CraigL@linesforlife.org

01:18:25 Craig Leets (he.him.his): I have to jump to another meeting. Thank you all! Please reach out to me about anything!

01:34:51 Marianne Bradshaw: Thanks, Megan!

01:35:01 Cassandra Bay: Thanks, Megan!

01:35:06 Cassie Stafford | she, her WESD: Thank you!

01:35:10 Sarah Whisenhunt: I have to head to another meeting. Bye!

01:35:10 Tayah Dennis: Thank you!

01:35:24 Kat Fox: can you put that in the chat :-)

01:35:24 Tayah Dennis: I'm also headed out for another meeting. Take care, everyone!

01:35:47 Jay Greenfield: megan.l.belliard@employ.oregon.gov

01:36:07 Megan Belliard (Sarino) - Mid Willamette Valley: 503-378-4882

01:37:40 Marianne Bradshaw: Thanks, everyone!

ADJOURNMENT

CO-Chair Jay adjourned the meeting at 11:22 a.m.