Meeting Minutes of:

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

Meeting Date & Time:
March , 2026
10:00 a.m. – 11:30 a.m.

Location:
Zoom

PARTICIPANTS PRESENT

Co-Chair, Center for Hope & Safety, Megan Perez
Co-Chair, Punx with Purpose, Jay Greenfield
Chemeketa Community College, Sarah Whisenhunt
Church at the Park, Nick McQuade
Elle Group Consulting, Arielle Goranson
MWVCAA, Bailey Klinger
MWVHA, Cassie Bay
MWVHA, Misty Bolger
ODHS, Michelle
Oregon L.E.A.D., Yesenia Hernandez
WESD, Cassie Stafford

WELCOME & WIN WALL

Co-Chair Jay Greenfield called the meeting to order at 10:03 a.m.

CONSENT CALENDAR

MOTION TO **APPROVE** 3.13.26 MEETING AGENDA & 1.9.26 MEETING MINUTES BY **JAY GREENFIELD**

Seconded by: Bailey Klinger
In favor: Unanimous
Opposed: None
Abstentions: None

HEALTH & HOUSING FOCUS GROUP

Arielle Goranson (Elle Group Consulting) provided an overview of the Environmental Scan and Integration Mapping Project, which aims to better understand how housing, homelessness, and health systems are currently functioning across Marion and Polk counties. The focus is on identifying system strengths, gaps, and opportunities for improved coordination and service delivery, particularly for populations experiencing homelessness.

YYA members engaged in a structured focus group using scenario-based discussions to explore real-world challenges and system responses. Scenarios included:

- An unsheltered family experiencing a sudden crisis (loss of vehicle, medical needs)
- A youth experiencing homelessness and barriers to shelter and transportation
- A family facing housing instability following a medical event and hospital discharge

Key Themes Identified:

- **Access Barriers & Timing Gaps:**
  Significant challenges exist during evenings and weekends when services are limited or closed, creating delays in access to shelter, medical care, and basic needs.
- **Navigation & System Complexity:**
  Participants highlighted difficulty navigating fragmented systems. There is a need for clearer entry points, improved coordination, and more consistent guidance for both providers and clients.
- **Youth-Specific Gaps:**
  Youth experiencing homelessness face unique barriers, including limited local shelter options, transportation challenges, and reliance on relocation to access services. Youth homelessness is often less visible and less understood within existing systems.
- **School System Connection Opportunities:**
  Schools were identified as critical access points, particularly through McKinney-Vento liaisons and school staff. However, gaps exist in awareness, communication, and consistency across districts.
- **Family System Limitations:**
  Families, particularly those with fathers and children, may face reduced access to certain shelter options. Waitlists and capacity constraints further limit timely placement.
- **Healthcare & Discharge Coordination:**
  Opportunities exist to strengthen coordination between healthcare providers and housing systems, particularly at discharge. While programs such as HRSN and flex funds are available, delays and lack of awareness limit effectiveness.
- **Communication & Responsiveness:**
  Participants expressed frustration with inconsistent communication across agencies, including unanswered calls and emails, which creates barriers to timely support and contributes to provider burnout.
- **Need for Centralized Information & Navigation Support:**
  A strong need was identified for a centralized resource or navigation system to help

providers and community members quickly identify available services and access points.

Overall Discussion:
The discussion reinforced that while many resources exist within the region, gaps in coordination, accessibility, communication, and system navigation prevent effective service delivery. Participants emphasized the importance of improving integration across systems and increasing awareness of available resources.

Facilitators noted that feedback gathered during the session will inform ongoing environmental scan analysis and future system improvement recommendations.

OUTREACH EVENTS

Jay presented a schedule of outreach events and gave the group an update on the upcoming Youth Resource Fair being planned in partnership with the City of Woodburn and the Mid-Willamette Valley Homeless Alliance.

The event is scheduled for May 28th, 2026, with the time currently being finalized, though it is anticipated to take place after school hours in the early evening. The proposed location is Legion Park in Woodburn, with the City offering use of the space at no cost.

Planning efforts are underway to engage local providers and organizations serving youth in the Woodburn area. Participants were invited to consider hosting resource tables, as capacity allows, to support outreach and connection to services.

Additional coordination includes outreach to a local food vendor to provide meals for youth attendees. A request has been submitted to the City of Woodburn for funding support, which, if approved, would allow for approximately 50 youth to receive free meals at the event.

The event represents a significant opportunity to expand outreach efforts in the Woodburn community and increase access to resources for youth and young adults.

OREGON L.E.A.D.

Yesenia Hernandez provided an overview of Oregon LEAD, a nonprofit organization focused on leadership, education, advocacy, and community support for youth, children, and families across Marion, Polk, and Yamhill counties. The organization takes a holistic, culturally responsive approach to service delivery, with a strong emphasis on supporting underserved and agricultural worker communities.

Oregon LEAD offers a range of services including:

- Assistance with Oregon Health Plan (OHP) applications, renewals, and navigation
- Support accessing primary care, dental, vision, and behavioral health services
- Help with Marketplace insurance enrollment and plan navigation

- Transportation coordination, interpretation services, and application assistance for programs such as HRSN and Flex Funds
- Connection to community resources including food, clothing, and basic needs supports

The organization also provides broader wraparound supports such as digital skills assistance, unemployment and identification applications, and resource navigation through partnerships and community-based outreach.

Staff highlighted their proactive outreach model, which includes meeting clients where they are, such as schools, community sites, agricultural workplaces, and rural areas, with a focus on reducing barriers to access.

Key challenges discussed included:

- Complexity and confusion within healthcare and benefits systems
- Delays in accessing resources such as HRSN and Flex Funds
- Language barriers and the need for culturally specific services
- Gaps in communication and coordination across systems

Oregon LEAD emphasized their commitment to empowering clients through education and navigation support, ensuring individuals and families can independently access services when needed.

Participants expressed appreciation for the presentation and discussed opportunities for connection and collaboration, particularly in supporting youth and families and improving access to resources across the region.

ZOOM CHAT MESSAGES

00:42:38 Rebecca's Assistant: Esther and Rebecca added Rebecca's Assistant to the
01:02:06 Cassie Stafford | she, her WESD: I could see the daughter missing school because of all that parent is figuring out. Also with the daughter having asthma and missing inhaler, I would wonder about connecting with school nurse and mckenney vento liaison for school continuity

01:02:15 Bailey Klinger (HOME Youth Services): Reacted to "I could see the daug..." with ❤️

01:02:59 Jay Greenfield: Reacted to "I could see the daug..." with ❤️

01:03:01 Cassie Bay - MWVHA: Reacted to "I could see the daug..." with ❤️

01:04:12 Jay Greenfield: How far out is ODHS on providing services like TANF?

01:04:22 Homeless Alliance: Reacted to "How far out is ODHS ..." with 👍

01:04:31 Homeless Alliance: Reacted to "I could see the daug..." with 👍

01:05:05 Jay Greenfield: Cause they could get connected to OEP/SSP department to get an intake and also be able to get them services like SNAP and OHP.

01:05:42 Jay Greenfield: Does Salem Free Clinics see people that late?

01:06:01 Megan Perez: They have limited hours. Your best bet is NWHS West Salem clinic

01:06:08 Jay Greenfield: Reacted to "They have limited ho..." with 👍

01:06:18 Megan Perez: They have OHP assisters on site if the clients don't have OHP

01:06:26 Jay Greenfield: Reacted to "They have OHP assist..." with ❤️

01:07:43 Bailey Klinger (HOME Youth Services): Reacted to "They have limited ho..." with ❤️

01:07:44 Bailey Klinger (HOME Youth Services): Reacted to "They have OHP assist..." with ❤️

01:08:35 Jay Greenfield: ALSO there's a free cell phone service but I forget who has that.

01:19:22 Cassie Bay - MWVHA:Woodburn cherriots schedule https://www.cherriots.org/route/10X/ looks like it runs 8 times a day.

01:19:54 Jay Greenfield: Reacted to "Woodburn cherriots s..." with 👍

01:23:15 Jay Greenfield: The service I was talking about is called "Ant Farm" but they are only in Sandy, Estacada, and Molalla.

01:23:26 Bailey Klinger (HOME Youth Services): Reacted to "The service I was ta..." with ❤️

01:23:40 Arielle Goranson: Reacted to "The service I was ta..." with 👍🏻

01:24:15 Jay Greenfield: Emerging Unidos is a super helpful resource for youth in Woodburn, I would connect them with them.

01:24:26 Arielle Goranson: Reacted to "Emerging Unidos is a..." with 👍🏻

01:25:00 Jay Greenfield: Also - there is a ODHS Self-Sufficiency Programs office in Woodburn, too.

01:29:39 Aruna: How long does it take for HRSN to be processed?

01:29:46 Homeless Alliance: Reacted to "How long does it tak..." with 👍

01:29:52 Jay Greenfield: Reacted to "How long does it tak..." with ❤️

01:29:53 Bailey Klinger (HOME Youth Services): Reacted to "How long does it tak..." with 👍

01:29:56 Megan Perez: Through Just compassion it's pretty quick

01:30:01 Jay Greenfield: How old is the daughter again?

01:30:23 Arielle Goranson: Replying to "How old is the daugh..."

Daughter is 12 years old

01:30:28 Jay Greenfield: Replying to "How old is the daugh..."

Thank you! 🙂

01:33:55 Jay Greenfield: Punx with Purpose can assist youth ages 11-18 and we have a drop-in center that is open 3 days a week.

01:34:03 Homeless Alliance: Reacted to "Punx with Purpose ca..." with 👍

01:34:04 Arielle Goranson: Reacted to "Punx with Purpose ca..." with 👍🏻

01:34:04 Bailey Klinger (HOME Youth Services): Reacted to "Punx with Purpose ca..." with ❤️

01:34:04 Jay Greenfield: We would be able to assist with this youth! 🙂

01:34:37 Homeless Alliance: Reacted to "We would be able to ..." with ❤️

01:35:45 Jay Greenfield: There's also the Salem Leadership Foundation.

01:35:49 Jay Greenfield: They would be able to assist!

01:35:58 Megan Perez: Reacted to "There's also the Sal..." with 👍

01:37:30 Homeless Alliance: Hoping to take 5 min for people to fill out survey

01:39:03 Homeless Alliance: https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSdk4KfAtBi6xH1z3qloRKJFR9fOpx9WZ34wvqFBMFiIOaWa6Q/viewform

01:39:35 Cassie Bay - MWVHA: I will send the survey link out after the meeting as well.

01:39:43 Homeless Alliance: Reacted to "I will send the surv..." with ❤️

01:40:10 Homeless Alliance: https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSdpUpMP3xQxxzu-4f3_ECjsjDGC1lAitVWMSbeK8WskESrSeA/viewform

01:45:07 Cassie Stafford | she, her WESD: I wondering how Connect Oregon could be helpful in this process?

01:45:15 Homeless Alliance: Reacted to "I wondering how Conn..." with ❤️

01:45:16 Bailey Klinger (HOME Youth Services): Reacted to "I wondering how Conn..." with ❤️

01:45:27 Megan Perez: Reacted to "I wondering how Conn..." with ❤️

01:45:42 Cassie Stafford | she, her WESD: Replying to "I wondering how Conn..."

https://uniteus.com/networks/oregon/

01:46:22 Cassie Bay - MWVHA:Thank you Arielle & Emily!!

01:46:24 Cassie Stafford | she, her WESD: Thank you - this was really great!

01:46:36 Homeless Alliance: Reacted to "Thank you Arielle & ..." with ❤️

01:46:38 Homeless Alliance: Reacted to "Thank you - this was..." with ❤️

01:48:00 Arielle Goranson: Here is my email: arielle@ellegroupconsulting.com. Thank you everyone!

01:48:07 Aruna: Reacted to "Here is my email: ar..." with ❤️

01:48:46 Michelle. ODHS: ODHS will be there!

01:48:54 Megan Perez: Reacted to "ODHS will be there!" with 👍

01:49:07 Cassie Bay - MWVHA:Backbone will be there!

01:49:12 Megan Perez: Reacted to "Backbone will be the..." with 👍

01:49:20 Aruna: Reacted to "Backbone will be the..." with 😊

01:52:30 Bailey Klinger (HOME Youth Services): Reacted to "Backbone will be the..." with ❤️

01:59:55 Bailey Klinger (HOME Youth Services): Reacted to "ODHS will be there!" with ❤️

02:05:15 Cassie Stafford | she, her WESD: I would love to connect with you Yesenia - I have a family support advocate out in districts that would benefit from connecting with you

02:06:26 Cassie Bay - MWVHA:I can send these emails and Arielle's to the group after the meeting.

02:06:34 Bailey Klinger (HOME Youth Services): Reacted to "I can send these ema..." with ❤️

02:07:51 Cassie Bay - MWVHA:Thank you, Yesenia!

02:08:19 Cassie Stafford | she, her WESD: Thank you - great meeting!

ADJOURNMENT

CO-Chair Jay Greenfield adjourned the meeting at 11:26 a.m.