MID-WILLAMETTE VALLEY HOMELESS ALLIANCE

Health & Safety Committee
Tuesday, October 27th, 2026, 1:00–2:00 pm
Agenda

Zoom:
https://wesd.zoom.us/j/98406731410?pwd=0aWUPhDvTCHW82Yrdj0shvcXByKFDK.1

Meeting ID: 984 0673 1410
Passcode: 408629

TIME	AGENDA ITEM	FACILITATOR
1:00	**Welcome & Committee Business** • Please enter your name and organization in the chat • Welcome guests • Approve **September 2026** minutes	Krista
1:05	**Committee Leadership and Member Update** • **Housing Sector Co-Chair:** Naomi Hudkins' appointment recommendation remains pending due to a lack of quorum at the October Board meeting. • **H&S Member Engagement:** Reconnect with Health & Safety Committee members through individual check-ins. Outreach will begin before the November meeting to schedule one-on-one conversations.	Emily
1:20	**Environmental Scan Pilot Updates** • **Pilot #6 Medical Respite Draft:** RFP anticipated to go before the Board on November 12 for approval. • **RFP Timeline:** Tentative release date of November 16, with applications closing December 4. • **Application Review:** Seeking H&S Committee members interested in participating in the review and recommendation process once applications are received.	Emily
1:40	**Emerging Issues & Immediate Concerns: Open Discussion** • Opportunity for committee members to share emerging health, safety, housing, or homelessness-related issues, identify immediate concerns, and discuss potential areas for coordination or follow-up.	Krista
1:55	**Partner Updates/Action Items/Dismiss Meeting**	Krista

The Mid-Willamette Valley Homeless Alliance (MWVHA) is pleased to comply with the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA). If you need special accommodations to attend this meeting, please contact MWVHA at (503) 540-1627, TTY 7-7-1 at least 48 hours prior to the meeting. We accept all relay calls.

MID-WILLAMETTE VALLEY HOMELESS ALLIANCE
THE CONTINUUM OF CARE FOR THE MARION & POLK REGION OF OREGON

Health & Safety Committee Roster

Member	Agency Affiliation	Sector
Alba Garcia	Polk County Behavioral Health	Health
Ashley Carson	Center for Hope and Safety	Housing
Chris Barber	Curandi	Health
Housing Co-Chair OPEN	**Housing Co-Chair**	**Housing**
Denyc Boles	Salem Health	Health
Josh Erickson	Church at the Park	Housing
Kellee Borsberry	NWHS	Health
Krista Lovaas (Co-Chair)	**WVP**	**Health**
Logan Garcia	Mid-Willamette Valley Community Action Agency	Housing
Lynelle Wilcox	Safe Sleep United	Housing
Nicole Utz	Salem Housing Authority	Housing
Sarah White	Sheltering Silverton	Housing
Trisha Kumar	Willamette Health Council	Health
Eli Kinsley	Bridgeway Community Health	Housing
Naomi Hudkins	Marion County Health & Human Services	Housing

Updated August 2026

Meeting Minutes of:

MID-WILLAMETTE VALLEY HOMELESS ALLIANCE (MWVHA) HEALTH & SAFETY COMMITTEE

Meeting Date & Time:
September 22, 2026
1:00 p.m. – 2:00 p.m.
Location

Link:
https://wesd.zoom.us/j/98406731410?pwd=0aWUPhDvTCHW82Yrdj0shvcXByKFDK.1
Meeting ID: 984 0673 1410
Passcode: 408629

MEMBERS PRESENT

Curandi, Chris Barber

Salem Health, Denyc Boles: **Proxy-Tricia Frizzell**

WHC, Kumar, Trisha

NWHS, Kellee Borsberry

Co-Chair WVP, Krista Lovaas

Polk County, Alba Garcia

Marion County, Naomi Hudkins

SafeSleep United, Lynelle Wilcox

Center for Hope and Safety, Ashley Carson

Salem Housing Authority, Nicole Utz

MEMBERS ABSENT

Church at the Park, Josh Erickson

Mid-Willamette Valley Community Action Agency, Logan Garcia

Bridgeway Health, Eli Kinsley

Sheltering Silverton, Sarah White

MWVHA STAFF PRESENT & GUESTS

MWVHA, Emily Mewbourn

MWVHA, Steve Replogle

WELCOME & COMMITTEE BUSINESS

Co-Chair Krista Lovaas opened the meeting at 1:04 pm.

The meeting opened, and attendees were asked to enter their names and organizations in the chat. Once a quorum was reached, the **August 2026** meeting minutes were reviewed. A motion to approve was made by Trisha Kumar and seconded by Ashley Carson.

MOTION TO APPROVE August 2026 **MEETING MINUTES** by Trisha Kumar

Seconded by: Ashley Carson **Unanimous:** No **Opposed:** None **Abstentions**: Trisha Frizzell, Nicole Utz, Lynelle Wilcox

---

Recruitment Efforts

Emily Mewbourn provided an update on the vacant Housing Sector Co-Chair position and noted that Naomi Hudkins had indicated she may be willing to serve if no other members were interested.

Naomi Hudkins formally self-nominated for the position. No additional nominations were made, and the committee conducted a vote. Naomi was unanimously recommended as Housing Sector Co-Chair, with no opposition or abstentions.

The recommendation will be forwarded to the Alliance Board for appointment, anticipated in October. Emily will follow up with Naomi regarding the role and next steps.

MOTION TO APPROVE Naomi Hudkins **Recommend to BOD Housing Sector Co-Chair** by Naomi Hudkins

Seconded by: Krista Lovaas **Unanimous:** YES **Opposed:** None **Abstentions**:None

---

Environmental Scan Pilot Updates

Pilot #1: Lived Experience Advisory Council

Emily Mewbourn presented the draft development plan for the Lived Experience Advisory Council Pilot. She explained that this pilot was being developed first because it does not require competitive procurement and could be absorbed within her existing role. The proposed 12-month pilot would include six members, stipends, and Health & Safety Committee oversight.

Lynelle Wilcox supported monthly rather than quarterly meetings to maintain continuity and avoid token participation. She recommended addressing accessibility through in-person options, meals, transportation assistance, and stipends. She also emphasized that lived-experience participation should result in tangible outcomes.

Trisha Frizzell (proxy for Denyc Boles) raised concerns about overlap with the existing Backbone group, including whether the new council would duplicate Backbone's purpose and whether youth and young adults were adequately represented. She questioned establishing another lived-experience committee while Backbone remains on hiatus.

Emily Mewbourn agreed that the Backbone relationship needs further consideration and suggested that portions of the pilot development plan could potentially be incorporated into Backbone's work rather than creating a separate committee. No formal action was taken. Emily will discuss options with Alliance leadership and the Board before proceeding.

Salem Area Resource Lists:

Lynelle Wilcox presented a resource list she developed for people experiencing homelessness, particularly those living outdoors. She explained that the list was created after concerns arose about outdated resources being provided during encampment sweeps and the limitations of relying primarily on 211.

Lynelle reported that her own test call to 211 involved a roughly 45-minute wait, and she found that several local shelter and day-center resources were not listed online.

The resource list is intended to be short, practical, and focused on immediate needs, including shelters, day centers, transitional and sober living options, meals, crisis services, re-entry services, pregnancy resources, and peer support. The four-page document can be printed as two double-sided sheets.

Lynelle emphasized that the list is not intended to replace existing comprehensive resource guides. Instead, it focuses on resources that people experiencing homelessness can access relatively directly and reflects the needs she commonly sees among people coming from the street into shelter. She included her contact information so providers can notify her of changes and help keep the list current.

Emily Mewbourn suggested exploring whether the resource list could be added to the Alliance website as a companion to existing resources, subject to leadership approval.

PARTNER UPDATES/ACTION ITEMS/DISMISS MEETING

Ashley Carson shared information about the upcoming Steps to Safety Domestic Violence Awareness event on October 3 at Minto-Brown. The event includes walk/run options and benefits the Marion County Domestic Violence Council.

Lynelle Wilcox provided an update on shelter availability coordination. She has been sharing regular bed availability information directly with outreach teams, including REACH, homeless services officers, HOPE, and ARCHES. She noted that direct communication has been more useful than maintaining a static vacancy spreadsheet because it allows providers to discuss individual needs, shelter fit, and accommodations.

Lynelle also raised concerns about encampment sweeps and the availability of appropriate placements for people with high support needs. She noted that many individuals remaining outdoors have medical, mobility, or other needs that shelters may not be equipped to support. She asked whether the Alliance should consider taking a more active advocacy role on these issues.

Emily Mewbourn noted that the advocacy question has been raised internally and suggested bringing the issue to the Board through public comment. The committee discussion recognized that any formal Alliance position would ultimately require Board consideration.

ZOOM CHAT MESSAGES

00:12:31 Alba Garcia (she/her): Alba Garcia- Polk County BH

00:12:36 Nicole Utz, SHA: Nicole Utz, Salem Housing Authority

00:12:38 Trisha Kumar: Trisha Kumar, WHC!

00:12:46 Tricia Frizzell: Tricia Frizzell - Salem Health

00:12:48 Ashley Carson: Ashley Carson, Center for Hope and Safety

00:13:07 lynelle: Lynelle Wilcox - SafeSleep United women's overnight low barrier shelter

00:13:46 nhudkins: Naomi Hudkins - Marion County Health & Human Services Housing Programs

00:25:07 Ashley Carson: Whenever we are at the point of needing the space we can host the group at Hope Plaza, very close to the bus mall, etc.

00:26:58 Tricia Frizzell: what is the link and coordination between this lived experience committee and Backbone? Is there cross over or opportunity for an individual to serve on both?

00:27:08 lynelle: Reacted to "Whenever we are at the point of needing the space we can host the group at Hope Plaza, very close to the bus mall, etc." with 🩶

00:33:02 Nicole Utz, SHA: Reacted to "Whenever we are at the point of needing the space we can host the group at Hope Plaza, very close to the bus mall, etc." with 💟

00:38:53 Tricia Frizzell: Here is another resource site that's useful. Its locally managed by NWHS = Salem Area Resources | Find The Help You Need

00:39:05 Krista Lovaas: Reacted to "Here is another resource site that's useful. Its locally managed by NWHS = Salem Area Resources | Find The Help You Need" with 👍

00:39:19 Homeless Alliance: Reacted to "Here is another re..." with 👍

00:41:30 Ashley Carson: Reacted to "Here is another resource site that's useful. Its locally managed by NWHS = Salem Area Resources | Find The Help You Need" with 👍

00:43:21 Ashley Carson: This is also good for aging and disability specific resources: https://www.adrcoforegon.org/consumersite/index.php

00:45:27 Emily Homeless Alliance: Reacted to "This is also good for aging and disability specific resources: https://www.adrcoforegon.org/consumersite/index.php" with 💟

00:45:33 Emily Homeless Alliance: Reacted to "Here is another resource site that's useful. Its locally managed by NWHS = Salem Area Resources | Find The Help You Need" with 💟

00:47:09 Ashley Carson: Thanks, Lynelle!

00:47:16 Emily Homeless Alliance: Reacted to "Thanks, Lynelle!" with 💟

00:49:49 Ashley Carson: https://raceroster.com/events/2026/118295/steps-2-safety

00:49:57 Emily Homeless Alliance: Reacted to "https://raceroster.com/events/2026/118295/steps-2-safety" with 👍

00:51:39 Chris Barber: Great to consider how this can expand on the B40 concept

00:52:39 Ashley Carson: Also to raise awareness during DV awareness month we are partnering with Pentacle Theater for their performance of Angel Street (Gaslight) - buy a ticket for Oct 21st! https://purchase.pentacletheatre.org/ChooseSeats/22201 Share with all of your theater buff friends :)!

ADJOURNMENT: Co-Chair Krista Lovaas closed the meeting at 1:51 pm