



HOUSING and SUPPORTIVE SERVICE NETWORK

Providing a Continuum of Care for Vulnerable Populations in Washington County

Wednesday, May 5, 2021 - 8:30 to 10:00 a.m.

Zoom <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/86437839959?pwd=UTYweFhuV0dEZ2hhVDUxUENBVU4xUT09>

Meeting ID: 864 3783 9959, Passcode: 384195; By phone dial (253)215-8782

AGENDA

- I. **INTRODUCTIONS: 8:30 a.m.**
 - Mental Wellness Moments (MWM) are brief daily practices of self-care and wellness.
- II. **MEETING MINUTES: 8:32 a.m.**
 - **Action:** Approve the April 7, 2021 meeting minutes.
- III. **GUEST SPEAKERS: 8:35 a.m.**
 - Bill Russell, Union Gospel Mission
Transitional Housing Program

 - Anthony Grimaldi, Habitat for Humanity Portland Region
Housing Rehab Program
- IV. **GENERAL BUSINESS: 9:00 a.m.**
 - Report on the Metro [Supportive Housing Services Program](#) – Jes Larson
 - COVID Response: Vaccination and Respite Shelter Updates – Rodolfo Rodriguez
 - COVID Response: Renter's Relief Funds – Katherine Galian
 - A Road Home Annual [Work Plan](#) Updates – Vara Fellger
- V. **REPORTS AND PROGRAM UPDATES: 9:20 a.m.**
 - Subcommittee Reports
 - Children (Homeless Education Network) – David Pero
 - Youth – Drew Williamson
 - Homeless Outreach – Pat Rogers
 - DD Dialogue – Gordon Teifel
 - Veterans and Seniors – Gary Smith and Yvette Potter
 - [HSSN CoC Board](#) – Annette Evans
 - [Homeless Plan Advisory Committee](#) (HPAC) – Annette Evans
- VI. **ANNOUNCEMENTS: 9:50 a.m.**
- VII. **ADJOURNMENT: 10:00 a.m.**

Next Meeting: Wednesday, June 2, 2021

The HSSN is open to the public and all are invited to join – see [HSSN](#) website for additional information and past meeting agenda, minutes and handouts. Comments regarding the agenda can be directed to Annette Evans, Homeless Program Manager, at 503-846-4760 or email Annette_Evans@co.washington.or.us

HOUSING AND SUPPORTIVE SERVICES NETWORK
Providing a Continuum of Care (CoC) in Washington County
April 7, 2021, 8:30 a.m. (Virtual Meeting)

Mission: Housing and service provider agencies working to bring a broad spectrum of organizations together as partners in the community to perform strategic planning, gaps analysis, prioritize resources needed to provide a continuum of care for individuals and families who are at-risk or experiencing homeless.

ATTENDEES:

Alexander Sheridan, Allie—Good Neighbor Center
Anderson Peoples, Kathy—City of Beaverton
Angeles, Nic—Housing Independence
Atherton, Haley--OHSU
Auslander, Jay—WC Mental Health
Baca, Melissa—Community Action Organization
Blasco, Martin—WC Cooperative Library Services
Bonvino, Cecilia—Community Action Organization
Brownell, Amy—Ecumenical Ministries-Second Home
Burnett, Amanda—DVRC
Calvin, Mellani—ASSIST Program
Cardwell, Shawn—Forest Grove Foundation
Deters, Melia—Community Action Organization
Dwyer, DaNene—Portland Community College
Enochian, Elise—REACH CDC
Espinoza, Rocio—City of Hillsboro
Evans, Annette—WC Housing Services
Fellger, Vara—WC Housing Services
Fields, Kaylie—Oregon Dept of Human Services
Forshew, John—Aloha Community Library
Fox, Karen—City of Tualatin
Franco, Magali—OHSU-Tuality Alliance
Galian, Katherine—Community Action Organization
Gnant, Brylee—Family Promise of Tualatin Valley
Gramp, Heather—US Dept Housing & Urban Development
Greene, Jacen—PSU-HCAC
Guptill, Jolene—Family Promise of Beaverton
Hawkins, Ann—WC Office of Community Development
Langbauer, Maria—WC Office of Community Development
Larson, Jes—WC Housing Services
Lloyd, Rhonda—The Salvation Army
Ludlam, Mandie—Community Housing Fund
Markus, Michelle—Mental Health Assoc of Oregon
Martinez, Omar—City of Hillsboro
Merkel, Cole—Here Together of Oregon
Miller-Kennington, Laine—Community Action Organization
Moshkowsky, Justin—The Salvation Army
Moshkowsky, Melody—The Salvation Army
Mullins, Angela—WC Housing Services
Palomar, Caitlin-Community Action Organization
Penney, Darcie—DVRC
Perkowski, Kaja—Open Door Counseling Center
Pero, David—McKinney-Vento Liaison-FG/HEN
Potter, Yvette—WC Disability, Aging & Veteran Services
Ramage, Marie—WC Veteran Treatment Court
Rhodes, Barbara A – Citizen At-Large
Rodriguez, Rodolfo—WC Housing Services
Rogers, Patrick—Community Action Organization
Roots, Emily—City of Beaverton
Rostampour, Theresa—Boys & Girls Aid
Ruiz, Roseanna—CPAH Oregon
Salisbury, Susan—Community Action Organization
Schaeffer-Bischt, Blair—WorkSystems, Inc.
Schimmel, Brian—Forest Grove Foundation
Schira, Danielle—Rebuilding Together Washington Co.
Sell, Wendy—Lifeworks NW
Simpson, Robin—Safe Families for Children
Smith, Gary—US Dept of Veteran Affairs
Smith, Mikaila—Providence
Sparr, Nina—US Dept of Veteran Affairs
Staples, Alicia—REACH CDC
Stoller, Rick—Ecumenical Ministries-Second Home
Taylor, Molly—Oregon Dept of Human Services
Taylor, Rowie--DVRC
Teifel, Gordon—Families for Independent Living/DEAR
Trinkle, Jamie—Oregon Law Center
Trunnell, Alan—WC Office of Community Development
Valencia, Mari—Office of Community Development
Valfre, Val—Citizen
Von Tersch, Meghan—CAP
Waltchew, Ivy—Community Action Organization
Welch, Lexi— Oregon Dept of Human Services
White, Erica—Oregon Dept of Human Services
Williams, Carissa--OHSU
Williams, Carrie—New Narrative
Williams, Natalie—WC Office of Community Development

Chair: Annette Evans, Public Agency Representative, annette_evans@co.washington.or.us
Co-Chair: Katherine Galian, Nonprofit Agency Representative, kgalian@caowash.org

I. INTRODUCTIONS

Mental Health wellness moment observed.

II. APPROVAL OF MEETING MINUTES

Motion: Approve March 3, 2021 meeting minutes.

Action: Mellani Calvin

Second: Katherine Galian

Vote: Approved, unanimous.

III. GUEST SPEAKER

Erica White, Oregon Department of Human Services “Aging and Persons with Disabilities (APD) Program”

Erica provided an overview of the long-term care services and supports available through the Aging and People with Disabilities Program (APD) at the Oregon Department of Human Services (DHS). Programs operated through APD include the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP), Medicaid Medical Assistance Programs which include the Oregon Supplemental Income Program (OSIP), the MAGI Medical program for disabled younger adults, the Medicare Savings Program. APD also operates the Long-Term Care (LTC) services aka Title XIX benefits. A State Plan Personal Care Service program is available for those who do not qualify for Long-Term Care Services, but have personal care, nutrition and medication management needs to avoid a decline into needing Medicaid LTC services. A Functional Needs Assessment (CA/PS) is required to determine eligibility for LTC services and used to determine payment and/or in-home care hours. She noted, exceptions can be requested for needs not addressed in CA/PS calculated hours or payment rate. Qualification for LTC requires a Service Priority Level (SPL) between 1 and 13. Certain criteria will qualify an individual for Nursing Facility level of care. A Medicaid waiver is available for those who need a setting other than a nursing facility. Erica reviewed the placement options available through the LTC program (in-home care, assisted living facility care, adult foster home care, residential care facility, nursing facility care), provided a description of each option and the services available. For more information, contact Erica White at erica.m.white@dhs.ohio.state.or.us or (971) 217-5251. Erica’s presentation is available [here](#).

Is the State Plan Personal Care Services program the same as Oregon Project Independence (OPI)?

No. OPI is not a DHS program but one funded through the Older Americans Act. In Washington County, individuals who don’t qualify for long-term care services through DHS (financially or for some other reason), can go to Washington County’s Disability, Aging & Veteran Services (DAVS) and apply for personal care services through the OPI program.

Is residency documentation required for eligibility?

Erica will follow-up on this, but didn’t believe the program was available to undocumented individuals.

How often do face-to-face case management checkups happen?

Prior to the pandemic, checkups were done as often as possible. With the Governor’s Executive Order still in place, check-ups are limited to FaceTime or Zoom virtual meetings, or over the telephone. Adult Protective Service workers are able to enter facilities to investigate reports of abuse.

What is the referral process for the APD Program?

Erica suggested calling the nearest APD office to get connected to a LTC screener who can assist the agency rep and consumer through the ONE system.

Will the CA/PS system possibly look at loosening restrictions to include degeneration of cognition as qualification into the LTC program?

The needs of the population in our communities are taken into consideration but also from a budgetary standpoint (how many people the program can serve). Erica acknowledged individuals will often not admit to having difficulties or struggling with activities of daily living. She recommended making sure the client had a diagnosis from a doctor of dementia or Alzheimer's and that there was someone who could attest to the difficulty the cognition issues presented.

How can programs communicate the actual day-to-day activities of individuals in need of LTC services, but where cognition waivers, or where an individual can do some activities, but not as often as they should?

APD are able to look at 30-days prior and 30-days after their point-in-time assessment. Erica noted it was important to know why an individual may not be participating in meals or other activities of daily living. Was it because they forget that mealtimes were happening, or were they have difficulty getting to the bathroom, or was there a dignity issue?

Annette shared CareOregon were instrumental in making sure winter shelter guests were connected to healthcare and eligible for APD services and then coordinated with APD who stepped in to expedite the process for homeless guests in winter shelter struggling with being able to function in the emergency shelter. They also assisted in determining the level of care they needed. As with a lack of housing resources for homeless, there is also a limited capacity of facilities to provide the level of services that individuals might need.

Erica confirmed the current bottleneck created by the pandemic. Facilities were hesitant to accept new admissions because of the virus, but also people were afraid to move out, so vacancies are scarce. Once approved to the LTC program, individuals are assigned to an Intake Case Manager who works to place them in a care setting. Once installed, an Ongoing Case Manager will take over the management of the individual.

IV. GENERAL BUSINESS

A. Metro Supportive Housing Services Program Implementation – Jes Larson

Jes reported the LIP is the framework to guide the implementation of the SHS Program in Washington County and was approved by the Board of County Commissioners on Tuesday, April 6. It will go before the Metro Oversight Committee on April 26. A Request For Programmatic Qualifications (RFPQ) is expected to be released mid-April to qualify service providers for a minimum of three (3) years. As a procurement process, the RFPQ will also allow the other two counties to contract with agencies interested in working in Multnomah and/or Clackamas counties. The application will be open for a full month and ask each organization to demonstrate their mission alignment with the SHS Program, their commitment to serve the community with equity based principles and practices, require a description of the services currently provided and those that would like to be added given additional resources. Qualifying services may include outreach and engagement, housing placement and navigation, short term rent assistance, long term housing supports, on -site building based services or case management, transitional housing and emergency shelter programs, wraparound services to ensure long term housing stability from addiction and recovery support programs, peer support programs, behavioral health community based programs, and employment and education support programs. Pre-proposal sessions will be scheduled toward the end of April to provide a Q&A session and technical assistance for agencies who plan to submit applications. Upon qualifying a pool of providers, the next step will be to specifically allocate processes for the different services. Housing navigation has been identified as a high priority and will likely be one of the first allocation processes to be developed. More information is available at

<https://www.co.washington.or.us/Housing/SupportiveHousingServices/funding-announcements.cfm>

B. COVID Response: Vaccination and Respite Shelter Updates – Rodolfo Rodriguez

In early March Washington County Housing Services partnered with Public Health, Domestic Violence Resource Center, Family Promise of Beaverton, Family Promise of Tualatin Valley, Good Neighbor Center Shelter in Tigard and Boys & Girls Aid Safe Place Shelter to develop a vaccine distribution plan. Almost 200 vaccines were distributed, primarily for staff and eligible homeless. On March 29, all houseless neighbors became eligible for the COVID-19 vaccine. With this in mind, the vaccine planning and administration for the unhoused population is now being led by Washington County Public Health who are collaborating with service providers to organize vaccine clinics in Beaverton and Hillsboro to serve both shelters and day centers in each geographic area as well as on-site clinics at shelters with a large number of guests. Tyler Slattery from Washington County Health and Human Services is overseeing the effort, tyler_slattery@co.washington.or.us.

Rodolfo reported the Washington County Respite Center began operations about one year ago to provide relief to Washington County residents impacted by COVID-19 (tested positive or awaiting test results from a known exposure or experiencing COVID symptoms) and unable to isolate in their current living situation. To date 322 individuals had been served. Currently the facility is housing four guests, three of whom are COVID positive and one from Corrections. As COVID rates decline, the remaining rooms have been opened to Project Homeless Connect to operate a non-congregate shelter through June 30, 2021. So far, twenty-three (23) homeless guests have been housed in the shelter. For more information, contact Rodolfo at Rodolfo_rodriguez@co.washington.or.us,

C. COVID Response: Renter’s Relief Funds – Katherine Galian

Katherine reported programs were not available yet for the next wave of federal assistance for renters as the US Treasury Department was still developing the guidance. The good news was the eviction moratorium was still in place until June 30. Those having difficulty making their rent payments could still complete their disclosure to be protected under the moratorium. The timeline for re-paying rent arrears through June 30 had been extended to March 2022. Community Action is preparing for the next round of emergency rent assistance as evictions for non-payment of rent would begin July 1. The emergency rent assistance funds will be targeted and the process similar to previous distributions beginning with completion of an application and scheduling of an appointment either by telephone or submission of an online application request form. Upon reaching approximately two weeks’ worth of applications, the online appointment request form will be closed until those applications are processed and then re-open again. Partner organizations are doing targeted outreach to culturally specific communities across the county. The target for the emergency rent assistance funds are for those who are below 50% area median income and/or have been unemployed for 90+ days. The important thing to remember right now is that anyone having difficulty paying rent should be encouraged to submit a disclosure form so that they are protected under the moratorium. There is no need to take out loans or go deep into debt to remain in housing as rent assistance is available.

What types of resources might be available for those who are struggling to pay rent? Also, is there a specific phone number to call or web address to access those funds?

The goal was to wipe out all rent arrears and assist folks who were in the <30% area median income range. Community Action will layer funding streams to make people as whole as possible within the guidelines of the various programs. More information was

available at the following link <https://caowash.org/programs/housing-stability/renter-support.html> or call (503) 615-0770.

D. 2021 Point-In-Time Homeless Census Results – Pat Rogers & Cecilia Bonvino

Pat provided an overview of the PIT planning process and the various decisions made by the Steering Committee once HUD issued their PIT Guidance in November. A simultaneous count was conducted on January 27, 2021 in Beaverton, Tigard, Forest Grove, Cornelius, Hillsboro, and Aloha with the participation of 52 service provider staff. Gaps in the county were covered January 28 through 31 (Sherwood, Tualatin, Banks, North Plains, Gaston). A remote training was developed and attended by each of the enumerators which included COVID specific training. The committee made a conscious decision not to use volunteers due to the pandemic. All census staff and enumerators wore PPE and were trained and experienced in working with the homeless population. A wellness check was conducted simultaneously during the PIT interview to assess the wellness of the homeless population and provide information on COVID symptoms, what to do if they felt they were symptomatic and information on how to access testing and where to get information on vaccine availability. New this year was the purchase of Simtech Solutions software that included a mobile app with GPS. The mobile app provided a “Command Center” feature that enabled monitoring of PIT activities by providing real time data accumulation and location identification for each interview conducted. Cecilia Bonvino reported 359 people were counted on January 27 in emergency shelter and transitional housing (sheltered count). A total of 357 individuals were counted during the unsheltered count (42 chronically homeless, 15 veterans, 20 who reported experienced domestic violence and 263 who self-reported as having a disability). Ceci provided a comparison of the unsheltered counts for the past three years noting a steady increase of unsheltered homeless. Drilling down further into the data, she noted a decline in the number of chronically homeless and those reporting experiencing domestic violence, an insignificant change for homeless veterans, but a steady increase in the number self-reporting as having a disability (163 in 2019, 205 in 2020 and 263 in 2021). She noted the Hillsboro/Aloha area saw the largest increase over the past three counts jumping from 101 in 2020 to 220 in 2021. The majority counted identified as White (302) with 15% of those (46) further identifying as Hispanic. Almost 6% identified as Black or African American (21), 2% (7) identified as American Indian or Alaska Native and a similar number (6) identified as multiple races. Only 1% (4) identified as Asian and less than 1% (2) identified as Native Hawaiian or other Pacific Islander. She provided a demonstration of the command center capabilities within the software, noting the software and mobile app will be used for all future homeless counts as well as street outreach year-round.

Is there a breakout as to the type of disability that people are self-reporting?

The detail was collected and can be made available.

Is this APP still in use now with Street Outreach?

The street outreach APP is separate from the street count app which is now completed and no longer in use.

During the interview, was the question asked as to why the unsheltered individual chose not to be in a shelter?

There were a variety of answers. One of the more common appears to be that the shelters do not accept pets, or they have belongings that they don't want to separate from. Others reported not wanting to be around people in a group setting.

Annette shared the Continuum of Care board will meet on February 9 to review and take action to approve the 2021 PIT and Housing Inventory Chart (HIC) for submittal to HUD.

E. Winter Shelter Operations Extension through June 30 – Shelter Managers & Annette Evans

Annette reported three of the seven winter shelters that were scheduled to close on March 15 transitioned their shelter guest to other shelters that will remain open through June. She commended the shelter providers who worked tirelessly to coordinate and navigate the transition of these individuals and applauded the shelters that stayed open and expanded their capacity to take those exiting closed congregate shelters.

Washington County will be funding the non-congregate shelters through FEMA reimbursement. FEMA will not reimburse congregate shelters, so the county is providing public health opportunities funding for Beaverton Just Compassion to keep their shelter open.

V. ANNOUNCEMENTS

- Melia Deters introduced herself as the new Community Connect Coordinator at Community Action. She encouraged anyone with training or coordinated entry questions to contact her via phone at (503) 891-2665 or email at mdeters@caowash.org.
- Martin Blasco of Washington County Coordinated Library Services (WCCLS) shared their link to job-finding and career skills development, <https://www.wccls.org/job-builder>.
- Rocio Espinoza from Hillsboro Library provided a link to their library service updates, <https://www.hillsboro-oregon.gov/our-city/departments/library/services>.

VI. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting adjourned at 9:59 a.m.

Minutes prepared by Vara Fellger, Washington County Department of Housing Services

To be added to the HSSN email list, contact Annette Evans at Annette_Evans@co.washington.or.us