



## HOUSING and SUPPORTIVE SERVICE NETWORK

Providing a Continuum of Care for Vulnerable Populations in Washington County

Wednesday, August 5, 2020

8:30 to 10:00 a.m.

Virtual Meeting: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/85749859265?pwd=a0hrS0pXRE53VFJRQW84bG80WFhwdz09>

Password 629234, +1.669.900.6833, Meeting ID: 857 4985 9265

### AGENDA

- I. **INTRODUCTIONS: 8:30 a.m.**
- II. **GUEST SPEAKER: 8:35 a.m.**
  - James Demry and Virginia Rasmussen, Bridges To Change Tri-County Mobile "Rise Outreach Team"
- III. **MEETING MINUTES: 8:55 a.m.**
  - **Action:** Approve the July 1 meeting minutes.
- IV. **REPORTS AND PROGRAM UPDATES: 9:00 a.m.**
  - Subcommittee Reports
    - Children (Homeless Education Network) – David Pero
    - Youth – Drew Williamson
    - Homeless Outreach – Pat Rogers
    - DD Dialogue – Gordon Teifel
    - Veterans and Seniors – Yvette Potter
  - HSSN CoC Board – Annette Evans
  - Homeless Plan Advisory Committee (HPAC) – Annette Evans
  - Homeless Management Information System (HMIS) – Angela Mullins
- V. **GENERAL BUSINESS: 9:15 a.m.**
  - Federal COVID-19 ESG Funding Allocation Plan (20 minutes) – KarenAlice Jones and Patricia Longua, Office of Community Development
  - Annual Work Plan for A Road Home: Community Plan to Prevent and End Homelessness – Annette Evans
    - **Action:** Approve the 2020/2021 Annual Work Plan for A Road Home.
  - COVID-19 Response and Recovery Update – Katherine Galian and Annette Evans
  - Winter Shelter Response Plan – Annette Evans
- VI. **ANNOUNCEMENTS: 9:55 a.m.**
- VII. **ADJOURNMENT: 10:00 a.m.**

Next Meeting: Wednesday, September 2, 2020

The HSSN is open to the public and all are invited to join – see website for additional information and past meeting agenda, minutes and handouts at <https://www.co.washington.or.us/Housing/EndHomelessness/hssn.cfm> 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](mailto:Annette_Evans@co.washington.or.us)

**HOUSING AND SUPPORTIVE SERVICES NETWORK**  
**Providing a Continuum of Care (CoC) in Washington County**  
July 1, 2020, 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, Allie—Good Neighbor Center	Potter, Yvette—WC Dept of Aging & Veteran Services
Angeles, Nic—Housing Independence	Ramage, Marie—WC Veteran Treatment Court
Auslander, Jay—WC Mental Health	Rogers, Pat—Community Action Organization
Baker, Vernon—Just Compassion	Santiago, Jenny—Boys & Girls Aid
Calvin, Mellani—ASSIST Program	Schaeffer-Bischt, Blair—WorkSystems, Inc.
Day, Angela—State of Oregon	Schimmel, Brian-
Donner, Crystal—Community Action Organization	Shuey, Kemp—Community Action Organization
Dwyer, DaNene—Portland Community College	Smith, Gary—US Dept of Veteran Affairs
Espig, Michael—SWS-St. Francis Catholic Church	Soriano, Karina—Bienestar
Evans, Annette—WC Housing Services	Stoller, Rick—Ecumenical Ministries-Second Home
Farr, Danielle—WC Health & Human Services	Swearingin, Nicole—Luke-Dorf, Inc.
Fellger, Vara—WC Housing Services	Taylor, Molly—Oregon Dept of Human Services
Fields, Kaylie--DHS	Rowie Taylor--DVRC
Franco, Magali—OHSU-Tuality Alliance	Teifel, Gordon—Families for Independent Living & DEAR
Galian, Katherine—Community Action Organization	Terhorst, Michael—FG-UCC
Goulding, Celeste—SWS-Old Town/FG UCC	Tirado, Sabrina—Community Action Organization
Guajardo, Roumaldo—Community Action Organization	Valdez, Bianetth—HomePlate Youth Services
Herron, Carol—St. Anthony Catholic Church-SWS	Valencia-Aguilar, Mari—WC Office of Community Dev.
Jones, KarenAlice—WC Office of Community Development	Valfre, Val—City of Forest Grove
Kasim, Bashar—Luke-Dorf, Inc.	Waltschew, Ivana—Community Action Organization
Lamberger, Katie—DHS SSP	Warden, Katie—Americorp
McLaughlin, Michelle—Love, Inc.	Welch, Lexi--DHS
Penney, Darcie—DVRC	Williams, Natalie—WC Office of Community Development
Pero, David—McKinney-Vento Liaison/HEN	

Chair: Annette Evans, Public Agency Representative, [annette\\_evans@co.washington.or.us](mailto:annette_evans@co.washington.or.us)  
Co-Chair: Katherine Galian, Nonprofit Agency Representative, [kgalian@caowash.org](mailto:kgalian@caowash.org)

**I. INTRODUCTIONS**

**II. APPROVAL OF MEETING MINUTES**

Motion: Approve June 3 meeting minutes with edits to attendance.

Action: Gordon Teifel

Second: Katherine Galian

Vote: Approved, unanimous.

**III. GENERAL BUSINESS**

**A. Consultation with CoC for ESG-CV2 Funding – KarenAlice Jones and Mari Valencia-Aguilar, Office of Community Development (OCD)**

KarenAlice Jones reported Washington County is to receive an allocation of \$2,214,134 in the 2<sup>nd</sup> round of Federal COVID-19 ESG (ESG-CV2) funding, noting the only requirement was the plan be put online. Since a public comment/hearing process was not required they would use the feedback for top priority needs from the 36

consultations conducted in April in Beaverton, Hillsboro and a consortium of other cities. Top priorities included rent assistance, outreach to homeless population, utility assistance (primarily water), food and transportation. Other needs identified included maintaining stable housing, provide resources and communications accessible in multiple languages and through culturally specific agencies. Small business needs were technical assistance for state grants and loans. OCD's purpose in coming today was to solicit feedback of gaps and needs within the homeless system that have either emerged as a result of COVID-19, or were not currently being met as a result of COVID-19. Needs identified were as follows:

- Mobile charging units, hotspots/solar chargers.
- Outreach to houseless adults and unaccompanied youth.
- Non-congregate sheltering options for both populations (hotel vouchers, sanctioned camping, micro-shelter villages, dorm-style housing). Village Models, Sanctioned Camping, among others in order to allow people to stabilize while our housing market and economy go through the flux that this pandemic is causing.
- Laundry, shower and sanitation access, including operational funding. One shower truck is not enough to provide showers across the county.
- Support to Open Door Counseling Center for meal services, and peer mentoring.
- Outdoor/temporary drop-in centers to allow for congregating for service referral and social connection.
- Cooling centers.
- Information or access to the TriMet Honored Citizen Cards (you can take pictures yourself now I think) as well as for replacement ID's and EBT cards.
- More chronically homeless Housing Case Managers.
- Restore youth outreach staff through HomePlate covering Western Washington County.
- For domestic violence populations specifically, transportation (Uber, Lyft and gas cards).
- For immunocompromised populations specifically, safe transportation options (they are technically not safe on public transportation).
- Funding to support local drop-in centers to be prepared for the increase in basic needs, including adding Case Managers or Navigators to their staff.
- Funding longer-term (2 yrs +) sheltering options like Hotel Vouchers.
- Phones, pay as you go phones, gift cards to add minutes to phones in order to participate in telehealth visits with PCP's and mental health providers in order to maintain access to their health care providers.
- Funding for re-housing, outreach and barrier buster funding.
- More long-term rental assistance (6 months +) for clients with compounding barriers to stability.
- Bilingual outreach for both youth and adult populations that are geographically specific with accompanying peer support specialists.
- Having enough staff "on the ground" to walk alongside folks through the stabilization period through the first year of being housed at least.
- Short term training and access strategies to assist people in retaining their housing once housing is obtained.
- Wrap around services so people can keep housing after being housed. We tend to not follow people past the move in date
- Winter sheltering, need an additional \$350,000 for 2020-2021 winter season to operate 4-5 shelter sites for a minimum of 90 days with a shelter model that incorporates COVID-19 CDC requirements and implements protocols that address safety aspects with trained staff to manage shelter operations using PPE and wellness checks and ensure contract tracing capabilities.
- Rapid rehousing for homeless adult-only households and older youth. Need funds to

find housing to get people off the street or out of congregate shelters. HUD funded rapid re-housing is restricted to housing families with children.

- Street outreach, ways of engaging with sheltered and unsheltered populations.

The needs presented were not emerging issues but rather, were greater now for sheltered and unsheltered people (increased threat to their lives without access to sanitation, laundry, showers) as a result of the pandemic.

OCD's timeline for funding allocations were:

- Aug 5: Present finalized allocation plan at the August 5 HSSN meeting.
- Aug 14: Present plan to Policy Advisory Board (PAB) for approval.
- August 18: Present plan to Board of County Commissioners for approval.
- Thereafter: Contracting to begin.

KarenAlice added, OCD does not have the capacity to manage a large number of provider agencies and would prefer to have a few larger agencies who provide an umbrella of services. Annette will add KarenAlice to the agenda for the August 5 HSSN meeting to further the discussion. Contact KarenAlice Jones at [KarenAlice\\_Jones@co.washington.or.us](mailto:KarenAlice_Jones@co.washington.or.us) for more information, or to provide additional feedback.

#### **What is the timeline for these funds?**

There doesn't appear to be anything restricting the ability to amend ESG-CV2 contracts for longer time periods.

#### **Since the current Winter Sheltering Plan is for a 90-day period, what has been planned to house the houseless during November and March with the resources identified?**

Annette Evans shared, options include opening some shelters November through January and others January through March or operating 120-day shelter(s). Also, having enough hotel vouchering to house those at particularly high risk and ESG congregate sheltering was also an option.

#### **Has there been any data on effects of COVID-19 for homeless?**

Annette shared the Comfort Inn Respite Shelter saw a surge in March/early April.

#### **How do you document homeless needs or services as a result of COVID?**

HUD will need to provide additional guidance on that question. Currently the request for funding should include documentation to support the impact of COVID.

Mari added, she wasn't sure if there will be an application cycle for these funds.

Currently, they are in the process of understanding gaps and working with agencies best suited to meet those gaps. ESG funds in general can be used for Prevention, Rapid-ReHousing, Shelter operations and Street Outreach to support homeless and those at risk of homelessness. Many of the gaps mentioned so far fall into one of those categories.

#### **B. HSSN Governance - Election of CoC Chair and CoC Board Positions**

A slate of nominees was presented for open positions and a vote taken after discussion.

Motion: Appoint the slate of nominees with terms beginning 7/1/2020.

Action: Gordon Teifel

Second: Katherine Galian

Vote: Approved, unanimous.

Annette noted board positions remained open representing the City of Hillsboro and the City of Beaverton. [Update: Megan Cohen will represent City of Beaverton]

#### **C. COVID-19 Response and Recovery Update**

Annette Evans provided an update on the strategies identified to prevent disease transmission within the houseless population. The Comfort Inn Respite Shelter operations were extended through 8/31/2020 to provide isolation for COVID+/COVID symptomatic and quarantine shelter due to COVID exposure. The Emergency Operation Center (EOC) identified three strategies that will receive \$1.7 million in County CARES Act funds to:

1. Reopen and expand the Family Promise shelters to provide five families and five individual adult households with shelter, meals and case conferencing using hotel rooms in lieu of church facilities. Referrals will come from outreach and Community Connect. They hope to be fully operational within the next two weeks. Further discussion will need to take place for continuing shelter services after December 21 when CARES Act funding ends;
2. Address the large number of people in encampments to prevent transmission of COVID through the community. Currently working on two sites, one with TriMet at an undisclosed location. Safe Sleep Village will provide 50 houseless persons with a sanctioned tent model through December 1 to provide COVID-19 prevention of disease transmission through physical distancing and sanitation for houseless campers living in encampments with 20 or more people. Meals and services will be provided onsite. Participants will be expected to work with Community Connect to find housing; and
3. Create hotel voucher program for 20 high-risk houseless households residing in encampments, targeting referrals (to Safe Sleep Village and hotel voucher program) to reduce numbers from three specific, large encampments currently with highest exposure risk.

Additionally, Annette was working to identify locations for RV parking and/or placing of sanitation equipment co-located near campsites and funding to extend Safe Sleep Village, as needed. She also provided an update on the cooling center operated by the Emergency Operations Center who have now formalized a committee to move forward.

Katherine Galian provided an update on House Bill 4213 passed by Oregon lawmakers on June 26<sup>th</sup> which extended the eviction moratorium until September 30, 2020 and created a six-month repayment period for tenants. The requirement for a 72-hour notice was also removed. With the additional timeframe, Community Action Organization can serve many more people behind on their rent including those with more than one month and those who have previously received assistance. They expect to launch an online application process within the next week. In the meantime, applications are being taken over the phone.

Pat Rogers added, they have also implemented a system to identify households that will require additional support beyond the initial eviction prevention assistance and are increasing their output and staffing. For context, they normally serve 600 households per year for eviction prevention and are currently processing about 800 payments per month and expect to continue at that rate through December 30.

**Of the State's recent allocation of \$55 million in COVID rental relief funds and \$15 million in energy assistance funds, how much will come to Washington County?** Washington County received an allocation of \$2 million for energy and \$4.7 million for emergency rent. It is being distributed through CAO and culturally specific partners they work with.

**Who are you partnering with for the Renter's Relief distribution?**

They work with seven (7) organizations to include Adelante Mujeres, Centro Cultural, Unite Oregon, APANO, IRCO, Muslim Educational Trust. They are working to contract with five of them to engage in the application process.

**Will all CARES ACT Rent Assistance go to Eviction Prevention?**

The entire \$4.7 million allocated for emergency rent will go toward eviction prevention. Some portion will help pay for staffing required to distribute the funds.

D. Metro Supportive Housing Services Program Implementation Timeline.

The Board of County Commissioners received a presentation at the 6/16/2020 Board Worksession to review the proposed timeline for community engagement, development of the Local Implementation Plan (LIP) and signing of the Inter-Government Agreement (IGA) with Metro. Initial revenue is anticipated after April 2021 with full funding not expected until 2024. Metro has convened a Stakeholder Advisory Committee to develop the Metro framework for counties to prepare Local Implementation Plan (LIP). The Metro Stakeholder Advisory Committee includes regional representatives. Representing Washington County on this committee is: Katherine Galian, Community Action; Rich Roell, Lifeworks Northwest; Bianeth Valdez, HomePlate Youth Services; Rosemary "Rowie" Taylor, DVRC; and Brantley Dettmer, Kaiser Permanente and Washington County Economic Alliance (WEA) President. Washington County will lead the Community Engagement and development of the LIP. The Washington County LIP Committee will leverage stakeholders from the Continuum of Care (CoC), the Homeless Plan Advisory Committee (HPAC), culturally specific and other service providers to perform gaps analysis, identify priority needs and develop strategies for inclusion in the LIP. LIP's must be approved by regional partners by December 31. The County will establish a webpage to provide updates on the Metro Supportive Housing Services Measure.

For transparency, Rowie Taylor shared she lives in Washington state, and is not a resident of either Washington County or the State of Oregon.

Annette shared Metro's goal in selecting regional representatives for the Stakeholder Advisory Committee was to provide diversity and make sure individuals who could benefit from these funds would be represented.

**Celeste Goulding asked whether there were staff at DVRC who lived in Washington County?**

To Rowie's knowledge, of the 28 staff at DVRC, only two lived outside of Washington County.

**IV. ANNOUNCEMENTS**

- Katherine Galian announced Community Action Organization was hiring for Community Resource Advocate and Housing Specialist positions. All applications were available on their website, <https://caowash.org/>.
- Bianeth Valdez announced HomePlate recently hired a new bilingual Outreach Worker for Hillsboro, Caty Lucas who can be reached at [caty@homeplateyouth.org](mailto:caty@homeplateyouth.org) or (971) 322-6317.
- Rowie Taylor announced DVRC recently hired a bilingual counselor (MSW) who will primarily work out of the Virginia Garcia Health Center in Cornelius.

**V. ADJOURNMENT**

The meeting adjourned at 9:49 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](mailto:Annette_Evans@co.washington.or.us)