

Homeless Plan Advisory Committee

**Thursday, October 21, 2021
2:30 p.m.
Virtual Meeting via ZOOM**

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/81975214158?pwd=d2lzRkpQS2wvSmVFRTJDZVRxa052UT09>

Meeting ID: 819 7521 4158

Passcode: 531143



WASHINGTON COUNTY
OREGON



Purpose Statement

The purpose of the HPAC is to provide oversight to the implementation of the plan and leadership to effectively collaborate with state and local partners to develop additional resources to meet the ambitious goals included in “*A Road Home: Community Plan to Prevent and End Homelessness.*”

The HPAC will be advisory to the county Homeless Program Manager, the Director of Washington County Department of Housing Services, the County Administrator, and the Board of Commissioners for Washington County (“Board of Commissioners”).

Equity Statement

The Department of Housing Services provides housing opportunities to all eligible persons no matter their race, color, religion, national origin, age, disability, familial status, marital or domestic partnership status, sex, gender identity, sexual orientation, veteran status, legal source of income or type of occupation.

In order to be relevant and effective in a rapidly changing and increasingly diverse environment, the Department of Housing Services commits to the principles of diversity, equity and inclusion for all members of the community we serve. Equitable access to resources and opportunity is the means to healthy, economically vibrant people and communities. We believe that authentically listening to, working inclusively with, and being accountable to the community we serve increases innovation and effectiveness and leads to more successful outcomes.



**Homeless Plan Advisory Committee (HPAC)
Members**

County Commissioner	Commissioner Pamela Treece
Mayor or City Councilor	Washington County Board of Commissioners Councilor Elena Uhing City of Forest Grove
Business	Stacey Triplett WorkSystems, Inc.
Citizen At-Large	Brenda Christoffer Intel Corporation
Citizen At-Large	Kara Kazemba Ancora Counseling and Therapy
Citizen At-Large	Vera Stoulil Resident of Washington County
Community Corrections	Steven Berger Washington County Community Corrections
Entitlement/Mainstream	Phillip Williams Oregon Department of Human Services
Faith Community	Carol C. Herron St. Anthony's Catholic Church
Homeless Consumer	Michelle Markus Mental Health & Addiction Assoc of Oregon
Hospital/Healthcare	Talia Buchsbaum Oregon Health & Science University
Hospital/Healthcare	Elizabeth Uno, MD Virginia Garcia Memorial Health Center
Housing Authority	Komi P. Kalevor Housing Authority of Washington County
Nonprofit Housing Provider	Rachael Duke Community Partners for Affordable Housing
Nonprofit Service Provider	Kemp Shuey Community Action Organization
Philanthropy	Kasi Woidyla Virginia Garcia Memorial Foundation
Sheriff's Office	Chief Deputy Al Roque Washington County Sheriff's Office



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Future Meeting Schedule:

2022 HPAC Meeting Schedule 2:30 to 4:30 p.m.
January 20
April 21
July 21
October 20



HOMELESS PLAN ADVISORY COMMITTEE

Thursday, October 21, 2021, 2:30 p.m.

Virtual Meeting via Zoom

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/81975214158?pwd=d2lzRkpQS2wvSmVFRTJDZVRxa052UT09>

Meeting ID: 819 7521 4158 Passcode: 531143

Chairperson: Rachael Duke, Community Partners for Affordable Housing
Chairperson Elect: Kara Kazemba, Ancora Therapy
Secretary: Komi Kalevor, Housing Authority of Washington County
Officer terms end January 2022

AGENDA

- I. **ROLL CALL – 2:30 P.M.**
- II. **ACTION - APPROVE AGENDA – 2:35 P.M.**
 - A. **ACTION:** Approve the October 21 Meeting Agenda.
- III. **ACTION - APPROVAL OF MINUTES – 2:40 P.M.**
 - A. **ACTION:** Approve the July 15 Meeting Minutes.
- IV. **COMMUNICATIONS AND PUBLIC COMMENT – 2:45 P.M.**
- V. **NEW BUSINESS – 2:50 P.M.**
 - A. Low-Income Employment and Housing Implications – Brandon Schrader, State of Oregon Employment Division (25 minutes)
- VI. **UNFINISHED BUSINESS – 3:15 P.M.**
 - A. Homeless Plan Advisory Committee Charter and Integration of Supportive Housing Services (SHS) Program Advisory Committee – Ty Schwoeffermann, Jes Larson, Zoi Coppiano, Community Action Organization, Kasi Woidyla, Virginia Garcia Memorial Foundation (45 minutes)
 1. **ACTION:** Approve to Update the HPAC Bylaws as amended.
 2. **ACTION:** Approve to increase the meeting frequency to six meetings per year.
 3. **ACTION:** Approve the continued work of the HPAC Workgroup.
 - B. Board Positions – Rachael Duke (5 minutes)
 1. Terms expiring 12/31/2021

Citizen At-Large	Community Corrections
Housing Authority	Hospital/Healthcare
Entitlement/Mainstream	
 2. Extension of HPAC Officer terms.
ACTION: Approve 12-month extension of Chair, Chairperson Elect and Secretary positions with term ending 12/31/2022.
- VII. **REPORT OF THE COMMITTEES – 4:05 P.M.**
 - A. Supportive Housing Services Program – Jes Larson
 - B. Housing and Supportive Services Network (HSSN) – Annette Evans
- VIII. **ANNOUNCEMENTS AND OPEN DISCUSSION – 4:15 P.M.**
- IX. **ADJOURNMENT – 4:30 P.M.**



MINUTES
HOMELESS PLAN ADVISORY COMMITTEE OF WASHINGTON COUNTY
July 15, 2021
Virtual Meeting via ZOOM

A. COMMITTEE MEMBERS PRESENT

Steven Berger
Brenda Christoffer
Carol C. Herron
Kara Kazemba
Michelle Markus
Albert Roque
Pamela Treece
Stacey Triplett
Elena Uhing
Beth Uno, M.D.
Phillip Williams
Kasi Woidyla

B. COMMITTEE MEMBERS ABSENT

Talia Buchsbaum
Rachael Duke
Komi Kalevor
Kemp Shuey
Vera Stoulil

C. STAFF PRESENT

Annette Evans
Vara Fellger
Jes Larson
Ty Schwoeffermann
Stacy Williams

D. GUESTS PRESENT

Megan McKibben
Paige Spence
Emily Roots

Chair Person Elect, Kara Kazemba called the meeting to order at 2:31 p.m., in Chair Duke's absence.

I. INTRODUCTIONS – A quorum is present.

II. ACTION – APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Motion: Approve agenda of July 15 meeting.
Action: Stacy Triplett
Second: Councilor Uhing
Vote: Approved, unanimous.

III. ACTION – APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Motion: Approve minutes of April 15 meeting.
Action: Carol Herron
Second: Councilor Uhing
Vote: Approved, unanimous.

IV. COMMUNICATIONS AND PUBLIC COMMENT

None.

V. NEW BUSINESS

A. 2021 Legislative Update – Paige Spence, Government Relations Manager
Paige provided an overview of the State Legislative Session noting it was a session like no other with the capitol building closed to the public due to a fear of violence and the COVID pandemic, all committee hearings being conducted virtually and successfully passing over 800 bills.



The legislature identified three major issues that needed to be addressed during the session: (1) the global pandemic response and recovery, (2) national and local tensions concerning race and police reform and (3) the devastating effects of the 2020 wildfire season. She recalled the 2020 legislative session which ended prematurely due to a Republican walk-out over climate legislation. As a result, if not for the historic federal resources provided to state and local governments through the American Rescue Plan Act, the 2021 legislature entered the session facing budget cuts.

County-wide legislative priorities adopted by Washington County's Board of Commissioners (BOC) for housing and homelessness included funding and constituent relief for all COVID-19 related programs and services and funding for homelessness, renters and homeowners. For homeless residents, statewide funding was secured to maintain current service levels (\$40 million) for the two major funding streams, Emergency Housing Assistance (EHA) and State Homeless Assistance (SHAP) programs. The state's EHA program funds homeless activities such as street outreach, transitional housing, homeless prevention, supportive in-home services, rapid rehousing and community capacity building, while the SHAP program primarily provides operational support for emergency shelter and client supportive services. A one-time grant for \$25 million from Oregon Housing and Community Services (OHCS) was also secured for shelter construction and operation with an additional \$2 million for technical assistance. It was unknown at this time what Washington County's share of those funds would be.

For renters, even though the moratorium on evictions was not extended, SB 278 allowed extra time for those who had applied for rent assistance through the state to receive it (acknowledging more time was needed for programs, set up as safety nets for renters, to be implemented), and increased the compensation to landlords from 80% of past due rent through the Landlord Compensation Fund to 100%. SB 282 extended renter protections for unpaid rent through February 2022 providing more time for renters to repay past due rent that accrued during the eviction moratorium which expired June 30, 2021. It also continued other protections put in place in prior sessions, such as an increased notice period for a Notice of Eviction for Non-payment of Rent from three to ten days, prohibition of landlord reporting past due rent to credit agencies and removed rental history from consideration on future rental applications.

For homeowners, HB 2009, the foreclosure moratorium, was passed retroactive to March 8, 2020 through June 30, 2021. It also provided the governor express authority to extend the moratorium twice, in three-month increments. Governor Brown has since invoked that authority and extended the foreclosure moratorium through September 2021. The foreclosure moratorium includes mortgages that are federally or non-federally backed, and provides access to mortgage foreclosure counseling.



Current service level funding was also secured through SB 5505 in the amount of \$410 million for the LIFT Program (funding to build new affordable housing for low income family households) and Permanent Supportive Housing, and through HB 5006, \$100 million to preserve and upgrade low income housing and \$3 million for a housing needs study for the legislature to make more informed resource allocation decisions in the future.

Both HB 2006 (first introduced by House Speaker Tina Kotek in the 2020 short session) and HB 3261 were passed, extending the requirement for local governments to allow for siting of construction of new emergency shelters notwithstanding land use laws and regulations and allowing the conversion of building use from another purpose to a shelter. HB 3115 addressed the application of the Ninth Circuit Court's ruling in *Martin vs. Boise* providing a two-year timeframe within which to put forward local ordinances consistent with the new law. The ruling requires any local law regulating sitting, lying, sleeping or keeping warm outdoors on public property, to be effectively reasonable as to time, place and manner. The BOC approved a new 12-month encampment program driven by staff from multiple departments to focus on how best to work with homeless encampments. She expected staff from that program to approach the Board with suggestions for ordinances needed to implement HB 3115 in Washington County. HB 3124 increased the time period from when law enforcement must post a written notice, before removing a homeless camp from 24 hours to 72 hours. Both House bills passed.

With regard to racial equity, HB 2007 established a task force charged with studying policy options to eliminate barriers to homeownership for people of color and allows the state to require implicit bias training for mortgage loan originators. According to data provided by the National Council on Homelessness, Oregon's rate of homeless individuals is one of the highest and fourth highest for youth experiencing chronic homelessness. Also, based on a 2019 study from Oregon Community Foundation, black and indigenous Oregonians were disproportionately represented in the homeless population by three or more times when compared to the statewide population as a whole. HB 2100 established a task force charged with identifying potential changes in Oregon's funding structure to develop policies that address these disparities among people experiencing homelessness and housing insecurity. SB 291 prevents landlords from considering previous arrests if an applicant was participating in a diversion program or had received a deferred judgment, and prohibits landlords from rejecting rental applications outright based on a previous arrest, and instead requires an individualized assessment to obtain additional detail about information that otherwise would have resulted in rejection.

For wildfire relief, the legislature allocated \$150 million to support the rehousing of Oregonians who lost housing in the September 2020 wildfires and \$75 million to support their near-term food and shelter needs.



Paige reviewed the legislative calendar, noting legislative days through the end of 2021 and the Special Session in September will be conducted virtually due to previously scheduled seismic upgrades at the Capitol Building. In October, Paige's department was contemplating holding a virtual federal lobby day for the BOC to meet with the federal delegation and talk about available federal assistance and how to continue to partner with them. Tentative approval of the 2022 Legislative Agenda by the BOC was set for December and the Short Legislative Session was scheduled to begin February 1, 2022 and continuing through March 8, 2022. For more information, contact Paige Spence at paige_spence@co.washington.or.us.

Councilor Uhing shared her concern for renters who were behind on their rent to be able to repay rent in arrears in addition to paying current rent due.

Paige agreed it was of concern and hoped the rent assistance available through the Oregon Housing and Community Services (OHCS) funding might be more utilized. She acknowledged though, it might be September or November before the legislature learns of the status of those funds and the number of households still experiencing housing insecurity. The next month or two will provide a better picture of the funding that remains available. The extension of rent repayment within SB 282 was purposefully set to expire the fourth week of the legislative session (February 2022) to avoid the benefits cliff and potentially provide policies and/or funding mitigation if needed.

Councilor Uhing also shared her concern for the elderly who have put off paying their mortgage.

Paige shared she was scheduled to meet with Disability, Aging and Veteran Services to better understand the state of those populations in Washington County.

- B. Amendment to the Homeless Plan Advisory Committee By-Laws – Annette Evan
Annette reviewed the purpose of the HPAC Board to provide oversight and leadership for the implementation of *A Road Home*, Washington County's homeless response plan and to leverage local, state and federal policy and funding. With Bylaws developed in 2009, County staff recognized terminology updates were needed and were seeking input on updates to align the work of the SHS Program with that of the Continuum of Care (CoC) system and *A Road Home*.
- C. Integrating the Supportive Housing Services (SHS) Program into the Scope of Work for HPAC – Jes Larson and Ty Schwoeffermann
Jes Larson introduced Ty Schwoeffermann whose position was shared between Housing Services and the Office of Equity, Inclusion and Community Engagement. Housed at Washington County's, County Administrative Office, he was leading much of the community engagement work of the SHS Program and was the point person for the advisory body alignment being proposed.



Jes reviewed the SHS Program implementation timeline and status of projects and programs. She noted in October the first quarterly reports were due to Metro and, for the purposes of today's discussion, a local advisory body was to be established. To provide context to the significance of the SHS Program and the impact it will have on the homeless response system, she compared the program's anticipated investments of \$80 - \$100 million per year to that of the current Continuum of Care's annual investment of \$15 million. Overall, the program's goals included providing 1665 supportive housing placements, achieve functional zero for chronic homelessness and build and support a culturally responsive housing system of care.

Jes further reviewed the components in the Local Implementation Plan (LIP) that called for ongoing local advisory and shared governance and acknowledged the SHS Program's desire to align the advisory of the SHS Program with the current advisory work of the HPAC Board. She shared they were specifically looking for guidance in developing strategies to build a support services network (especially culturally specific service providers), establish programmatic standards that align with regional standards and local best practices (especially for culturally responsive services), identify unique opportunities to align with other systems of care, leveraging investments for improved community outcomes, and review annual outcome reports and provide program evaluation.

Ty reviewed the makeup and role of Metro's Regional Oversight Committee, an advisory body formed with 5 representatives from each county appointed by the Metro Council to review annual financials and report program outcomes. He also reviewed the work that will be required by the Tri-County Advisory Body, a body to be convened by Metro to approve and advise on regional program planning and implementation. He recommended a workgroup be convened to prepare recommendations for restructuring the HPAC and to identify bylaw changes that might be required in order to align the SHS Program within the advisory body's scope of work. The workgroup would be guided by a consultant and include four (4) current HPAC board members, the HPAC Board Chair, four (4) LIP Committee members and staff. They would present their proposal to the full HPAC Board at the October 21 meeting. He concluded with questions soliciting thoughts on aligning SHS Program advisory work with HPAC and additional considerations for the workgroup. Board members interested in participating in the workgroup should contact Ty at ty_schwoeffermann@co.washington.or.us.

Jes clarified, the oversight work being proposed by the SHS Program was the same work that the HPAC was already doing, but just on a larger scale. The recommendation to convene a workgroup was merely to help integrate the SHS Program into the advisory body's work to help inform, evaluate and improve not only the SHS Program but all homeless programs over time.



Councilor Uhing inquired as to how many service provider agencies had applied to be qualified providers for the SHS Program?

Jes shared the initial Request for Programmatic Qualification (RFPQ) was open for one month in May and was expected to open again later this year to invite additional partners to apply. Ty Schwoeffermann reported 46 agencies had applied for the RFPQ and 38 had [qualified](#).

Councilor Uhing shared, in her experience many nonprofit agencies were not always aware that they must apply for these grants. She had expected to see a higher number of agencies to have applied and would like to initiate a discussion for how to engage all nonprofits working with homeless in Washington County.

Ty added, it was the SHS Program's desire to include more agencies in their Qualified Service Provider list with the opening of the second round of applications in December. They recognized many agencies were missing from the current qualified service provider list and were working on finding the reasons more agencies hadn't applied.

Brenda Christoffer inquired as to the projected annual housing cost per household in the SHS Program.

Jes Larson shared, the SHS Program will serve people needing ongoing supports, so the cost per household includes not only the work of getting someone into housing but the ongoing supports (rent assistance and case manager support) as well. She acknowledged it was an expensive style of programming and the hardest to create, and was the reason so many high-need individuals were living on our streets for a prolonged period of time. The SHS Program presented a remarkable opportunity for our chronic homeless population in Washington County.

Councilor Uhing shared, in her opinion, until a wrap-around service center was in place, homeless outcomes were not going to be as good as they could be. There were many reasons people fell into homelessness and as long as we continued to provide services piece-meal, it wouldn't make much difference.

Jes shared the LIP prescribed that the SHS Program develop and implement such a solution for addressing chronic homelessness. Using a "hub" approach, SHS programs will connect people to services that lead to housing, and then provide the wraparound supports to help them stay in housing.

Kasi Woidyla inquired as to the plans for reaching communities that needed SHS Program services.

The SHS Program's role was to empower, fund and support the community organizations who already had relationships with community members



experiencing housing instability and the trauma of homelessness. Washington County Housing Services was building the systems and structure to enable those community organizations to provide housing placement and ongoing housing stability.

Stacey Triplett shared, the proposed capacity building role for the HPAC will require representation of all those different culturally specific/culturally responsive programs. She noted there was not deep representation currently on the HPAC Board and would like to see that improved.

Jes shared, representation of all demographics, experiences and income levels were a requirement of the SHS Program. The HPAC Workgroup will be tasked with how to implement the representation requirements within the HPAC advisory body.

Carol Herron inquired whether they were looking for representation on the workgroup of those with lived experience or those who have worked within homelessness.

Jes clarified, the workgroup will help develop the representation that would be required on the advisory body.

D. Language Choices in Communicating our Work: Homeless and Houseless—Emily Roots

Emily provided some personal background and scope of her Public Affairs position within Housing Services and looked forward to receiving insight from the HPAC Board on how to improve community communication of the work to reach vulnerable populations. She reviewed the memorandum that she provided to the HPAC Board prior to the meeting and noted, one of the complexities that arises when talking about this work was that it involved a discussion of people with lived experiences, who all had different needs and ideas about how they would like to be described. The goal was to be nimble and willing to pivot and use different terms to describe households being served, but also use “people first” language as much as possible (person experiencing homelessness/person experiencing houselessness). She noted it was helpful to be descriptive about what the experience looked like adding, homelessness was a spectrum and could look very different for someone sleeping in their car to someone sleeping outside or on the street, as well as the conditions that lead to homelessness. She added, some community members had a stagnant idea of what homelessness was that was predicated on stereotypes. When descriptions were used for people who fell into homelessness, there was a realization they were people who were familiar and were part of the community. She reviewed a list of household types to describe the populations homeless programs served and the ways to communicate about them, acknowledging the list was not comprehensive, but a good place to start.



Emily clarified it was most important to focus on the people being served by accurately describing their experience with compassion, nuance and care and to recognize homelessness was a brief experience during the hardest point in a person's life. Her final caveat was that language evolved over time and encouraged members to be open minded as new terms began to be used to describe experiences.

Councilor Uhing was appreciative of the discussion acknowledging it had caused some division on her Council. The term "houseless" was personally very offensive to her. She shared, during her lived experience in childhood, her mother always tried to make whatever situation they found themselves in (whether they were living out of their car or in a campground), a "home." She personally preferred the use of the term "unsheltered" to describe the situation in which people found themselves. She recognized where we might be flexible in our terms, the government may not be. She felt the conversation and this presentation needed to go out to a broader audience so that other leaders and community members understood the framing and the flexibility required.

VI. UNFINISHED BUSINESS

None.

VII. REPORT OF THE COMMITTEES

A. Supportive Housing Services (SHS) Program – Jes Larson

Jes provided highlights from her report noting SHS Programs officially opened July 1. She encouraged anyone with questions to email her at Jes_larson@co.washington.or.us.

B. Housing and Supportive Services Network (HSSN) – Annette Evans

Annette provided highlights from her report noting it was important when developing cooling centers going forward, to not only accommodate for the needs of the individual, but for their pets as well, and to ensure facility hours of operation were open longer. She reported the Civil Court is beginning to see an increase in eviction court cases filed. She encouraged anyone with questions to email her at Annette_evans@co.washington.or.us.

Councilor Uhing appreciated the inclusion of pets in cooling centers acknowledging many people were hesitant to leave a violent or dangerous situation without them.

With regard to rent assistance availability, Councilor Uhing shared her concern that the method for communicating the message of funding availability and how to access it didn't seem to be going out to the greater audience. She was wondering what was being done to make access more available.

Annette recognized messaging out to the community was extremely important and part of the reason for a Public Affairs position being added to Housing Services.



She added, the availability and access to rent assistance was communicated at a presentation by Oregon Housing and Community Services (OHCS) on how to access rent resources through their Alita system at the July HSSN meeting where over 80 case managers and others attended. During that presentation, OHCS also shared that Community Action Organization was subcontracted to help expand outreach and services and engage with communities of color.

Jes added, the SHS Program was in a heightened state of awareness to make sure they were doing everything possible to prevent people from losing their housing. With the availability of resources, they have added funding to the consortium of rent assistance providers who were getting the federal resources out to those that needed it and, where barriers existed making it difficult for a household to access the resources, they were making sure the household was safe and stable through “as needed” SHS funds.

VIII. ANNOUNCEMENTS

- None

IX. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting adjourned at 4:09 p.m.

Respectfully submitted

APPROVED

By Komi at 1:14 pm, Oct 06, 2021

Komi P. Kalevor
Secretary, HPAC
Executive Director, Housing Authority of Washington County



IV. COMMUNICATIONS AND PUBLIC COMMENT – 2:45 P.M.

V. NEW BUSINESS – 2:50 P.M.

- A. Low-Income Employment and Housing Implications – Brandon Schrader, State of Oregon Employment Division (25 minutes)

VI. UNFINISHED BUSINESS – 3:15 P.M.

- A. Homeless Plan Advisory Committee Charter and Integration of Supportive Housing Services (SHS) Program Advisory Committee – Ty Schwoeffermann, Jes Larson, Zoi Coppiano, Community Action Organization, Kasi Woidyla, Virginia Garcia Memorial Foundation (45 minutes)

1. **ACTION**: Approve to update the HPAC Bylaws as amended.
2. **ACTION**: Approve to increase meeting frequency to six meetings per year.
3. **ACTION**: Approve the continued work of the HPAC Workgroup.

- B. Board Positions – Rachael Duke (5 minutes)

1. Terms expiring 12/31/2021

Citizen At-Large

Community Corrections

Housing Authority

Hospital/Healthcare

Entitlement/Mainstream

2. Extension of HPAC Officer terms.

ACTION: Approve 12-month extension of Chair, Chairperson Elect and Secretary positions with term ending 12/31/2022.

VII. REPORT OF THE COMMITTEES – 4:05 P.M.

- A. Supportive Housing Services Program – Jes Larson

SHS program implementation continues to steadily ramp up with expanded services being established with qualified service providers, and new systems being developed to support the network and quality of service.

1. The **Housing Case Management** program has launched with 15 organizations contracting to provide these new and expanded services. Housing Case managers will each work with 20 participant households experiencing homelessness to secure and maintain housing. New case managers hired by participating organizations will be trained at the SHS ‘boot camp’, in a weeklong series of trainings the last week of September.
2. The **Regional Long-Term Rent Assistance (RLRA)** program is designed to work like a Housing Choice Voucher providing permanent rent assistance to extremely low-income households as a tenant based or project-based voucher. Housing Case Managers will have access to a RLRA voucher for every household they serve in the program.
3. The **Bridge Shelter** program will operate in three locations throughout the county starting in October. Including the programs located at the Aloha Inn and Econo Lodge in Hillsboro which have operated since July, the new Project Turnkey hotel purchased by Centro Cultural will also begin operations as a Bridge Shelter at the Forest Grove Inn, October 1st. Together, these programs



constitute 101 new shelter beds, meeting the SHS program goal for 100 new beds in the first year of programming.

- 4. In September, the **Continuum of Care Board approved policy changes to the Community Connect** coordinated entry system. The policy will transition the assessment structure to a phased approach allowing for faster connections to housing services and providers, using a newly designed trauma-informed tool. The ‘modernization’ process has been heralded as an important advancement to the coordination of all homeless and housing programs in Washington County to better meet the needs of our community.

Looking ahead, the SHS program is working to implement the next phases of program development including:

- Preparing for the winter season with **187 Winter Shelter beds** planned to be operated throughout the County from November – March until shelter permanent sites can be secured.
- Preparing for the first **Quarterly Report** of the SHS program, anticipated early November, outlining the accomplishments and outcomes of the program after three months of operations.
- Convening **engagement activities to invite public participation and feedback in the design of our shelter programs**. This work will include developing good neighbor agreements, establishing guidelines for communication and public notification, and creating principles to guide equitable policy decision making when property is considered for future shelter programs.

B. Housing and Supportive Services Network (HSSN) – Annette Evans

A ROAD HOME: COMMUNITY PLAN TO PREVENT & END HOMELESSNESS

- The County’s comprehensive plan [A Road Home](#) is focused on preventing and ending homelessness through a systems approach and funding to achieve the strategies outlined in 6 goals. The *2021 A Road Home Annual Homeless Assessment* report on outcomes will be released in January 2022. The [FY2021/22 Work Plan](#) to provide prevention assistance, housing and services aligns with the new SHS Program Local Implementation Plan.
- Efforts to prevent homelessness through Emergency Rent Assistance (ERA) programs is reflected in the data on Eviction Court Cases filed monthly.

Eviction Court Cases filed by Month	2021	2020	2019
January	30	286	294
February	28	250	257
March	39	98	267
April	33	5	232
May	32	12	262
June	28	17	253
July	81	24	275
August	90	14	252
September	92	19	284
October		15	246
November		16	239
December		31	234
Total	453	787	3095

Source: Washington County Civil Court Department



Households with eviction cases for nonpayment of rent are referred to ERA programs.

FEDERAL COC PROGRAM FUNDING, REPORTING AND ACTIVITIES

- Washington County and community-based organization will apply for \$4.4 million in competitive Federal [FY2021 Continuum of Care \(CoC\) Program](#) funds administered by the US Department of Housing & Urban Development (HUD). Housing Services is the CoC Collaborative Applicant preparing the Consolidated Application and coordinating the project application competition in response to the [FY2021 CoC Program Request For Proposals](#). The CoC Board will meet on October 8 to rate and rank new and renewal project applications for inclusion in the CoC Collaborative Application. A 14-day public comment period is scheduled to begin on 10/25/2021, with submittal of the application to HUD on 11/12/2021.
- The Homeless Management Information System (HMIS) is administered by Housing Services CoC staff in partnership with the Portland Housing Bureau that holds the contract with WellSky, the HMIS software vendor. Program activities include:
 - On October 1 the HUD [FY2022 HMIS Data Standards](#) will be implemented to include revised language for race/ethnicity, gender, mental health, and other elements, and new data elements for coordinated entry (the Community Connect system), CoC Program data elements, and system logic for general health and pregnancy status. The CoC staff hosted an HMIS Data Quality Clinic on September 27 for all HMIS Users (currently 208 HMIS Users in Washington County). The training included an overview of the FY2022 HMIS Data Standard implementation, annual recertification on privacy and security, improving HMIS data quality, reporting, and other standards.
 - The CoC Board approved Washington County entering discussions on a regional HMIS implementation that would transfer administration of the HMIS from Portland Housing Bureau to Joint Office of Homeless Services. The new tri-county HMIS implementation is scheduled on 4/1/2022.
- The HUD McKinney-Vento Homeless Assistance Act, as amended, requires local CoC's to plan and implement a coordinated system of care. CoC's are required to submit to HUD, annual reports to demonstrate systemic response outcomes.
 - [Longitudinal Systems Analysis \(LSA\)](#) report provides HUD and the CoC with critical information on demographics of people who access and participate in the homeless system.
 - [System Performance Measurement \(SPM\)](#) report uses established metrics to provide HUD and the CoC with system-level performance as a coordinated system, in addition to analyzing performance by



specific projects or project types submitted to HUD in the *Annual Performance Report (APR)*. The SPM is used by HUD in awarding CoC funding and demonstrates coordination with ESG Program recipients and all other homeless assistance stakeholders in the community.

- [Point In Time \(PIT\) and Housing Inventory Count \(HIC\)](#) report on people experiencing homelessness who are “sheltered” (e.g. emergency shelter, transitional housing and safe have) in beds/units reported in the HIC and “unsheltered” (e.g. living on the street and places not meant for human habitation). The PIT and HIC reports are used by HUD in awarding CoC funding and by the CoC to review access and racial equity, program bed utilization, contributing factors to homelessness, and unmet resources needs.

CoC GOVERNANCE AND COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

- The CoC is governed by the [Housing and Supportive Services Network \(HSSN\)](#), a consortium of more than 60 citizen advocates, public and nonprofit provider agencies working collaboratively to plan, coordinate and provide housing and services in a system of care that aligns with priorities outlined in local plans, *A Road Home*, the *SHS Program LIP*, the *2020-2024 Consolidate Plan*, and the Federal strategic plan *Home, Together*. [Meeting agendas](#) are available online with meetings open to the public.

HSSN Guest Speaker: October 6, 2021 - 8:30 a.m.

- Maria Caballero-Rubio, [Centro Cultural](#)
Centro Cultural Turnkey Program

HSSN Guest Speaker: November 3, 2021 - 8:30 a.m.

- Josh Legere, Washington County Department of Housing Services
[Homeless Encampment Management Program](#)

VIII. ANNOUNCEMENTS AND OPEN DISCUSSION – 4:15 P.M.

IX. ADJOURNMENT – 4:30 P.M.