

HOUSING and SUPPORTIVE SERVICES NETWORK(HSSN)

CoC Board

Friday, October 9, 2020 - 8:30 to 9:30 am

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/85746905744?pwd=SG5wdlNLRmt6MEIyMWxtTU9hVnovdz09>

Meeting ID: 857 4690 5744

Passcode: **739397**

+13462487799,,85746905744#,,,,,0#,,739397# US (Houston)

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AGENDA

Chair: Annette M. Evans, Washington County Department of Housing Services

Co-Chair: Katherine Galian, Community Action Organization

I. Introductions (8:30 a.m.)

II. Public Comment (8:35 a.m.)

III. Approve Minutes (8:40 a.m.)

A) Board Action: Approve CoC Board minutes for June 12, 2020

Note: The August 14 meeting was cancelled.

IV. Business Items (8:41 a.m.)

A) Washington County Government Affairs Update – Paige Spence (10 min)

B) Metro Supportive Housing Services Measure – Ruth Osuna (10 min)

C) Report on *Project Reset* – Ellen Johnson (5 min)

D) COVID Renter’s Relief Response – Katherine Galian (5 min)

E) *Built for Zero* Implementation (5 min)

1. By-Name List Housing Case Conferencing Outcomes – Annette Evans

2. Outreach and Geographic Coverage Outcomes – Katherine Galian

F) CoC draft Longitudinal Systems Analysis (LSA) report due to HUD by October 30 – Annette Evans (2 min)

G) FY2020 CoC Program Grant Application NOFA – Annette Evans (2 min)

V. Agency Announcements and Open Discussion (9:20 a.m.)

VI. Adjournment (9:30 a.m.)

Future Meeting Information:

- Friday, December 11, 2020, 8:30 a.m.

The CoC Board meeting is open to the public. The full agenda and minutes are posted online at

<https://www.co.washington.or.us/Housing/EndHomelessness/hssn-workgroup-meetings-and-agendas.cfm>

Comments and questions can be directed to Annette Evans at 503-846-4760 Annette_Evans@co.washington.or.us

Department of Housing Services

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www.co.washington.or.us/homeless



CoC BOARD MEETING MINUTES

Virtual Meeting via ZOOM

June 12, 2020

CoC BOARD MEMBER PRESENT

- Baker, Vernon – Just Compassion SWS
- Brouse, Renee – Good Neighbor Center
- Calvin, Mellani – ASSIST Program
- Downen, Lindsay – Luke-Dorf, Inc.
- Evans, Annette – Washington County Housing
- Fischer, Shawn – WashCo Sheriff's Office
- Galian, Katherine – Community Action
- Gustafson, Hanna – Cascade AIDS Project
- Hille, Marcia – Sequoia Mental Health Services
- Johnson, Ellen – Oregon Law Center
- Kalevor, Komi – Housing Authority of WashCo
- Logan-Sanders, Andrea – Boys & Girls Aid
- Pero, David – Homeless Education Network/
McKinney-Vento Homeless Student Liaison
- Rogers, Patrick – Community Action
- Schaeffer-Bisht, Blair – WorkSystems, Inc.
- Schnitzer, Cole – U.S. Dept of Veteran Affairs
- Taylor, Rowie – Domestic Violence Resource Center
- Teifel, Gordon – Families for Independent Living & DEAR
- Valencia, Mari – WC Office of Community Dev

CoC BOARD MEMBER NOT PRESENT

- Ram, Sarala – CODA, Inc.

OTHER ATTENDEES

- Fellger, Vara – WC Housing Services
- Merkel, Cole – Here Together Oregon
- Osuna, Ruth – WC County Administrative Office

Chair: Annette Evans, Public Agency Representative Annette_Evans@co.washington.or.us

Co-Chair: Katherine Galian, Nonprofit Agency Representative kgalian@caowash.org

Meeting called to order at 8:32 a.m.

I. INTRODUCTIONS

II. PUBLIC COMMENT

No public comment.

III. APPROVAL OF MEETING MINUTES

Action: Approve Feb 14, 2020 meeting minutes.

Motion: Ellen Johnson

Second: Rowie Taylor

Vote: Approved, Pat Rogers and Gordon Teifel abstained.

IV. BUSINESS ITEMS

A. Metro Supportive Housing Services Measure – Ruth Osuna, Deputy County Administrator

Ruth Osuna provided an overview of the Metro Supportive Housing Services levy which was passed by voters on May 19, 2020 and Washington County's efforts toward the development of the Local Implementation Plan (LIP) for the region. The measure provides funds for wraparound services including case management, mental health care, addiction and recovery treatment, culturally specific services, and job training and rent assistance for people at risk of, or experiencing, homelessness. The funds will come from a 1% marginal tax of households with income over \$200,000 (over \$125,000 for single filers) and a 1% tax on businesses with gross receipts of more than \$5 million. Multnomah County will receive 45.3% of tax receipts, Clackamas County 21.3% and Washington County 33.3%. Metro will implement and administer tax collection, disburse tax receipts and provide regional oversight and accountability. Tax collection is expected to begin January 2021 and initial disbursement to be made to regional

partners in April 2021. The amount of the initial disbursements are unknown and is not expected to be at full funding until 2024. Metro plans to engage regional partners during the summer to refine a regional framework to include outcomes and metrics. The County Administrative Office (CAO) will present to the Board of County Commissioners on Tuesday June 16 a review of the proposed timeline for community engagement and development of the Local Implementation Plan (LIP). Washington County will lead the Community Engagement and will develop the LIP Committee with representatives from the CoC Board, the Homeless Plan Advisory Committee (HPAC), and culturally specific and other service providers to perform gaps analysis, identify priority needs and develop strategies for inclusion in the LIP. Forward additional questions, comments, ideas and/or suggestions to Annette Evans at Annette_evans@co.washington.or.us.

Ellen Johnson inquired how long the planning process was expected to take and how often the Board should meet?

The LIP must be approved by the Board of Commissioners by December 31, 2020 and submitted to Metro. Ruth anticipates the LIP Committee will convene from 5 to 10 meetings. The County will hire a consultant to write the LIP and will lead the community engagement piece. Washington County Departments of Housing Services, Health and Human Services and Office of Community Development will all be assisting in the community engagement piece as well. County Administration is open to receiving consultant referrals. Forward names of consultant referrals to Annette Evans.

Marcia Hille noted several of their clients have Medicaid coverage which pays for many of the clinical services. She suggested identifying services that would be paid through Medicaid and coordinate with individuals who know and understand those funding streams to capitalize on the dollars in this measure.

Katherine Galian inquired about the intersection between HPAC, the CoC Board and staff? Ruth shared the HPAC was chosen for their advisory role on homelessness issues and planning. The proposal to the Board was to begin looking at the makeup of the planning group beginning with the CoC Board and the groups they represent and adding additional people to as necessary to comply with Metro's requirements.

B. Report on *Project Reset* – Ellen Johnson, Attorney

Ellen Johnson reported the Metropolitan Public Defender's Office (MPD) is the lead negotiator for the Washington County District Attorney's Office (DA) to agree and institute *Project Reset* in Washington County. They submitted a proposal to the DA in March and have not yet received a response. Ellen spoke with Mary Brewington, Chief of the Washington County Branch of the MPD who shared the proposal with her (copy provided to Board members) and noted Multnomah County allowed 1 hour of community service for every \$100 of debt to a maximum of 100 community service hours. DA Kevin Barton felt \$100 per hour was too generous when the rate was initially proposed in February/March. Ellen felt the community is now much more aware and sensitive to the impact of the criminal justice system, particularly for people of color whose lives have been impacted by fines and fees. She would like the Board to consider whether \$75 was acceptable, given other jurisdictions were providing \$100 per hour. She wondered whether a pushback might be appropriate based on no evident differences between the metropolitan counties that justified the different rate.

Katherine Galian inquired of the existing community service rate for the repayment of fines and fees. She noted this proposal was the first time the DA's office was receptive to such a proposal. Would pushing back backfire? Would it be better to start with \$75 and push for an increase to \$100 upon the program's success?

Community Corrections currently uses minimum wage (\$12.00 per hour). As to the rate, the Board will have to make that decision. From a negotiating standpoint, Ellen felt it would be best

to start with the \$100 rate as a minimum, noting no statistics or studies had been presented to support the \$75 rate and there is already a metropolitan county using the rate successfully. If the DA didn't accept the proposal, they would then own and be responsible for the \$75 rate.

Blair Schaeffer-Bisht inquired whether there was a maximum amount of time to complete hours?

There is no limit on the amount of time to complete hours in the current proposal.

Rowie Taylor noted the minimum wage will increase on July 1 and wondered if Kevin Barton took that into consideration when determining the \$75 rate?

There is no rubric, no scientific studies, or studies of what jurisdictions are doing in Oregon or across the country.

Rowie Taylor agreed, accepting the \$75 rate now and going back for an increase to a rate in line with our neighbors would require justification and be more difficult in the long run. Approaching the DA with the same rate as our neighbors at the outset is more equitable and looks through the lens of people of color.

Annette Evans commended Ellen Johnson for her work on this project and felt there was now a different climate with disparities never more apparent. More work is being done at a regional level which impacts our participants and residents. Annette invited input from the Board on submitting a letter of support for Project Reset to the MPD as they approach the DA's Office with the project proposal. Ellen shared Mary Brewington felt such a letter would possibly help move the DA more quickly, but also thought the County Commissioners should be made aware of the letter to solicit their support and endorsement. It would be to their benefit to support a policy that positively impacts homelessness as well as people of color.

Mellani Calvin agreed the proposal was timely and supported a letter from the Board or letters of support from Board member agencies for the \$100 rate, as well as a possible letter of support from County Commissioners.

Marcia Hille commended Ellen on her work on this project and was in complete support of a letter from the Board.

Action: Approve submittal of a letter to the Washington County District Attorney proposing a \$100 reduction in fines and fees for every hour of community service worked.

Motion: Mellani Calvin

Second: Gordon Teifel

Vote: Approved, unanimous.

Ellen asked if all this work could be completed prior to Mary Brewington taking the proposal to the Public Safety Commission in July. Annette will prepare a draft and forward to Board members for review via email and will work with Komi Kalevor to speak with the County Chair to solicit their support.

Katherine Galian wondered if it would be helpful to have individual organizations and those outside of the CoC who have a stake in this project to submit letters of support as well? It would be helpful to have organizations reiterate the positive impact that such a policy would have on homelessness and moving people out of poverty. Mary Brewington would like all letters sent to her for transmission to the DA's Office. Ellen will provide Annette with Mary's contact information as well as points to include in individual letters.

C. 2020 Point-In-Time (PIT) Homeless Census and Housing Inventory Chart (HIC)

Annette reviewed the Point in Time Homeless Count document provided to each Board member which summarized the 2020 PIT and HIC data to be reported to HUD. A total of 618

people reported homeless, 307 unsheltered and 311 sheltered. Homeless were predominantly adults, male, white, but with a 22% representation of people of color. Unsheltered counted were primarily adult-only households with more of an aging population. There was an increasing number of people experiencing chronic homelessness, disabling conditions that report substance use disorder as the leading disability, and an increase in adults age 62 years and older experiencing homelessness. A cell phone app was used for the first time to capture data. Preliminary housing inventory has seen a decline due to a reduction in Rapid Rehousing (RRH) programs; however, data quality issues are being worked that may increase the number of RRH beds..

Annette also noted the 2021 housing inventory will report a decrease of permanent supportive housing numbers as the Continuum of Care (CoC) Program application lost scoring this year due to system performance measurements (significant increase in first time homelessness and a significant drop in exits to permanent housing as a result of having winter shelters entering data into HMIS for the first time). The CoC will need to cut 20 units of permanent supportive housing primarily through attrition over the next grant period. The good news is that additional funds may be available through the Metro Supportive Housing Services levy starting in April 2021.

Action: Approve submittal of 2020 PIT and HIC to HUD pending the Rapid Re-Housing data quality updates.
Motion: Gordon Teifel
Second: Katherine Galian
Vote: Approved, unanimous.

D. CoC Board Approval to Submit Longitudinal Systems Analysis (LSA) report at August 14 Meeting.

The LSA is due to HUD in August. Annette will be working on the LSA data in July to make sure the report is representative of the CoC's work over the past fiscal year. She will present the report to the CoC Board at the August 14 meeting to get their approval prior to submission.

E. Built for Zero Case Implementation—Annette Evans

1. By-Name List Housing Case Conferencing Outcomes – Annette Evans

The initiative aims to end chronic homelessness through a comprehensive list of persons and prioritizing the most vulnerable for housing. A By-Name Case Conferencing List is prepared using data extrapolated from HMIS that is prioritized by vulnerability/assessment score and length of time houseless. The By-Name List tracks inflow (new) and outflow (recently housed or no longer in the community) data. To-Date the program has successfully re-housed 24 adults with nearly 60 years of homelessness into permanent supportive housing, primarily using Shelter Plus Care rent subsidy.

2. Outreach and Geographic Coverage Outcomes – Katherine Galian

What started out as an ad hoc convening of people doing street outreach, has now transitioned into the standing Homeless Subcommittee whose primary focus is street outreach for the Built for Zero initiative. They meet bi-weekly to review the By-Name List, discuss new camps that have been identified, identify people who are on the case conferencing list whose location is unknown to assign street outreach to locate and engage them in order to reconnect them to the housing provider responsible for them. At the last meeting (June 11) they updated policies for how to include more detail when locating and identifying known camps to spread the outreach work among all individuals doing street outreach, not just CoC partners. Some individuals doing street outreach do not enter data into HMIS. The subcommittee is working on improving mechanisms to capture all data to know who is out there and their status. To request street outreach to go out to a camp site, send an email request to outreachrequest@caowash.org. A response to the request will be

provided within 24 hours as to who is going out, when they will go out and when they will communicate findings.

3. Plan for Public Release and Communication

There was a leadership meeting Friday June 5 to finally rollout the Built For Zero Public Release and Communication with local leaders in August/September. The community education piece will include the system change that has occurred and the outcomes that have been achieved to help individuals access housing.

F. Briefing on COVID Response and Recovery – Annette Evans

Washington County moved into Phase 1 Reopening on 6/1/2020 with key strategies identified to prevent disease transmission within the houseless population. The Comfort Inn Respite Shelter operations are extended through 8/31/2020 to provide isolation for COVID+/COVID symptomatic or 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 the Family Promise shelters which were closed/reduced capacity in compliance with Governor Brown’s Executive Order 20-12 “Stay Home, Stay Safe.” Prior to the COVID pandemic, the Family Promise shelters served 11 households at any point in time and will reopen to provide 30 adult-only households with shelter using hotel rooms in lieu of church facilities;
2. Create a Safe Sleep Village project to provide 50 houseless persons with a sanctioned tent model to provide physical distancing and sanitation for houseless campers living in encampments with 20 or more people with meals and resources brought to the site; and
3. Create hotel voucher program for 20 high-risk houseless households residing in encampments.

G. 2020/21 Severe Weather Shelter Response Update – Annette Evans

Winter shelter operations will need to be compliant with CDC requirements to prevent disease transmission and establish COVID contact tracing protocols. A congregate shelter model providing 90 to 120-day enrolled shelter beds located in 4 to 5 “hubs” in the county is being developed. Annette will be convening the Winter Shelter Kick-Off Planning Meeting on July 29.

H. CoC Board Prioritized Project Funding for FY2020 Program Grant Application – Annette Evans

The Notice of Funding Available (NOFA) for the FY2020 Program Grant Application has not yet been released as HUD has prioritized CARES ACT funding and distributions. As soon as the NOFA becomes available, project funding prioritization will need to be added as a CoC Board agenda item for action to rank and rate projects for funding and approve submittal to HUD.

V. AGENCY ANNOUNCEMENTS AND OPEN DISCUSSION

- None

VI. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting adjourned at 9:52 a.m.

Minutes prepared by Vara Fellger, Washington County Housing Services

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