

HOUSING and SUPPORTIVE SERVICES NETWORK(HSSN) CoC Board

Friday, April 8, 2022 - 8:30 to 9:55 am

Join Zoom Meeting <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/89201646423?pwd=NUVoRU8waDAvMEJieGdrSFNOeDJYQT09>
Meeting ID: 892 0164 6423, Passcode: 231734 Phone/Call-In: +1 253 215 8782 US (Tacoma)

AGENDA

Chair: Annette M. Evans, Washington County Department of Housing Services
Co-Chair: Katherine Galian, Community Action Organization

- I. Introductions and Agency Announcements (8:30 a.m.)
Roll call CoC Board
- II. Public Comment (8:35 a.m.)
- III. Minutes (8:40 a.m.)
A) Board Action: Approve CoC Board minutes for February 11, 2022.
- IV. Business Items (8:45 a.m.)
 - A) Oregon Housing & Community Services (OHCS) HMIS Data Lake Initiative – Hunter Belgard, OHCS HMIS Administrator
 - B) HMIS Implementation Update – Annette Evans
 - C) 2022 Point-In-Time (PIT) Homeless Census and Housing Inventory Chart (HIC) – Pat Rogers, Vara Fellger and Annette Evans
Board Action: Approve submittal of 2022 PIT and HIC to HUD.
 - D) CoC Consolidated Application Scoring Criteria Recommendation – Subcommittee Members: Phyllis Bittinger, David Pero, Lindsay Downen, Lydia Radke, Rowie Taylor, and Annette Evans
Board Action: Approve Scoring Criteria Recommendations and Revise CoC Application Rating Policy.
 - E) [Supportive Housing Services Program](#) (5 minutes) – Alex Devin
 - F) [CoC Board Recruitment](#) with applications due 5/23/2022 and HSSN Appointment 6/1/2022 (3 minutes) – Annette Evans
 1. Vacant positions include: HSSN Chair (Public Agency); ESG/CDBG/HOME; and Substance Addiction
 2. Term ending 6/30/2022 positions include: Victims of Domestic Violence; Developmental Disabilities; Citizen At-Large or Outreach; and Faith-Based
 - G) CoC Board Future Agenda Topics
 1. Built For Zero Case Conferencing
- V. Adjournment (9:55 a.m.)

Future Meeting Schedule (8:30 to 9:55 a.m.):

- Friday, June 10, 2022
- Friday, August 12, 2022
- Friday, October 14, 2022
- Friday, December 9, 2022

The CoC Board meeting is open to the public, with the [agenda](#) online. Please direct comments to [Annette Evans](#), 503-846-4760.

CoC BOARD MEETING MINUTES
Virtual Meeting via ZOOM
February 11, 2022, 8:30 a.m.

COC BOARD MEMBER PRESENT

- Baker, Vernon – Just Compassion EWC
- Cardwell, Shawn – Forest Grove Foundation
- Cohen, Megan – City of Beaverton
- Downen, Lindsay – New Narrative
- Evans, Annette – WC Housing Services
- Galian, Katherine – Community Action Organization
- Gawf, Mandy – City of Hillsboro
- Hille, Marcia – Sequoia Mental Health Services
- Kalevor, Komi – WC Housing Services
- LeSage, Amy – Cascade AIDS Project
- Logan-Sanders, Andrea – Boys & Girls Aid
- Pero, David – Homeless Education Network/
McKinney-Vento Homeless Student Liaison
- Rogers, Patrick – Community Action Org.
- Smith, Gary – U.S. Dept of Veteran Affairs
- Teifel, Gordon – Families for Independent Living & DEAR
- Taylor, Rowie – Domestic Violence Resource Ctr
- Valencia, Mari – WC Office of Community Dev.

COC BOARD MEMBER NOT PRESENT

- Calvin, Mellani – ASSIST Program
- Peel, Rick – Oregon Law Center
- Radke, Lydia – WC Parole and Probation
- Ramirez, Bernadette – Bridges to Change
- Wyatt, Kent – City of Tigard

OTHER ATTENDEES

- Adkins, Ruth – Kaiser Permanente
- Alexander-Sheridan, Allie – WC HHS
- Bittinger, Phyllis – WC Housing Services
- Cooke, Beth – Good Neighbor Center
- Alyssa Craigie – Health Share Oregon
- Devin, Alex – WC Housing Services
- Fellger, Vara – WC Housing Services
- Gelwicks, Jessie – Kaiser Permanente
- Annie Herbert – Kaiser Permanente
- Kuyl, Marni – WC County Administrative Office
- Proctor, Jennie – WC Office of Community Dev.
- Smith, Rachel – Providence

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

Annette Evans called the meeting to order at 8:32 a.m.

I. Roll Call and Announcements

Annette Evans introduced Marni Kuyl, new Assistant County Administrator at Washington County. Marni Kuyl shared she was Director of Health and Human Services prior to taking the position. As one of four county administrators, she will be working specifically with the departments of Health and Human Services, Housing Services, Community Development, and Assessment and Taxation. She noted one of the goals County Administrator Tanya Ange had implemented, was the concept of *One Washington County* where departments collaborated and worked in conjunction with community partners. She currently serves as Chair of Health Share of Oregon but will be stepping down at the end of the year.

II. PUBLIC COMMENT

Beth Cooke inquired on when the next Community Connect Oversight Committee would be meeting. Alex Devin reported this would occur in March 2022.

III. APPROVAL OF MEETING MINUTES

Action: Approve December 10, 2021 meeting minutes.

Motion: Gordon Teifel

Second: Komi Kalevor

Vote: Approved, unanimous.

IV. BUSINESS ITEMS

A. Proposal to share HMIS data with Collective Medical/Health Care Institutions – Allie Alexander-Sheridan of Washington County Health and Human Services, Ruth Adkins of Kaiser Permanente and Rachel Smith of Providence Health & Services

Ruth Adkins reported on the collaboration between healthcare, housing and homeless systems who are working in new ways across the county, recognizing housing as being a critical component to health. She cited the Kaiser Metro 300 Program as an example of the collaboration, which was an initiative launched in 2020 with a \$5 million grant from Kaiser Permanente to help homeless seniors in the tri-county area with rent assistance. In partnership with Health Share of Oregon, the program housed 340 individuals and included a data sharing component utilizing the Homeless Management Information System (HMIS). In 2020, Justin Keller from Collective Medical proposed a data sharing concept to the CoC Board, which they decided not to pursue at the time. In January 2021 Washington County joined the Healthcare and Homelessness (H&H) pilot initiative along with Kaiser Permanente, Providence, and Health Share of Oregon. Washington County was one of five counties in the cohort convened by Community Solutions and the Institute for Healthcare Improvement and directly aligned with Washington County's engagement with Built for Zero. A focal point of this initiative was to look at how healthcare systems could make a meaningful, measurable, and transformative contribution to health and chronic homelessness while building racially equitable systems and to include some form of data sharing. They were currently testing the data sharing concept on a smaller scale to grow trust and familiarity as they learned to work together with different counties.

Allie Alexander-Sheridan shared her role within Washington County's Health and Human Services Department with Supportive Housing Services (SHS) focused on the healthcare and homelessness pilot initiative. She reported having recently launched a winter shelter case conferencing pilot for guests who were flagged as medically vulnerable. A second pilot focusing on case coordination was also being considered. With the rollout of the SHS program there was an urgent and unmet need for both unhoused and newly housed participants in obtaining access to healthcare. Housing Navigators and Case Managers lacked a pathway to engage participants and navigate the healthcare system. The SHS Program will be launching a limited scope pilot to learn how to move toward a full collective data sharing program in the future.

Rachel Smith shared Providence's shared vision for all unhoused people, as well as those newly housed through the Continuum of Care (CoC), to have access to healthcare and other supports that will improve health and stability. They will be testing these new collaboration efforts over the next few months by co-developing a limited scope care coordination pilot between Washington County, Kaiser Permanente, and Providence to include the use of technology for advanced identification of unhoused vulnerable community members and develop clear communication and referral pathways between teams. The healthcare community was committed to the county, community, and individuals being served in every facet of programming and were working hard to break down barriers with the housing insecure and working with individuals to create an individualized plan. Through care coordination they will be working with partner agencies in all levels of care to make the pilot successful.

Allie Alexander-Sheridan shared the timeline for the pilot program, noting engagement with groups like the HSSN and other partners was the first step. In May they plan to present the pilot scope and plan (includes limited data sharing) and begin the pilot with county provider and healthcare provider teams. From May through October as the pilot program moves forward, they will be making assessments of the plan and in December they will report initial outcomes and recommend next steps.

Annette Evans announced the HMIS implementation with Joint Office of Homeless Services (JOHS) was delayed to July 1. Portland Housing Bureau will remain as the HMIS Lead Agency until then.

Marni Kuyl asked if Connect Oregon will be used for referrals and wondered how coordination will be taking place with Health Share as they move forward with their housing pilot.

Ruth Adkins explained the pilot program will align and connect with Health Share's larger effort. At this time, coordination will take place with the Housing Case Manager or homeless system team and the Social Worker, and not necessarily integrate within Connect Oregon.

Alyssa Craigie, Director of Health System Integration at Health Share, stated they were seeking to make sure there were clear connections back to the housing benefit in conjunction with Health Share.

Katherine Gallian noted Connect Oregon was currently able to make referrals to Community Connect.

Annette Evans will be scheduling a time to bring this conversation to the HSSN as well as several of their partner agencies who were working through the same issues of how to align healthcare and housing at a greater level.

B. Emergency Solution Grant (ESG) Program Allocation Plan Review – Mari Valencia-Aguilar

Mari Valencia-Aguilar reported a delay of the proposed allocation plan for Washington County's Emergency Solutions Grant (ESG) this year. Washington County's Office of Community Development (OCD) has decided to take a step back to evaluate the best use of ESG funds recognizing the county was operating in a shifting landscape with the implementation of the SHS program. They were currently assessing how to strengthen the system and address gaps and how best to allocate the ESG funds within the larger landscape. One possibility might be to shift funds toward prevention and shelter because of increased funding for rapid rehousing. She added, they were also looking to move toward a competitive process and asked for feedback on this option as well.

Melanie Calvin inquired about the approved activities for ESG funds. Mari shared, the ESG program can cover four activities which include street outreach, emergency shelter, prevention, and rapid rehousing.

Alex Devin noted the SHS Program is committed to picking up all of the rapid rehousing. As ESG funds expire they were looking to expand rapid rehousing to serve at least 400 households per year and looking to take over the outreach that ESG has funded in the past.

Mandy Gawf inquired if day shelters could be added to the definition of a shelter and whether the SHS Program was picking up what outreach was currently doing or if they were planning to expand outreach. Alex Devin reported the regular outreach allocation in Washington County was \$250,000 and with ESG/CV funding, that amount was increased to \$2 million. The SHS Program plans to keep the existing outreach structure in Washington County currently funded through one-time assistance. He noted expanding outreach was something they could look to implement in the future as the system continues to be built out.

C. FY2021 System Performance Measures (SPM) Outcomes – Annette Evans

Annette presented a draft of the CoC's system performance results for the period October 1, 2020 to September 30, 2021 as compared against HUD SPM benchmarks. She noted the data will provide information for the CoC (the HSSN) to evaluate progress in ending homelessness, to identify gaps and needs to programmatic/system-level changes and is scored within the CoC Consolidated grant application funding CoC Programs. The data was extrapolated from HMIS for all programs and noted that data quality clean-up will continue over the next few weeks prior to submittal to HUD by February 28, 2022.

M1 and M1.b: Length of Time (LOT) People Remain Homeless

Annette shared areas of improvement included additional training for those inputting data into the HMIS system to increase data quality input; address gaps for homeless with incomes between 30% to 50% Median Family Income (MFI) by raising the rapid rehousing income thresholds to 50% as approved by the CoC Board in November 2021 and through Built For Zero (B4Z) By-Name List case conferencing that prioritizes permanent supportive housing for chronically homeless. She noted, the average length of chronic homelessness was 560 days, an increase of 100 days over the previous year.

M2: Exits to Permanent Housing with Return to Homelessness (2-year lookback).

The recidivism rate increased from 9.6% in 2020 to 11.7% in 2021. Most of the returns were individuals coming back within 6 to 12-months of entering permanent housing; primarily rapid rehousing programs. With the availability of SHS funds, the CoC was looking at ways to assist families retain permanent housing for the long term, analyze the cause of returns and address the need for tenancy supports.

Katherine Gallian suggested providing additional funds to those graduating from the 24 months rapid rehousing subsidies to ensure they were able to remain in their homes. She noted additional funding was needed as housing costs continued to increase in the county along with situational circumstances that may arise in families.

Marcia Hille stated the current housing inventory was not always affordable and many of the individuals her staff were trying to place had significant barriers to get into housing and keep it long term. She believed SHS funds could help those individuals sustain housing.

M3.2: Number of Homeless People in Emergency Shelter, Safe Haven and Transitional Housing Projects

The Point In Time (PIT) sheltered count increased from last year due to the addition of winter shelter beds, additional motel vouchers, and Family Promise shelters funded by the CARES Act.

M4: Employment and Income Growth (CoC Program “Leavers”)

In 2021 only 40.2% of the population exiting CoC programs left with some form of income, compared to 55.5% in 2020. Those who left with earned income dropped to 13% in 2021 compared to 25.4% in 2020 with COVID being a factor. Individuals exiting with cash income decreased slightly as well due to the length of stay prior to exiting the program. To improve those outcomes CoC programs will need to encourage clients to participate in employment, seek other cash benefits, and address homeless who were not applying for cash income avenues. Comments received share concerns of people reentering the workforce given COVID pandemic, as well the challenges in finding child care for families with children.

M5: People Homeless for First Time (2-year lookback)

The system saw an increase of those previously enrolled from 250 to 273, as well as an increase in those who entered shelter or transitional housing who had not previously entered the homeless system. The number of individuals who entered permanent housing rose slightly as well as an increase of those who had previously been in the system.

Lindsay Downen inquired if this data could be overlaid with recent census data to see if the increases could be linked to an increase in general population growth in the county or if it is proportional to other changes. She noted the pandemic has had an economic impact on many people and should be a consideration in how money was allocated toward housing retention.

M7a.1: Street Outreach – Placement n Permanent Housing (PH) or Retention of Permanent Supportive Housing (PSH)

The CoC saw an increase in placement from street outreach to Institutions and PH overall, and noted this is in part due to the investment in outreach where intensive engagement with homeless is occurring. It was noted that some of the hardest to serve are not going into the shelters where they can access services and housing, so we need to continue investing in outreach to meet people where they are living on the streets and vehicle camping.

M7b.1 and 2: Exits to Permanent Housing (PH) destination

At the end of the reporting period 31% exited to temporary or institutional destinations and 46% exited to permanent housing, an increase from previous years.

This data is draft as data quality is addressed. Approval today will authorize the final data to be submitted to HUD, and a copy posted to the county website.

Action: Approve submittal of OR-506CoC FY2021 System Performance Measures to HUD.
Motion: Gordon Teifel
Second: Lindsay Downen
Vote: Approved, unanimous.

D. Supportive Housing Services (SHS) Program – Alex Devin

Alex Devin reported many of the winter shelter programs were extended thanks to Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) funding, with 227 beds currently available. Rapid rehousing programs had been delayed but will still be in alignment with ESG/CV2 funding which was set to expire. He noted, providers using the one-time ESG funds can be assured their programs will be continued when those funds expired.

Alex Devin shared the Community Connect Oversight Committee met last summer during the modernization discussion and included community feedback sessions on major changes made within Community Connect. The next meeting will be held in March to discuss Community Connect policies and procedures which would come before the CoC Board for approval at their April meeting.

E. CoC Consolidated Application Grant Registration – Annette Evans and Phyllis Bittinger

Annette reported HUD has not yet made any award announcements on the CoC Consolidated Application.

F. CoC Board Recruitment – Annette Evans

Annette reported there were currently four (4) vacant board positions, three vacated through resignations and a Culturally Specific Provider Organization position added in December. Recruitments were under way with applications due February 18, 2022. Prior to voting at the March 2 HSSN meeting, applicants will be provided an opportunity to make a short presentation.

Annette Evans announced she will be retiring at the end of April and has been in discussions with Komi Kalevor regarding election of a new Chair of the HSSN.

G. OPEN DISCUSSION

- None.

V. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting adjourned at 9:50 a.m.