



HOUSING and SUPPORTIVE SERVICE NETWORK

Providing a Continuum of Care for Vulnerable Populations in Washington County

Wednesday, August 4, 2021 - 8:30 to 10:00 a.m.

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

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

AGENDA

- I. **INTRODUCTIONS: 8:30 a.m.**
 - Mental Wellness Moments (MWM) are brief daily practices of self-care and wellness.
- II. **MEETING MINUTES: 8:32 a.m.**
 - **Action:** Approve the July 7, 2021 meeting minutes.
- III. **GUEST SPEAKERS: 8:35 a.m.**
 - Amanda Caffall, [The Common Law Center](#)
“Tenant Eviction Defense Program”
- IV. **GENERAL BUSINESS: 8:55 a.m.**
 - Report on the [Metro Supportive Housing Services Program](#) – Alex Devin
 - 2021/22 Annual Work Plan to Prevent and End Homelessness – Annette Evans
Action: Approve the [2021/2022 Annual Work Plan](#) for A Road Home: Community Plan to Prevent and End Homelessness.
 - FY2021 CoC Program Homeless Assistance [Grant](#) Competition – Annette Evans
- V. **REPORTS AND PROGRAM UPDATES: 9:20 a.m.**
 - Subcommittee Reports
 - Children (Homeless Education Network) – David Pero
 - Youth – Drew Williamson
 - Homeless Outreach – Pat Rogers
 - DD Dialogue – Gordon Teifel
 - Veterans and Seniors – Gary Smith and Yvette Potter
 - [HSSN CoC Board](#) – Annette Evans
 - [Homeless Plan Advisory Committee](#) (HPAC) – Annette Evans
- VI. **ANNOUNCEMENTS: 9:50 a.m.**
- VII. **ADJOURNMENT: 10:00 a.m.**

Next Meeting: Wednesday, September 1, 2021

Guest Speaker: Tina Kennedy “Fort Kennedy Day Center and Veteran Resources”

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

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

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

ATTENDEES:

Aguilar Vazquez, Maria—City of Beaverton
Alexander Sheridan, Allie—WC Health and Human Services
Angeles, Nic—Housing Independence
Archer, Devi—ASSIST Program
Auslander, Jay—WC Mental Health
Avalos, Barrios, Ivan—Community Action Organization
Ayala Aguilar, Yesenia—Family Promise-GWC
Bailey, Lisa—City of Beaverton
Baker, Vernon—Just Compassion EWC
Bernard, Kathleen—Good Neighbor Center
Blasco, Martin—WC Cooperative Library Services
Brooks, Simone—City of Hillsboro
Brown, Eboni—Greater Good Northwest
Brownell, Amy—Ecumenical Ministries-Second Home
Burnett, Amanda—DVRC
Burnham, Jeff—New Narrative
Calvin, Mellani—ASSIST Program
Cardwell, Shawn—Forest Grove Foundation
Coppiano, Zoi—Community Action Organization
De Los Reyes, Anthony—HomePlate Youth Services
Devin, Alex—WC Housing Services
Donner, Crystal—Community Action Organization
Downen, Lindsay—New Narrative
Dwyer, DaNene—Portland Community College
Edmonds, Erin—Cascade Aids Project NW
Emrick, Hannah—Boys & Girls Aid
Evans, Annette—WC Housing Services
Farr, Danielle—WC Health and Human Services
Fellger, Vara—WC Housing Services
Fields, Kaylie—Oregon DHS
Flamm, Richard—
Fox, Karen—City of Tualatin
Franco, Magali—OHSU-Tuality Alliance
Gawf, Mandy—City of Hillsboro
Gnant, Brylee—Family Promise of Tualatin Valley
Gonzalez, Miguel—Open Door HousingWorks
Gramp, Heather—US Housing and Urban Development
Greene, Jacen—PSU-HCAC
Hageman, Heidi—New Narrative
Kachmarek, Hannah—Good Neighbor Center
Lamberger, Katie—Oregon DHS SSP
LeSage, Amy—Cascade AIDS Project
Lloyd, Rhonda—The Salvation Army Veteran & Family Ctr
Ludlam, Mandie—Community Housing Fund
Lukban, Minette—OHSU-Tuality Alliance
Markus, Michelle—Mental Health Assoc of Oregon
Martinez, Omar—City of Hillsboro
Matti, Vera—Lutheran Community Services NW
Mellick, Michael—Care Oregon
Miller-Kennington, Laine—Community Action Organization
Montijo, Jennee—WC Health and Human Services
Moshkowsky, Melody—The Salvation Army
Mullins, Angela—WC Housing Services
Olive, Shannon—Women First Transition & Referral Center
Oliveira, Pedro, Jr—Good Neighbor Center
Penney, Darcie—DVRC
Perkowski, Kaja—Open Door Counseling Center
Pick, Bianca—ASSIST Program
Polanco, Wendy—Community Action Organization
Potter, Yvette—WC Disability, Aging & Veteran Services
Ramirez, Bernadette—Bridges to Change
Romero, Malu—New Narrative
Rostampour, Theresa—Boys & Girls Aid
Ruiz, Roseanna—CPAH Oregon
Savara, Mike—Oregon Housing and Community Services
Schaeffer-Bischt, Blair—WorkSystems, Inc.
Sell, Wendy—Lifeworks NW
Smith, Gary—US Dept of Veteran Affairs
Stoller, Rick—Ecumenical Ministries-Second Home
Stowell, Chase—ASSIST Program
Swearingin, Nicole—New Narrative
Taylor, Molly—Oregon DHS
Taylor, Rowie--DVRC
Trinkle, Jamie—Oregon Law Center
Valdez, Bianetth—HomePlate Youth Services
Valencia Aguilar, Mari—WC Office of Community Dev.
White, Clarinda—Family Promise-GWC
Williams, Carrie—New Narrative
Williams, Carissa--OHSU
Williams, Natalie—WC Office of Community Development
Williamson, Drew—Boys & Girls Aid
Wilson-Coleman, Alisa—Citizen At-large

I. INTRODUCTIONS

Mental Health wellness moment observed.

II. APPROVAL OF MEETING MINUTES

Motion: Approve June 2, 2021 meeting minutes.

Action: Rick Stoller

Second: Mellani Calvin

Vote: Approved, unanimous.

III. GUEST SPEAKERS

Theresa Rostampour & Drew Williamson, Boys & Girls Aid, "Education Reengagement Program"

Drew provided background on the program, which started February 2021 through Oregon Department of Education's Youth Development Division grant and currently works in partnership with HomePlate Youth Services. The program is designed to support youth ages 14 through 20 who were behind in school by 3 credits or more, not engaged in school and had not completed a high school diploma/GED, were "dropped out" by the school district or referred to the program by a school district/Educational Service District, federally recognized tribe or tribal agency, a Juvenile Court judge, a county Juvenile Department, Oregon Youth Authority, or Oregon Department of Human Services.

In addition to providing help with high school diploma or GED completion, the program also provides case management services, one-on-one mentoring, support and advocacy, workforce training, college preparation/guidance and outreach that includes transportation services to eligible youth. In the initial meeting with participants, Theresa Rostampour, Education Navigator with Boys & Girls Aid, assists participants to identify educational goals, hurdles that have affected school engagement and skill level to develop a plan for a successful outcome. She generally meets with students weekly using the time for whatever the student needs may be (food, study help, finding tutoring services). Grant funding also allows for financial support to cover the costs of educational needs (TriMet passes, GED preparatory courses, GED testing, WiFi, school supplies, books and other necessary materials). Small incentives are provided to celebrate participants' successes. Since the program's inception in February, two students have passed one or more GED tests with plans to complete their GED by August 2021, two students were back on track with grades and credits after recent traumatic life events, four student had re-enrolled after being disengaged for a year, one of whom completed and received a high school diploma and five students were now employed. She shared a success story of a freshman who had reengaged with school after missing her entire freshman year, and who was now contemplating continuing to college. Theresa reviewed the youth services available at the Safe Place Drop-In Center and Safe Place Youth Shelter noting meetings with student could be at the Drop-In Center or wherever they felt most comfortable. She encouraged those who knew of a young person interested in reconnecting with school, or with questions about the program to contact her at (503) 481-4977 or trostampour@boysandgirlsaid.org.

Do you partner with outreach teams to connect with youth looking for shelter and educational services?

The program partnered with HomePlate Youth Services who currently had a couple of clients in the program. Theresa has the capacity to serve 8-12 depending on the need of youth and is currently working with ten students but is looking to add more students to her caseload. She has been reaching out via email to share information about the program and how to connect.

Mike Savara, OHCS Housing Stabilization Division and Wendy Polanco, Community Action Organization, "Oregon Emergency Rental Assistance Update and Demonstration"

Mike shared Community Action Organization (CAO) was running a "fund blind" system where multiple different funds were being used to assist Washington County residents needing rent assistance with access to funds available from different doors, but with no "wrong" door. Access to that system was available via a telephone screening line to get an appointment, online appointment request, working with a community organization that CAO had partnered with to provide outreach and individualized assistance, and the Allita application portal (a paper application was also available and in different languages) supporting the Oregon Emergency Rental Assistance Program (OERAP).

Wendy Polanco added, regardless of the pathway into the system, all Washington County applications came to the same group of processors at CAO with those that were more complete being processed first. She provided the link to the [application](#) page which provided information on how to apply and hours/times available for each pathway. She reviewed the new eviction timeline and how it affected applicants noting 10-day eviction notices could be issued as early as July 8 with July 27 being the last opportunity to provide documentation that an application for rent assistance had been submitted to avoid displacement. CAO was providing a letter to all applicants that could be presented to landlords to document that an application for rent assistance had been submitted. Once an applicant was deemed eligible for rent assistance, CAO had 60 days within which to pay the landlord but were sending commitments to landlords via email right away. She reviewed key points for applicants: (1) If an application had been submitted, there was no need to reapply; (2) Documentation that an application was submitted must be provided by the first court appearance; (3) If you receive an eviction notice, apply for rent assistance as soon as possible and provide documentation to the landlord; and (4) Do not skip your first court appearance.

Mike shared the Allita statewide portal routed all Washington County applications to CAO for processing. Between the vendor and OHCS, almost 50 staff were providing processing support for the largest counties to process the 20,000 applications submitted to the Allita system throughout Oregon. Several OHCS staff were working with CAO to support the processing of Washington County applications. OHCS is keenly aware that time is of the essence and were adding more support and doing their best to keep up with the volume of applications. The average request for assistance was approximately \$7,000 for back rent and forward rent. Mike shared the [tenant checklist](#) and emphasized the importance of having all required documentation before applying to allow for quick application processing. Required documentation included identity verification (head of household only), income verification (<80% Area Median Income (AMI)), verification of residence, and verification of past due rent and/or utility bills. Immigration status was not a barrier to receiving services. The program could provide a maximum of 18 months of rent assistance, which for most people was 15 months of back rent and 3 months of forward rent. Anyone not maxing out, could reapply for additional assistance. He reviewed the Oregon OERAP website where [applications](#) could be submitted noting resources were available in multiple languages.

What services were available at the courthouse and was there messaging going out to the community of the availability of this resource?

Staff will be available at court to help with completing an application. Jamie Trinkle also shared Oregon Law Center will be dedicating their entire staff (9 out of their 10 attorneys) to be prepared to handle eviction defense to serve all five northwest counties. They were expecting to see an increase in eviction defense intakes once tenants had received a written notice of eviction or a court summons. They were partnering with CAO, Unite Oregon and Washington County to provide wraparound support.

How many people were applying for rent assistance?

Mike deferred to Jacen Green of Portland State University who shared the PSU HRAC [evictions cost estimate report](#) that used a cost calculator developed by University of Arizona, input a number of people who were at risk of eviction/at risk of homelessness (taking into consideration the cost of sheltering, increased medical costs from homelessness, increased child welfare costs and increased juvenile justice system costs from a number of studies) to provide an estimate for the cost to society of the impending homelessness. In their report, the HRAC used census poll survey data where more than 59,000 households in Oregon indicated they had no confidence of their ability to pay next month's rent and an additional 66,000 who had only slight confidence in their ability to pay next month's rent. The result was that a maximum of 125,000 households were at possible risk of eviction with 25% - 60% of those evicted experiencing homelessness. The resulting increased cost to social services and society (child welfare, juvenile justice, shelter systems, health systems) would range from \$700 million on the low end (25%) to \$4.7 billion at the high end (60%).

Drew Williamson of Boys & Girls Aid shared they received ESG-CV funding through OHCS and were able to provide homelessness prevention services for youth in Washington County. He encouraged anyone working with a transition-aged youth (18 - 24) who was housed and needed support staying housed (short term rent assistance, utility support, stability case management) to contact Tammy Brown at (971) 280-7541.

Will CAO be hiring more advocates to help facilitate these needs and more individuals needing services?

Yes, CAO were hiring for many [positions](#).

Were those already receiving a subsidy, but still unable to pay rent, eligible for these resources?

They were eligible for the program, but OHCS encouraged people to work with their existing subsidy provider as rent assistance payments received may impact their subsidy amount. He noted the IRS was not considering payments from this program as a form of income, even if made directly to the tenant.

What was the turnaround time for someone who had submitted an application in order to mitigate the potential eviction?

Checks were taking 4 – 6 weeks to process with much of the delay due to waiting for information from either tenant or landlord.

IV. GENERAL BUSINESS

A. Report on Metro Supportive Housing Services (SHS) Program – Alex Devin

Alex reported the SHS Program planned to present their request for future programming to the Board of County Commissioners on July 22 which will include Intensive Case Management Services (ICMS) to provide outreach, assessment, housing navigation and retention to disabled/55+ households with extremely low income and experiencing or at risk of prolonged homelessness. He expected the program to launch at the beginning of August and committed to providing a list of the 15 participating organizations and their contact information at the August 4 HSSN meeting.

He reported the Econo Lodge bridge shelter had been moving forward and the Aloha Inn was in the midst of transition with all beds prioritized to those connected to a housing voucher to ensure flow-through and equitable utilization. He noted there will not be a direct referral mechanism for those beds. They were also working on building out a year-round shelter to include 150 beds and 24-hour service. Next, they will be working on building out a reactive housing response team for first responders, where an intervention

was required for someone in a housing crisis. More details were to follow at the August 4 HSSN meeting.

The Community Connect system redesign was also underway with workgroups established to work through the different assessments and provide feedback. They hoped to move to approve the modernization in August, expecting it will take an additional month or two to build out the infrastructure and design of the HMIS system. For questions, contact Alex at alex_devin@co.washington.or.us.

B. CoC Governance – Election of HSSN Co-Chair and CoC Board Positions.

Nominations were received to fill the HSSN Co-Chair and five CoC Board positions: Business/Employment, Substance Use Disorder, Runaway/Unaccompanied Youth, HIV/AIDS and Mainstream Resource Provider. Nominees were given an opportunity to provide information regarding their interest in the position and then a poll vote was taken.

Motion: Approve slate of nominees and appoint to fill HSSN Co-Chair (2-year term ending 6/2023) and CoC Board positions (4-year term ending 6/2025).
Action: Rowie Taylor
Second: Rick Stoller
Vote: Approved, unanimous.

C. A Road Home: 2021 Annual Work Plan Outcomes Update

Vara Fellger reviewed the draft outcomes for the 2020-2021 Annual Work Plan which included agency feedback received to date. She urged agencies to review the document for omissions, additions or corrections and noted the information reflected in the work plan should include all work by agencies toward goals and strategies of A Road Home, regardless of the funding source. To provide additional information, contact Vara at vara_fellger@co.washington.or.us.

D. FY2021 CoC Program Homeless Assistance Grant Competition

Annette Evans reported HUD had not yet released the Notice of Funding Available (NOFA) for the FY2021 CoC Program Homeless Assistance Grant Competition, expecting it may be released later this month. Upon release, a Request for Proposals will be issued for new funds (that HUD will offer through bonus projects and/or CoC Board reallocation of funds) and solicit confirmation on renewal projects. A representative from each agency whose combined attendance totaled eight or more distinct meetings over the past year (July through June), would be eligible to participate in the scoring of renewing or new projects. The score results would then go before the CoC Board for project rating review, selection and ranking for inclusion in the CoC Program grant application..

Annette reported, with Governor Brown's reopening announcement, she and her staff were considering what the HSSN meeting format might look like going forward. She acknowledged there were benefits to both in-person and virtual meetings noting attendance at the Beaverton Round ranged anywhere from 45-50 people whereas virtual meetings drew 80+ attendees. A discussion will be included on the August 4 meeting agenda.

V. ANNOUNCEMENTS

- Martin Blasco shared Washington County Cooperative Library Services offers electronic resources for resume review, career assistance, and more; as well as online homework help, writing lab, adult Learning Center, and more.
<https://www.wccls.org/research/glossary>.

- Kaylie Fields announced Oregon Department of Human Services received approval to provide emergency allotments for SNAP benefits for the month of July that were scheduled for issuance on July 13, July 30 and August 3. She warned this may be the last emergency allotment for SNAP benefits. More information was available in the [news release](#). Also, pandemic EBT benefits (PEBT) were approved again for this summer and were to be issued in multiple batches over the next couple of months with the first batch issued no later than July 30. Parents or guardians with questions about PEBT could call the hotline, (503) 945-6481. More information on PEBT was available in the [news release](#) as well. Finally, the Employment Related Daycare Program received additional funding and was able to extend the zero-dollar co-pay policy for families who were certifying or recertifying, through September 30. The extended policy provides a zero-dollar co-pay for a full 12-month certification to those found eligible before September 30. She encouraged any working families in need of child care to apply for this assistance at <https://one.oregon.gov/> or call/come in to the Oregon DHS SSP office.
- Alex Devin announced the SHS Program was holding a virtual 4-day housing navigation training scheduled for July 19–23; 9:30 am–11:30 am for existing staff to learn the intricacies of housing navigation to help house people quickly. He committed to providing Annette with a one-page flyer to send out via the HSSN ListServ which would include meeting links. Participation would be capped at 50 attendees.
- Rhonda Lloyd announced The Salvation Army Veterans & Family Center had an opening for a fulltime Senior Case Manager position with a starting rate of \$26.00 per hour and offering a flexible work week. A BA & MA in Social Work or related field was required and LCSW preferred. For more information or to apply, contact Rhonda at Rhonda.lloyd@usw.salvationarmy.org.
- Bernadette Ramirez announced Bridges to Change was hiring for several positions in the Tri-County area. More information was available at their [website](#).
- Carrie Williams of New Narrative announced their Reentry Housing Program was still looking for referrals and urged those who had questions or needed a referral form to contact her at cwilliams@newnarrativepdx.org.

VI. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting adjourned at 9:54 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