

OR-506CoC Hillsboro/Beaverton/Washington County

Continuum of Care (CoC) Board

Applicant Summary

Applicant: Hannah Studer
Organization: Deputy Director, Bridges to Change
CoC Board Position: Substance Addiction

Professional or lived experience in:

- Mental Health Supports
- Affordable Housing
- Training/Education
- Homelessness Services
- Youth Services
- Case Management
- Housing Navigation

Since 2014, I have worked as a behavioral health provider for adults who enrolled in Medicaid insurance services and experiencing substance use disorder. The population of community members I engage with are those experiencing legal system impacts, including prison reentry, chronic homelessness, severe and persistent mental health conditions, and other significant systemic barriers to maintaining wellness (as defined by the participant). Throughout my career in behavioral health, I have developed program services including; intensive outpatient services, supportive housing and peer services, outreach services, and other innovative models to address chronic homelessness and barriers to long-term stability. At present, I work as the Deputy Director of Bridges to Change, where I oversee services for behavioral health, peer services, and transitional supportive housing services across four counties in Oregon: Washington, Wasco, Clackamas, and Multnomah County.

Experience and willingness to serve on behalf of and advocate for people experiencing homelessness:

As noted above, my experience professionally has focused on working with community members who experience chronic system barriers to housing access and housing stability. This professional experience has taught me that not only is homelessness a crisis with chronic and long-term individual impacts, but also that county, state, and national policies continue to exacerbate the issues leading and/or contributing to homelessness. Through these professional experiences, I have advocated with funders, community partners, and those not familiar with homelessness around policy changes and challenged viewpoints around who is impacted by housing instability and homelessness. I aim to continue to advocate for policy, community, and individual change on this board.

Personally, I experienced housing instability as a teenager and young adult. While there were short durations of living in my car, staying overnight at my job, and asking friends if I could spend a night on their couch, I must acknowledge that as a white middle-class person, I had more access to resources, support, and limited barriers to access housing stability.