

# HOUSING and SUPPORTIVE SERVICES NETWORK(HSSN) CoC Board

Friday, April 9, 2021 - 8:30 to 9:55 am

## AGENDA

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/83051897634?pwd=NkpRb255NHlUZ2NSTnNtTjhxOGQ4QT09>

Meeting ID: 830 5189 7634, Passcode: 551333

Mobile: +12532158782, 89587246956#, \*252415#(Tacoma), +13462487799,89587246956#, \*252415#(Houston)

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

Co-Chair: Katherine Galian, Community Action Organization

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

- A) Welcome New Members: Rick Peel, Attorney for Oregon Law Center and Lydia Radke, Probation & Parole Officer for Washington County Community Corrections.

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

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

- A) **Board Action: Approve CoC Board minutes for February 12, 2021.**

IV. Business Items (8:45 a.m.)

- A) Proposal to create new HMIS Implementation with Joint Office of Homeless Services (JOHS) as Regional HMIS Lead (40 minutes)

- Overview of current HMIS Implementation – Annette Evans
- Supportive Housing Services Program Metrics & Reporting – Jes Larson
- JOHS Capacity to Assume Regional HMIS Lead Role – Marc Jolin
- HMIS Implementation Transition Timeline, Technical Support, Regional HMIS Governance – Steve Richard and Wendy Smith
- Open Comments and Questions – CoC Board

- B) Report on *Project Reset* (5 minutes) – Vernon Baker and Rick Peel

- C) Report on 2021 Point-In-Time (PIT) Homeless Count and Housing Inventory Chart (HIC) (20 minutes) – PIT by Angela Mullins and HIC by Annette Evans

- Board Action: Approve the Point-In-Time (PIT) Homeless Count and Housing Inventory Chart (HIC) reports and authorize submittal to HUD.**

V. Agency Announcements and Open Discussion (9:50 a.m.)

VI. Adjournment (9:55 a.m.)

Future Meeting Information:

- Friday, June 11, 2021, 8:30 a.m.
- Friday, August 13, 2021, 8:30 a.m.
- Friday, October 8, 2021, 8:30 a.m.
- Friday, December 10, 2021, 8:30 a.m.

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 12, 2021, 8:30 a.m.

## COC BOARD MEMBER PRESENT

- Baker, Vernon – Just Compassion EWC
- Brouse, Renee – Good Neighbor Center
- Calvin, Mellani – ASSIST Program
- Cardwell, Shawn – Forest Grove Foundation
- Cohen, Megan – City of Beaverton
- Downen, Lindsay – New Narrative
- Evans, Annette – Washington County Housing
- Galian, Katherine – Community Action Org.
- Gustafson, Hanna – Cascade AIDS Project
- Hille, Marcia – Sequoia Mental Health Services
- Kalevor, Komi – Housing Authority of WashCo
- Logan-Sanders, Andrea – Boys & Girls Aid
- Pero, David – Homeless Education Network/  
McKinney-Vento Homeless Student Liaison
- Ram, Sarala – CODA, Inc.
- Rogers, Patrick – Community Action
- Schaeffer-Bisht, Blair – WorkSystems, Inc.
- Smith, Gary – U.S. Dept of Veteran Affairs
- Taylor, Rowie – Domestic Violence Resource Center
- Valencia-Aguilar, Mari – WC Office of Community Dev

## COC BOARD MEMBER NOT PRESENT

- Brooks, Simone – City of Hillsboro
- Teifel, Gordon – Families for Independent Living & DEAR
- Wyatt, Kent – City of Tigard

## OTHER ATTENDEES

- Fellger, Vara – WC Housing Services
- Peel, Rick – Oregon Law Center

Chair: Annette Evans, Public Agency Representative, [Annette\\_Evans@co.washington.or.us](mailto:Annette_Evans@co.washington.or.us)

Co-Chair: Katherine Galian, Nonprofit Agency Representative, [kgalian@caowash.org](mailto: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 December 11, 2020 meeting minutes.

Motion: Renee Brouse

Second: Lindsay Downen

Vote: Approved, unanimous.

## IV. BUSINESS ITEMS

### A. CoC Board Positions – Annette Evans

Annette welcomed Shawn Cardwell who recently joined the CoC Board as the Outreach representative. Annette shared the difficulty HSSN members had in voting “virtually” for nominees to the Citizen At-Large or Outreach position at the February HSSN meeting, a position vacated by Ellen Johnson, retired attorney associated with Oregon Law Center. Many HSSN members recognize the importance and value of Outreach on the Board, as well felt the issues Ellen brought to the board during her tenure were invaluable and emphasized the need for a legal representative on the board to continue the work-in-progress and provide a legal perspective on local, regional and state issues affecting the homeless population. A proposal was brought forth to add a 19<sup>th</sup> position on the board to represent “Legal Services” to provide

the legal perspective, and also eliminate the need for a tie-breaker vote by having an odd number of members. After discussion a vote was taken.

Action: Approve creation of 19<sup>th</sup> position on the CoC Board representing Legal Services.  
Motion: Mellani Calvin  
Second: Marcia Hille  
Vote: Approved, unanimous.

A vote will be taken at the March 3 HSSN meeting on nominees for the two vacant positions: Community Corrections or Jail, and Legal Services.

**B. Emergency Solution Grant (ESG) Program Allocation Plan – Maria Valencia-Aguilar**

Mari reviewed the proposed allocation plan for the Emergency Solutions Grant (ESG) funding for PY2021 in the approximate amount of \$192,189. She noted the ESG funds under discussion were only those administered through Washington County Office of Community Development (OCD), not ESG funds administered through the State of Oregon. To reduce the administrative burden associated with these funds, OCD was again proposing to allocate all ESG funds to Community Action Organization (CAO) to support rapid rehousing rental assistance in PY2021, less 7.5% allocated for administration. CAO would provide funding to the remaining activities (Street Outreach, Emergency Shelter Operations, and Homeless Prevention) through state funds they receive to address homelessness. The estimated number of individuals assisted for Rapid Re-Housing would remain at a minimum of 60.

She noted OCD also maintains the ESG Program Manual which has been updated to include the allocation plan for PY2021. A draft was previously provided via email to board members for their review and comment. Comments and/or suggested changes should be sent to Mari Valencia-Aguilar at [mari\\_valencia-aguilar@co.washington.or.us](mailto:mari_valencia-aguilar@co.washington.or.us).

**Komi Kalevor inquired how it was determined that all County ESG funds should go toward rapid rehousing?**

Katherine Galian shared, three years ago it was determined there was a cost savings in administration (regulatory reporting requirements) when ESG funds were allocated to one activity as opposed to all approved activities especially given the small amounts being distributed. Also, given that Community Action Organization was willing to backfill funding to the remaining activities using SHAP and EHA funds they receive from the State of Oregon, made the decision a positive one overall.

**Lindsay Downen inquired of the overall implication of CARES funding for the coming year and the impact this may have had on the homeless system in Washington County?**

Mari felt she wasn't in a position to answer the question since she was not involved in programs funded by the CARES Act, but shared, there has been discussion about possibly using ESG funds to continue programs currently funded by CARES.

Katherine agreed the influx of funding due to the CARES Act has been astounding. She shared a comparison of annual funding for Street Outreach pre-COVID of \$250,000 and with CARES funding it has been almost \$1 million. What they have learned was that it takes about \$1.25 million per year to have the robust street outreach needed.

Annette shared, a similar conversation was being held with regard to winter shelters who, for the past two years had received \$100,000 - \$200,000 annually pre-COVID. To date, the CARES Act has provided \$1.7 million and speaks to the real funding need to sustain a winter shelter program.

Megan Cohen added, the Beaverton Shelter operated on an annual budget of \$50,000 pre-COVID. This winter shelter season, the CARES Act has provided funding of \$200,000 - \$250,000 which looks to be the amount required to provide the level of service needed.

**Mellani Calvin inquired about the number of people that could be served with these funds.**

CAO expect to serve approximately 60 individuals in 20 households. Katherine Galian added, these funds could leverage other voucher resources to pay ineligible costs like move-in costs, etc. The average cost per household to provide rapid rehousing is approximately \$6,000 - \$8,000 per year.

**Sarala Ram inquired as to the total amount being allocated to Community Action Organization (CAO).**

Mari explained the \$192,189 was the amount received last year and was being used as an estimate for what they expect to receive. They should know the exact allocation in the next couple of weeks and hopefully by March 3, the date of the consultation to the HSSN. Katherine added, none of the funds allocated to CAO will go toward administration or staffing but all going right back out as rapid rehousing. Also, CAO will match funding for the remaining activities dollar for dollar.

Action: Recommend the ESG Allocation Plan be presented to HSSN at their March 3 meeting for final approval.  
Motion: Sarala Ram  
Second: Renee Brouse  
Vote: Approved, unanimous.

**C. Project Reset – Vernon Baker and Rick Peel**

Rick Peel reported having met with Ellen Johnson who shared all of her research with him. To date progress has been stalled between the Washington County District Attorney's Office (DA) and the Metropolitan Public Defender's Office (MPD). The next step was to come up with a group of stakeholders who have experienced tangible harm that could be used as a case study for getting the conversation re-started. He hoped to meet with Vernon Baker and the organization that he is involved with who might provide the detail needed. He encouraged anyone with a perspective on the issue to meet with him virtually (via Zoom).

**Annette Evans inquired how people should contact him if they have someone who currently had significant court fees and fines that was a barrier to accessing housing and program services and help form those case studies.**

Anyone who has a person in mind should contact Rick via email, [rpeel@oregonlawcenter.org](mailto:rpeel@oregonlawcenter.org).

Mellani Calvin suggested he reach out to Lydia Radke the new Corrections or Jail representative on the Board who may have some excellent examples and will also keep an eye out for those in the ASSIST Program who has been declared "disabled" but still hampered with fines and fees.

Lindsay Downen shared she would be happy to follow-up on the email she sent to the Manager of New Narrative's housing team who specifically focus on re-entry housing for justice-involved individuals to see if there was someone she could refer us to.

**Blair Schaeffer-Bisht inquired of any conversations with the Sheriff's Office as a result of letters sent to him from the Board.**

Rick recalled a letter to the DA's Office from MPD. The issue was the presiding Judge could make Project Reset happen but was deferential to the DA who has not come on board with the proposal set forth by the MPD. Individual stories could be very effective in demonstrating the scope of the problem.

**Mellani Calvin recalled a precedent set for a *Project Reset* program in Multnomah County.**

Multnomah County allowed fines and fees to be reduced via community service work at a rate of \$100 per hour. In Clackamas County the rate was lower; however, the maximum hours to be worked to completely eliminate fines and fees was 100 hours.

**Blair Schaeffer-Bisht inquired whether Chair Harrington might be interested in getting involved.**

A copy of the letter to the DA from MPD was originally provided to Chair Harrington who acknowledged its receipt. Annette agreed it may be worthwhile to approach Chair Harrington again; however, the path Rick was promoting was the individual stories and was a piece that was missing when originally raising the issue publicly. Annette will provide a copy of the letter from the MPD to the DA to the Board for review at the next Board meeting in April.

Katherine Galian noted, the question, “Do you have accumulated court fines and fees?” is included in the Community Connect assessment. If there is not already someone in the coordinated entry system that we know of that has answered “yes,” they can keep an eye out for new entries.

**D. FY2020 McKinney-Vento CoC Program Grant Award – Annette Evans**

Annette reported receiving communication from HUD regarding program grant awards and has reviewed the award values including Fair Market Rent Increases (FMRI) and everything appears to match. The FY2020 McKinney-Vento CoC Program Grant Award in the approximate amount of \$4.2 million renews funding for projects expiring in 2021/2022. Contracts are expected shortly.

**E. 2021 Point-In-Time (PIT) Homeless Count – Pat Rogers**

The PIT was conducted on January 27, 2021 with the participation of 53 service provider staff. There was a conscious decision not to use volunteers this year due to the pandemic. Four major geographic areas were identified throughout the county and a count lead by a municipality within each region. New this year was the purchase of Simtech Solutions software that included a mobile app with GPS that was positively embraced by all. There were 382 interviews conducted, but that was not a final number as the count had yet to be de-duplicated. The GPS capabilities allowed a location to be identified for each interview conducted. Washington County Community Corrections, Probation and Parole, participated in the count and conducted interviews with people under supervision or incarcerated that were homeless and incarcerated for fewer than 90 days. One of the most striking results was that school districts reported hardly any homeless households this year. Pat provided a demonstration of the command center capabilities within the software, specifically the geographic map showing locations for where interviews took place.

David Pero confirmed homeless counts were low across all districts in the county. The suspected reason was that housing challenged youth were not participating in school which corresponded with a high absentee rate. He also clarified that homeless student numbers during the PIT (HUD requirement and more restrictive on the “homeless” definition), might differ from those reported by McKinney-Vento liaisons which allowed for the inclusion of “doubled-up” or couch surfing students.

**Annette inquired about interviews conducted in South County.**

Pat reported they had people covering the Sherwood area who only conducted one interview. There were about 30 people interviewed in the Tigard area. There were a couple of new camps identified in Tigard during the PIT count. The South County PIT count results may have been affected by the loss of the lead right before January 27.

**Blair Schaeffer-Bisht inquired whether the number of interviews conducted this year would have been higher if the count used volunteers as in the past.**

Pat didn't believe so. There was a more robust count this year primarily due to the effectiveness of the street outreach program and knowing where homeless encampments were located. A formal presentation will be made at the April 7 HSSN meeting with final deduplicated numbers and a vote taken for submittal to HUD.

**F. Federal FY2020 System Performance Measurements (SPM) – Annette Evans**

Annette presented the CoC's system performance results for the period October 1, 2019 to September 30, 2020 as compared against HUD SPM benchmarks. She noted the data will be used by HUD as selection criteria to award projects under future NOFAs, and also will provide information for the CoC to evaluate, identify gaps in data and service areas and make recommendations. The data was extrapolated from HMIS for all programs, HUD funded and privately funded. She acknowledged HMIS data for the period reflected the challenges experienced in 2020, specifically, the disruption of Data Quality Technical Support sessions upon Kristy Eckhardt's departure. She announced Mandatory HMIS All User Training scheduled for May 2021 with each agency required to have a representative in attendance. The data being presented is the "worst case" and not final as she was still awaiting responses from agencies. The final SPM report submitted to HUD will be available online at <https://www.co.washington.or.us/Housing/EndHomelessness/system-performance.cfm>

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

Annette noted, we were one of several CoCs that continue to struggle to meet the LOT homeless of <30 days and will continue to work on that. Incorrect entry/exit dates may contribute to lengthy stays. Also, failure to update or enter 3.917 element (Date of Homelessness) at program intake and the average time from program entry to Housing Move-In Date taking approximately 100 days may also contribute to increased LOT homeless. She encouraged all agencies to review "Date of Homelessness" to make sure data was not missing.

Pat Rogers felt screening barriers contributed to how long it took to house someone from program entry. There were also breaks in regular contact with people who were not stabilized. He felt efforts to temporarily stabilize people while housing navigators were working to locate housing would improve LOT homeless data.

Lindsay Downen agreed with Pat. As part of the Built for Zero case conferencing and recognizing that there were individuals who were clear outliers, she was curious to know what the impact on data was of, for example, five individuals who were chronically homeless for years. Annette will extrapolate that data and send it out to all via email.

Renee Brouse agreed that screening barriers were a problem and added Good Neighbor Center was also finding themselves having to write a large number of appeals. Also there was a large gap of time from being in shelter and when housing was available due to unit problems or other delays. As a result, shelter stays were extended to avoid homeless returning to the street.

Katherine Galian was wondering if the system is just seeing a larger number of chronic homeless this year. With the Severe Weather Shelter and enhanced street outreach there has been improved engagement with the chronically homeless population overall which means more people entering the system with all of those additional barriers.

Lindsay Downen also noted the type of housing available for chronic homeless effects LOT homeless. Independent living projects such as Clover Court has significantly improved outcomes with better retention rate and more interest by chronic homeless to move inside compared to shared housing such as Hartner House.



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

While noted data quality issues exist, the system increased recidivism to 11.9% (92 of 770 exits), well above the goal of <5%. Annette noted the increases were seen across the continuum and speaks to the need for tenancy supports to ensure people can retain their housing. With data clean-up, this number will decrease but not enough to meet the 5% goal.

Pat Rogers shared people have difficulty sustaining their units when short to medium term rent assistance has expired. Community Action Organization (CAO) will often see people back in the shelter network after leaving a CoC program.

Katherine Galian noted the data reflected an increased number of exits which means more people were getting into housing and a small percentage were unable to retain it. With no permanent “Move On” strategy, rapid rehousing will always be a challenge.

Annette agreed and added the Metro Supportive Housing Services (SHS) Program will be the bridge to help people to include accessing a rental subsidy, and longer-term housing stability through tenancy and resident service supports.

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

The system saw an increase overall, but primarily due to an increase in shelter data and shelter capacity as the winter shelters worked on a first-come, first-serve basis resulting in a rotating flow of people to include persons served from across the tri-county region.

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

The system saw a decrease in the number of people leaving programs with “Other Cash Income,” but almost no change to those leaving with earned income. Annette noted the data does not include Sojourner’s House (data in the COMP site for victims of domestic violence) and projects data will improve once agencies update HMIS with missing annual income assessment data.

Katherine Galian inquired whether the missing data explains the drop in adults included in this data? Annette explained the lower number of people included in the data for 2020 actually reflected a decrease in the number of people leaving CoC programs. She expressed concern for those people who had been in CoC programs for several years and still showed zero income. She has been communicating with agencies to understand why that was the case.

Mellani Calvin shared an observation where some people with disabilities who obtained housing were afraid to apply for SSI/SSDI benefits because they thought engaging with the government would somehow effect their being able to stay in housing.

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

The system saw a decrease in the number of first time homeless overall compared to last year; however, the number returning to the system to emergency shelter, Safe Haven and transitional housing projects doubled, and a 50% increase with rapid rehousing and permanent supporting housing projects included in the data.

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

We increased our placement from Street Outreach to PH to 16.3% and making great progress to meet the goal of 20%.

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

Exits from emergency shelter, Safe Haven, transitional housing and rapid rehousing projects into permanent housing stayed relatively flat and PH retention increased to 98.7%. She noted a

concern with the number of people who died while in PH in 2020, an increase from 1 to 12. It was a data increase seen in the homeless population overall that appeared to be tied to the overall health of the homeless population.

Blair Schaeffer-Bisht inquired whether ESG-CV funded programs will be included in this data. Yes, the only measurement that will not include those programs was the earned Income data which only pulls from HUD CoC Program-funded projects.

Action: Approve submittal of FY2020 SPM to HUD to include any data corrections.

Motion: Renee Brouse

Second: Andrea Logan-Sanders

Vote: Approved, unanimous.

**G. FY2021 McKinney-Vento CoC Program Grant Registration – Annette Evans**

Now that Annette has received the renewal awards for FY2020 McKinney-Vento CoC Program Grant she will submit the grant registration in the amount of \$4.2 million, noting it will include any Fair Market Rent Increase (FMRI) as well as any new project funds that may come available.

**H. A Road Home: 2020 Homeless Assessment Report – Annette Evans**

Annette plans to release the report to HUD next week and provide a copy of the final to each board member.

**V. AGENCY ANNOUNCEMENTS AND OPEN DISCUSSION**

- None

**VI. ADJOURNMENT**

The meeting adjourned at 10:12 a.m.

Minutes prepared by Vara Fellger, Washington County Housing Services