

HOUSING and SUPPORTIVE SERVICES NETWORK(HSSN) CoC Board

Friday, February 12, 2021 - 8:30 to 9:55 am

AGENDA

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/89587246956?pwd=c096SURpNXhuN1NqVWZSVctPUWt5dz09>

Meeting ID: 895 8724 6956, Passcode: 252415

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 Member: Shawn Cardwell, Outreach Member.

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

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

A) **Board Action: Approve CoC Board minutes for December 11, 2020.**

IV. Business Items (8:42 a.m.)

A) CoC Board Positions: Vacant Jail or Community Corrections and proposed new Legal Services position (5 minutes) – Annette Evans

Board Action: Approve creation of Legal Services representation to form 19 positions on CoC Board (creating an odd number of voters).

B) Perform Emergency Solution Grant (ESG) Program Allocation Plan review prior to CoC consultation on March 3, 2021 (20 minutes) – Mari Valencia-Aguilar

Board Action: Recommend ESG Allocation Plan to the HSSN for final approval.

C) Report on *Project Reset* (5 minutes) – Vernon Baker and Attorney Rick Peel

D) Report on \$4,189,222 Federal FY2020 McKinney-Vento CoC Program grant award released January 29, 2021 (2 minutes) – Annette Evans

E) Report on 2021 Point-In-Time Homeless Count (5 minutes) – Pat Rogers

F) Federal FY2020 System Performance Measurements (SPM) due to HUD by March 1, 2021 (20 minutes) – Annette Evans

Board Action: Approve submittal of FY2020 SPM to HUD.

G) FY2021 McKinney-Vento CoC Program grant registration due to HUD by March 4, 2021 (2 minutes) – Annette Evans

H) A Road Home: 2020 Homeless Assessment Report (2 minutes) – Annette Evans

V. Agency Announcements and Open Discussion (9:45 a.m.)

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

Future Meeting Information:

- Friday, April 9, 2021, 8:30 a.m.
- 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.

Department of Housing Services

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www.co.washington.or.us/homeless



CoC BOARD MEETING MINUTES
Virtual Meeting via ZOOM
December 11, 2020

COC BOARD MEMBER PRESENT

- Baker, Vernon – Just Compassion SWS
- Brooks, Simone – City of Hillsboro
- Brouse, Renee – Good Neighbor Center
- Cohen, Megan – City of Beaverton
- Downen, Lindsay – Luke-Dorf, Inc.
- Galian, Katherine – Community Action Org.
- 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.
- 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

- Calvin, Mellani – ASSIST Program
- Evans, Annette – Washington County Housing
- Fischer, Shawn – WashCo Sheriff's Office
- Ram, Sarala – CODA, Inc.
- Smith, Gary – U.S. Dept of Veteran Affairs

OTHER ATTENDEES

- Case, Julie – WC Housing Services
- Fellger, Vara – WC Housing Services
- Jamieson, Ally – WC County Administrative Office
- Keller, Justin – Collective Medical Technologies
- Mullins, Angela – WC Housing Services
- Peel, Rick – Oregon Law Center

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. GUEST SPEAKER

Collective Medical and WellSky: Integrated Solution for Providers to Help Address Housing Needs – Justin Keller, Collective Medical

Justin Keller provided an overview of their platform development which began with providing emergency rooms across the country with real-time health care plan and social needs information. In April 2020, Lane County in Oregon was the first to go live in their integration of HMIS within the Collective Medical platform to flag patients who were housing insecure. Prior to that time, hospitals manually entered homeless care plans into the platform. Through the Collective Medical platform, patient information can be accessed via a “Collective Notification” or the web portal. The notification provides any known risk factors, care guidelines, care histories, prescription monitoring program data, recent encounters, the patient’s care team, any attachments stored within the patient’s profile and any flags indicating that the person is unhoused-housing insecure, veteran or any other flag that an organization would like to track. A hospital healthcare provider can view the notification upon a patient’s hospital registration and prior to meeting with the patient. Providers on the Collective Medical network who have a treatment, payment or operations relationship with a patient can access patient information via the web portal. He noted everyone on their network is HIPAA compliant. He provided a demonstration of the software using a sample client from Lane County to show the “Unhoused-Housing Insecure” flag and the “Care Team” feature within the platform which would allow for the entry of a housing or service provider. The intent of the platform was to provide information symmetry between housing and health and better enable the coordination of services

for individuals. They expect to integrate Clackamas County HMIS data before the end of the year and hope to have Washington County onboard as well.

Ellen Johnson inquired of the specific information that Collective Medical would require from HMIS.

Justin reported they would require first and last name, date of birth and social security number (SSN) in order to match the individual in their system. The SSN is stored in their system as a coded number for patient matching/identification and never visible. Other than those patient identifiers, Lane County is currently sending them two data elements: Yes/No for housing insecurity and Yes/No for veteran status. Each Continuum of Care (CoC) can provide whatever data they would like to flag. He suggested being conservative with the information sharing initially.

Ellen Johnson inquired how the integrated information helped the homeless/housing insecure individual obtain housing or benefits.

Justin stated the information is helpful to providers that use their network. In Lane County, healthcare providers, ambulatory providers and behavioral health providers meet to review how best to wrap services around the patient in care coordination discussions at the community level. Collective Medical expect to see workflows and best practices to be developed from those discussions and to include case managers and housing providers down the road. Collective Medical are just providing the visibility and communication in a secure (encrypted) and safe way. The communication piece provided by their platform is just the starting point. Each county will differ in how they use the information provided.

Ellen was concerned the CoC would be handing over information without a process or an end result in mind at the outset and be marking individuals as problem patients due to their homelessness or housing insecurity. She noted historically, some of that population has been treated differently across the country. She asked if housing providers were at the table to coordinate using this information in Lane County.

Justin acknowledged housing providers were not currently a part of the community level discussions in Lane County but noted the HMIS information available through the platform was new and he expected healthcare providers to be excited to learn of its availability. Collective Medical was making themselves available to Lane County to facilitate discussions for the development of workflows for how to act on the information provided and assist individuals to get to where they needed to be.

Marcia Hille shared Sequoia Mental Health Services has been a part of the Collective Medical network from the beginning and it has been helpful in serving their clients. In this particular scenario; however, she would have to agree with Ellen Johnson. With the current lack of housing resources and services and without the links in place within the platform, she felt it would be frustrating for emergency room departments and healthcare providers. Long terms she sees value in the platform.

Lindsey Downen agreed with Marcia Hille. New Narrative use and value the tool provided by Collective Medical specifically for the provider links that allow them to develop a plan for the individual. Without links to housing and services the homeless/housing insecure data would create more systemic barriers and possibly be detrimental to care. In line with Ellen's concerns, Lindsay suggested conversations toward integrating HMIS information should include the development of a

plan for connecting individuals to housing and services once identified as homeless/housing insecure at the hospital/emergency room.

Blair Schaeffer-Bisht inquired of the consent process for clients and whether they could opt out of their info being shared?

Justin reported the consent would be obtained by the CoC who have complete control of the data to be shared. Collective Medical are now part of the Northwest Social Service Connections (NWSSC) entity and are included in their Release of Information (ROI) in order to be transparent that the information would be shared across their broad healthcare provider community. All information shared on the platform is covered under HIPAA and considered Protected Health Information (PHI) and therefore they are under strict security and privacy protocols over and above HUD's requirements.

Angela shared Portland Housing Bureau (PHB) is home to the Northwest Social Service Connections (NWSSC), an administrative entity that governs HMIS for a multi-agency Continuum of Care. The NWSSC HMIS is a client information system that provides standardized assessment of a client's needs, creates individualized service plans, and records the use of housing and services. Communities use this information to determine how services are being utilized, identify gaps in the local service continuum, and develop outcome measurements.

Justin expressed appreciation for the comments and feedback received and felt the awareness of the tool's availability may spur community conversations for coordination with healthcare and housing and service providers. He offered to take the CoC Board's feedback and concerns to the Oregon Leadership Council who helps to facilitate community discussions around the use of their platform. He also offered to provide technical assistance during discussions within the CoC to facilitate the development of workflows to address need in Washington County.

There was general consensus to postpone the vote on a recommendation to share HMIS data with Collective Medical. It was felt additional conversations needed to be held within the CoC to determine how the Collective Medical tool would be used to link homeless/housing insecure individuals to housing and service providers as well as a discussion of By-Name List management as not all individuals on the list were connected to a provider or case manager.

III. PUBLIC COMMENT

No public comment.

IV. APPROVAL OF MEETING MINUTES

Action: Approve October 9, 2020 meeting minutes.

Motion: Gordon Teifel

Second: Ellen Johnson

Vote: Approved, unanimous.

IV. BUSINESS ITEMS

A. Project Reset – Ellen Johnson and Vernon Baker

Ellen Johnson reported *Project Reset* was to go before the Public Safety Commission for a second time on December 14. To date there still has not been any progress between the Washington County District Attorney's Office (DA) and the Metropolitan Public Defender's Office (MPD). She had reached out to the Oregon Law Center to see if they would be interested in working on this project on a broader scope to make it an individual negotiation between MPD

and DA in order to obtain racial equity justice. The process for a person to be able to use community service hours to pay down debt from fines and fees is very different and disadvantageous for a person of color in Washington County compared to Multnomah and Clackamas counties. She noted Rick Peel, an attorney with the Oregon Law Center in Hillsboro who is attending this meeting, had agreed to work on the issue with the MPD.

Rick Peel shared he was a fairly new staff attorney at the Oregon Law Center where racial justice was a large component of the work performed. He was happy to spearhead *Project Reset* and was looking forward to working with the CoC Board.

Katherine Galian shared Reimagine Oregon could be a client of Oregon Law Center in order for them to work on this project.

Vernon Baker also had a group who were interested in working on this issue but has had difficulty in connecting with them because of his schedule. He expects to see his contact at a meeting on Tuesday and will reach out to them at that time.

Megan Cohen shared City of Beaverton Municipal Court has done some work that seems like it is in line with *Project Reset*. They are starting a Mental Health Court and she wasn't sure if they have already engaged with the Oregon Law Center or might be of interest but she was interested in learning more on the issue.

Ellen explained the underlying issue was the necessity for sentencing reform. Right now, plea bargains, which constitute about 95% of the resolutions of criminal charges, required the individual to agree to pay "fines and fees." Many of those charged are poor, disabled with chronic mental health issues and are not able to pay the costs. The vast majority of crimes launched against individuals involve people who were poor with chronic mental health issues and people with disabilities. Coupled with the fact that 95% of the criminal convictions or criminal charges were resolved through plea bargains means, most of the poor people, people of color and people with disabilities go through the criminal system and are required to pay fines and fees (in order to achieve a plea bargain, get out of jail or get a favorable sentencing), all without any assessment of their capacity to do so. There currently is no way for an individual to go back after entering a plea bargain to get an assessment. As a result, you have people who are poor, who lack the capacity to earn a living or substantially earn enough, to pay for their living expenses and their fines and fees. The criminal justice system is a significant barrier to moving people out of homelessness.

B. Metro Supportive Housing Services Measure – Ally Jamieson

Katherine provided an update on behalf of Ally Jamieson who was experiencing technical difficulties. Additional community engagement was planned for early 2021. Any community members interested in getting involved in the next phase of the LIP Committee would need to apply via a public application process the link for which will be announced shortly. Current LIP Committee members are invited to continue their work if they so choose and, during the transition, offer feedback on the LIP draft and assist to ensure the implementation support is in alignment with equity. Contact Ally Jamieson at ally_jamieson@co.washington.or.us.

C. Winter Shelter Update – Angela Mullins, Washington County Housing Services

Angela Mullins provided an update on behalf of Julie Case who was unable to attend. Pursuant to the Occupied Bed Summary Report, shelters were currently 85% - 90% of capacity. The Shelter Waitlist originally had 160 people. Many people had added their names to the list without a contact method. Stella Lee and Julie Case were working with Pat Rogers to engage outreach to help fill beds after unsuccessful contacts of individuals on the list and/or help locate individuals.

Gordon Teifel inquired what one should do when they see a fellow citizen on the street who obviously needed assistance.

Pat Rogers suggested sending an email to outreachrequest@caowash.org so that he can alert a street outreach worker in the vicinity to engage with the person. It could be that the CoC is already aware of the individual and an outreach worker can help register them for the winter shelter system if that was what they want. He noted, even though we might think they need assistance, they may not.

Megan Cohen felt the shelter program this winter season providing enrolled 120-day shelters that were open continuously, was a much more trauma-informed approach than in the past. She noted almost all public facilities were still closed so providing an option for homeless to go was important. However, service providers were hesitant to step into congregate setting during COVID-19, so making connections with people and providing on-site mental health and addiction services was a challenge. She would really like to continue working on providing those connections and getting people into housing.

Marcia Hille inquired about access information for the winter shelters and a list of the drop-in centers that were open. Angela provided the shelter registration link, www.co.washington.or.us/homeless. Registration was also available through street outreach or day shelters. Megan Cohen added both Beaverton shelters had a day center component for enrolled guests.

D. CoC Board Governance – Katherine Galian

Katherine announced the resignation of Ellen Johnson who held the Citizen At-Large or Outreach Position on the CoC Board. She thanked Ellen for all her years of service to the Washington County community and the CoC Board in particular. She noted the tremendous support, insight, wisdom and questions that she brought to this board and will certainly be missed.

Pat Rogers nominated Rick Peel to the Citizen At-Large position who accepted the nomination. Nominations for the Citizen At-Large position will remain open through January 15 and election scheduled at February 2 HSSN meeting.

V. AGENCY ANNOUNCEMENTS AND OPEN DISCUSSION

- Andrea Logan Sanders announced Safe Place Youth Shelter was open for the winter season for youth ages 12 – 20 (until their 21st birthday) to access overnight shelter and day services just by walking in. The address is 454 SE Washington St. in Hillsboro, and all the details are on the Severe Weather Shelter information sheet that goes out to the HSSN list serve. Feel free to contact Drew Williamson with any question: dwilliamson@boysandgirlsaid.org

VI. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting adjourned at 9:32 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.