



HOUSING and SUPPORTIVE SERVICE NETWORK

Providing a Continuum of Care for Vulnerable Populations in Washington County

Wednesday, April 6, 2022 - 8:30 to 10:00 a.m.

Join Zoom Meeting <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/84243017456?pwd=OHVodXgyVE8rZ0p6c3NyTFJFcDhQQT09>

Meeting ID: 842 4301 7456, Passcode: 616533, By phone dial 253-215-8782

AGENDA

*Directly after the HSSN Meeting:
Public Hearing for the FY2022 Action Plan facilitated by
the Office of Community Development, the City of Beaverton and the City of Hillsboro*

I. INTRODUCTIONS: 8:30 a.m.

II. GUEST SPEAKER(S)/TRAINING: 8:35 a.m.

- Naomi Hunsaker, HHS Addictions Program | Systems Coordinator
Substance Use Trends, Response, and Initiatives

III. MEETING MINUTES: 9:05 a.m.

- **Action:** Approve the March 2, 2022 meeting minutes.

IV. GENERAL BUSINESS: 9:10 a.m.

- Election of CoC Board positions. [CoC Governance](#) policy defines the election process for CoC Board positions.
Action: Appoint applicant to the respective CoC Board position and continue recruitment to fill vacant CoC Board positions.

CoC Board Positions	Applicants
Community Corrections/Jail Term Ending: 6/30/2023	Bambi Grant, Washington County Department of Community Corrections
Substance Addiction Organization Term Ending: 6/30/2025	Vacant – Recruitment Ongoing

- 2022 Point-In-Time Homeless Census Results – Pat Rogers and Vara Fellger
- SHS Program Updates: Housing Access Fair, Winter Shelters Closing and Community Connect Phase 2 Implementation – Alex Devin

V. ANNOUNCEMENTS: 9:50 a.m.

VI. ADJOURNMENT: 10:00 a.m.

Next Meeting: Wednesday, May 4, 2022

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
 March 2, 2022, 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 of or experiencing homeless.

ATTENDEES:

Adams, Jessica—WC Housing Services	Lloyd, Rhonda—The Salvation Army V & F Center
Alexander Sheridan, Allie—WC Health and Human Services	Lloyd, Robert—The Salvation Army V & F Center
Angeles, Nic—Housing Independence	Ludlam, Mandie—Community Housing Fund
Beckman, Shana—Family Promise-TV	Markus, Michelle—Mental Health Association of Oregon
Blasco, Martin—WC Cooperative Library Services	Miller, Quincy—WC Office of Community Development
Brownell, Amy—Ecumenical Ministries-Second Home	Money, Rose—Family Promise-TV
Burnett, Amanda—DVRC	Nelson, Barbara—Citizen-Community Advocate
Burnham, Jeff—New Narrative	Nickolas, Lycia—New Narrative
Calvin, Mellani—ASSIST Program	O'Neil-Tutor, Marianne—Mental Health Assoc. of Oregon
Cardwell, Shawn—Forest Grove Foundation	Penney, Darcie—DVRC
Coburn, Crystal—New Narrative	Perkowski, Kaja—Open Door Counseling Center
Coppiano, Zoila—Community Action Organization	Potter, Yvette—WC Disability, Aging & Veteran Services
Cress, Jacquelyn—New Narrative	Pykonen, Lindsey—New Narrative
Crouch, Alan—Easter Seals Oregon	Rogers, Pat—Community Action
Deters, Melia—Community Action Organization	Ruiz, Rosanna—CPAH Oregon
Devin, Alex—WC Housing Services	Schwoeffermann, Ty—WC OEICE
Dsouza, Deanna—WorkSystems, Inc.	Simmons, Lucinda—HomePlate Youth Services
Dwyer, DaNene—Portland Community College	Skeen, Denise—Community Action Organization
Evans, Annette—WC Housing Services	Smith, Janeen—WC Housing Services
Farr, Danielle—WC Health and Human Services	Smith, Gareth "Gary"—US Dept of Veteran Affairs
Fellger, Vara—WC Housing Services	Swearingin, Nicole—New Narrative
Galian, Katherine—Community Action Organization	Tate, Jason—WC Housing Services
Gawf, Mandy—City of Hillsboro	Thomas, Lauren—WC Office of Community Development
Gonzales, Lise—PSU-HCAC	Toeys, Jeremy—Open Door HousingWorks
Gramp, Heather—US Housing and Urban Development	Valencia Aguilar, Mari—WC Office of Community Dev.
Greene, Jacen—PSU-HCAC	Valfre, Val—FG Foundation/West Tuality Habitat for Humanity
Hawkins, Ann—WC Office of Community Development	Williamson, Andrew—Boys & Girls Aid
Kass, Peter—WC Housing Services	

Chair: Annette Evans, Public Agency Representative, annette_evans@co.washington.or.us

Co-Chair: Katherine Galian, Nonprofit Agency Representative, kgalian@caowash.org

I. WELCOME

II. APPROVAL OF MEETING MINUTES

Motion: Approve February 2, 2022, meeting minutes

Action: Val Valfre

Second: Mellani Calvin

Vote: Approved, consensus.

III. GENERAL BUSINESS

A. CoC Governance: Election of CoC Board positions – Annette Evans

Annette reported there were no applicants for the Community Corrections/Jail position and recruitment remains active and posted publicly. Additional recruitment listings will be posted in the coming months including positions with terms expiring June 30 and any other positions that become vacant through resignation.

Prior to voting each applicant was provided an opportunity for a brief presentation. Deanna DSouza, applicant for the HSSN Business/Employment position works as a Senior Systems Manager at Worksystems, Inc. which is the Workforce Development Board for Washington and Multnomah counties. Rose Money, applicant for the Families with Children position is Executive Director at Family Promise of Tualatin Valley (FP-TV) and ran the Caring Closet program through the Tualatin-Tigard School District prior to founding FP-TV. She is dedicated to making the system more accessible, equitable, and providing wrap-around services that support families in and out of shelters to maintain their independence and housing. Annette Evans shared Nansi Lopez is the applicant for the Culturally Specific Provider Organization position who is the Policy Director at Centro Cultural on their Latino Policy Council. Centro Cultural provides a variety of services to underserved populations within the area.

Motion: Appoint applicants to the respective CoC Board positions: Deanna DSouza to Business/Employment, Nansi Lopez to Culturally Specific Provider Organization, and Rose Money to Families with Children.

Action: Mellani Calvin

Second: Katherine Galian

Vote: Approved, consensus.

B. Supportive Housing Services Program Report – Alex Devin, Washington County Housing Services

To set the context for the following funding discussions, Annette Evans provided an overview on the annual process for prioritizing funds to address new and emergency needs and gaps in the homeless response system. The Continuum of Care (CoC) was charged with developing a plan for coordinating the implementation of a housing and service system within its geographic area that met the needs of vulnerable populations. The Housing and Supportive Service Network (HSSN) was responsible for the implementation of the goals and strategies identified in *A Road Home*, the overarching plan that aligned with shared goals and strategies identified in Washington County's Consolidated Plan that includes Emergency Solutions Grant (ESG), Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) and HOME Investment Partnership (HOME) funds, the Metro Affordable Housing Bond Local Implementation Strategy, and the Metro Supportive Housing Services (SHS) Local Implementation Plan. The activities outlined in *A Road Home* included outreach, engagement, assessment, shelter, housing, support services, prevention, and housing tenancy strategies implemented through community stakeholders who helped to guide the work through federal, state, local, and private funding sources. The role of the CoC was to perform consultations with stakeholders and identify the demographic needs of the unhoused population and how best to address gaps in serving those needs across the county.

Alex reported, the SHS team planned to continue the buildout of the Housing Case Management Services (HCMS) program and expand the Regional Long-Term Rental Assistance (RLRA) housing vouchers. They were also looking at expanding rapid rehousing and homeless prevention services to provide medium-term rental assistance with intensive case management. Rapid Resolution, one-time financial assistance, will be launched early next fiscal year. There will be an expansion of employment services currently funded through ESG (expires August 30) to prevent any lapse in service. In the

next fiscal year, the SHS Program will fund outreach services that are currently funded through ESG/CV with the possibility of expansion. There will also be an increase in access points in the Community Connect coordinated entry system to create more front door entryways with a possible launch date later this year. Partnering with Washington County Health and Human Services (HHS), the SHS Program will be launching five pilots (starting at the end of the fiscal year) where housing liaisons will be co-located at HHS organization walk-in center buildings. A new pilot program will also provide paid internship training for those with lived experience of homelessness and housing instability for support positions such as Housing Case Manager and Housing Navigator. Funds have been set aside for shelter expansion and the possibility of winter shelters if this expansion does not take place over the next year. Several smaller programs such as tenant alert services will be made available for all rehousing providers giving Housing Case Managers the ability to run tenant screening reports to assist participants with their housing search. An online training program through Power DMS will be launched to provide training for case managers and staff that will include a robust FAQ section and online document library. Additional funding will be set aside for the increased HMIS licenses needed for the increased number of Community Connect assessors and housing navigators. For more information contact Alex Devin at alex_devin@co.washington.or.us

When will implementation of the expansion of housing programs (transitional living and rapid rehousing) take place?

The goal is for all providers to be given 60-days' notice prior to the end of the fiscal year so they can begin hiring and commence work on these programs by July 1.

Is there more detailed information on the transition of the SHS Program taking over outreach services?

This transition is still in the development stages. Jes Larson has been attending outreach meetings and they are working on getting an Access Coordinator to assist with this work. Discussions and transition of outreach to SHS will occur prior to expiration of the ESG funds.

C. Emergency Solutions Grant (ESG) Funding Consultation - Mari Valencia-Aguilar, Washington County Office of Community Development (OCD)

Mari reported, with outreach moving under the umbrella of the SHS Program, OCD is stepping back to consider how best to use ESG funds to strengthen the system and address gaps. ESG can fund four eligible activities: street outreach, emergency shelter, homeless prevention, and rapid rehousing. In the last four years all the ESG funds had been allocated to rapid rehousing and prior to that, funds were distributed to all four activities. This year, they were asking the CoC to provide input for how best to allocate ESG funds to address funding gaps. The ESG funds were highly regulated and required rigorous reporting of the estimated allocation of \$190,000 (7.5% retained for program administration costs). Matching funds were required and for the past four years they had partnered with Community Action in managing the funds.

Mari posed three questions regarding the priority for ESG expenditures:

1. For the last four years, ESG has been focused on rapid rehousing. Is this still the right priority area to focus on?
2. Do you see other gaps in our system where ESG could be a better fit?
3. We are open to move towards a competitive process. Do you have thoughts or concerns about shifting to a competitive process?

She clarified; a competitive process would award ESG funds to one agency instead of multiple agencies to better utilize the small allocation of ESG funds received yearly. There was also a regulation that the combination of street outreach and emergency

shelter expenditures could not exceed more than 60 percent of the fiscal year grant. Prevention funds would consist of one-time payments for housing relocation/stabilization which includes rent assistance, rental application fees, security deposits, last-month's rent, moving costs, utility support as well as rent arrears. She welcomed all comments and suggestions which will help guide the decision-making process for the allocation of ESG funds. Feedback was provided as follows:

Emergency shelter and permanent supportive housing would be the best resources for the transitional age population. This population (16-24 year-olds) have gaps in emergency shelter services especially for those with mental health needs, so bed space is an important consideration.

There was a need for year-round emergency shelter for families. A motel model as used in the Family Promise program, was recommended as it allowed families to stay together safely and provided a stable environment before transitioning to rehousing. Funding for prevention was important to assist families in retaining their housing.

It was a paradigm shift for many people transitioning from a culture of homelessness to permanent housing and takes time to move people in that direction. Interim steps cannot be ignored prior to people transitioning into permanent housing. It may not be much of a service to only focus on immediate housing and then stepping away but rather focus more on assisting people in their transition from shelter to permanent housing.

Gaps exist for emergency shelter for transitional-aged youth (12 to 24) with higher mental health or substance abuse needs. Rapid rehousing was a priority along with outreach, to build trust with people in the community to move them to shelter and then to permanent housing. Homelessness prevention was important as well.

Several members agreed a competitive process would be positive, as long as the application process was streamlined to minimize burden on providers and funding priorities and evaluation of applications was made clear.

Is there a certain percentage of unhoused people in the population to qualify for homeless prevention funds under ESG?

Eligibility for any of the program activities under ESG was based on HUD-defined population categories. For prevention, population categories 2-imminent risk of homelessness), 3-homeless under other Federal statute, and 4-fleeing/attempting to flee domestic violence, met the requirements of "at risk of homelessness."

Upon finalization, the ESG allocation plan will be presented to the HSSN at a future meeting. For more information, or to provide additional feedback, contact Jennie Proctor at Jennie_Proctor@co.washington.or.us .

D. HOME-ARP Funding Consultation - Lauren Thomas, Washington County Office of Community Development

Lauren shared, the HOME-ARP program had four qualifying populations for homelessness: 1) those at risk of homelessness, 2) those who were fleeing, attempting to flee domestic violence, dating violence, sexual assault, or trafficking, 3) other populations where assistance would prevent a family's homelessness, or 4) serve those with the greatest risk of housing instability. Meeting attendees were dispersed into four breakout rooms to discuss qualifying populations and the highest needs and gaps in both housing and service delivery systems. The input provided during the breakout sessions would inform OCD of the unmet needs of the qualifying populations and assist in developing an allocation plan for HOME-ARP funding. A public comment period will take place in May and a public hearing in June. OCD's goal was to submit the allocation

plan to HUD in July. Further discussion on the HOME-ARP will continue over the next couple of months and upon finalization, will be presented to the HSSN. A survey will be distributed following the meeting to provide an opportunity for additional comments. For more information, contact Lauren Thomas at lauren_thomas@co.washington.or.us

IV. ANNOUNCEMENTS

- Annette announced, although the mask requirement was being lifted at the end of March, HSSN meetings will continue virtually through the end of May. Discussions regarding holding hybrid meetings (virtual and in-person) will be discussed as an option going forward. Naomi Hunsaker from Washington County Health and Human Services will be a guest speaker at the April HSSN meeting addressing substance use trends, response and initiatives in light of the development of a county addiction treatment facility. Following the April HSSN meeting, there will be a public hearing for the 2022 Action Plan on the same Zoom link.
- Mari Valencia-Aguilar announced she will be resigning from the CoC Board as of this month and transitioning to a new position outside of Washington County.
- Martin Blasco announced the Washington County Cooperative Library Services' (WCCLS) outreach program was working on ways to support Afghan refugee families. They have also provided mini libraries to Open Door Counseling Center and Boys & Girls Aid. Applications for mini library resources for next year will open at the end of the year for shelter and transitional housing providers would like to receive mini library services.
- Alex Devin announced the SHS Program had extended winter shelters until April 30. The FEMA declaration expires March 30, but there was a possibility of continued extensions based on FEMA's emergency declaration. Also, the HCMS program has over 250 enrollments with 50 people in the lease-up process and over 200 people shopping for housing.
- Amanda Burnett shared this was her last HSSN meeting as she is leaving DVRC.
- Jeremy Toevs announced Open Door Counseling Center had received the first of two mobile shower trailers units which they were awarded through CDBG funding last year. The unit was up and running and provided a much-needed resource for the community. They were building partnerships with other organizations to provide them this resource as well. Contact Jeremy Toevs at jtoevs@odhw.org for more information.
- Alan Crouch announced Cole Merkel was named Co-Director of Here Together to work alongside Angela Martin. Recruitment for his previous position of Deputy Director of Outreach and Engagement was ongoing. Annette offered to share the recruitment announcement with the HSSN Listserv.

V. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting adjourned at 9:57 a.m.

Minutes prepared by Michelle Rubio.

To be added to the HSSN email list, contact Annette Evans at Annette_Evans@co.washington.or.us