



HOUSING and SUPPORTIVE SERVICE NETWORK

Providing a Continuum of Care for Vulnerable Populations in Washington County

Wednesday, February 2, 2022 - 8:30 to 10:00 a.m.

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

***Registration required when you first login.** Meeting ID: 842 4301 7456, Passcode: 616533, Phone 253-215-8782

AGENDA

I. INTRODUCTIONS: 8:30 a.m.

- POLL SURVEY: Collaboration related to Children and Youth – State Education Agencies (SEA), Local Education Agencies (LEA), Local Liaisons and State Coordinators
 1. Does your Agency or Program work with children?
 - a. Yes or No
 2. If “Yes”, check all that apply:
 - a. Agency collaborates with youth education providers
 - b. Agency has formal partnership(s) with youth education providers
 - c. Agency collaborates with SEA and LEA
 - d. Agency has formal partnership(s) with SEA and LEA
 - e. Agency collaborates with school districts
 - f. Agency has formal partnership(s) with school districts

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

- Dario Hunter, [Fair Housing Council of Oregon](#)
Updates on Fair Housing, Sexual Orientation and Gender Identity

III. MEETING MINUTES: 9:10 a.m.

- **Action:** *Approve the December 1, 2021 meeting minutes.*

IV. GENERAL BUSINESS: 9:15 a.m.

- [HOME-ARP Program](#) Consultation at 3/2/2022 HSSN Meeting – Lauren Thomas
- [Winter Shelters](#) and the [Supportive Housing Services Program](#) – Peter Kass and Alex Devin
- [Emergency Food and Shelter Program](#) Grant Funding Consultation – Annette Evans
Action: *Approve recommendation to EFSP Board to allocate EFSP Phase 39 fund percentages: ___% Food/Meals, ___% Shelter, ___% Off-Site Lodging, ___% Rent/Mortgage.*
Action: *Approve recommendation to EFSP Board to allocate EFSP ARPA-R fund percentages: ___% Food/Meals, ___% Shelter, ___% Off-Site Lodging, ___% Rent/Mortgage.*
- Recruitment and Election of CoC positions under [CoC Governance Charter](#).
 - o Submit [CoC Board Application](#) by 2/18/2022, with election of 4 positions on 3/2/22.
 - o Future CoC position recruitments.

CoC Board Positions
Business/Employment Representative
Families with Children Representative
Community Corrections Representative
Culturally Specific Organization Representative (new position)

V. ANNOUNCEMENTS: 9:50 a.m.

- CoC Board [meeting](#) is schedule 2/11/2022.

VI. ADJOURNMENT: 10:00 a.m.

Next Meeting: Wednesday, March 2, 2022

Department of Housing Services

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HOUSING AND SUPPORTIVE SERVICES NETWORK
Providing a Continuum of Care (CoC) in Washington County
December 1, 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:

Alexander Sheridan, Allie—WC Health and Human Services	Lyda, Aly—Community Action Organization
Angeles, Nic—Housing Independence	Martinez, Omar—City of Hillsboro
Auslander, Jay—WC Mental Health	Melton, Holly—Community Action Organization
Bailey, Lisa—City of Beaverton	Mercer, Annette—Good Neighbor Center
Bak, Rose—Catholic Charities	Merkel, Cole—Here Together Oregon
Bartlett, Brenda—WC County Administrative Office	Miles, Tonya—Boys & Girls Aid
Calvin, Mellani—ASSIST Program	Miller-Kennington, Laine—Community Action Organization
Cardwell, Shawn—Forest Grove Foundation	Moshkowsky, Melody—The Salvation Army
Coburn, Crystal—New Narrative	Mullins, Angela—WC Housing Services
Coppiano, Zoi—Community Action Organization	Pero, David—Forest Grove SD/HEN
Deters, Melia—Community Action Organization	Potter, Yvette—WC Disability, Aging & Veteran Services
Devin, Alex—WC Housing Services	Rogers, Patrick—Community Action Organization
Dwyer, DaNene—Portland Community College	Romero, Malu—New Narrative
Emrick, Hannah—Boys and Girls Aid	Ruiz, Roseanna—CPAH Oregon
Evans, Annette—WC Housing Services	Saldana, Austin—WC Housing Services
Farr, Danielle—WC Health and Human Services	Schimmel, Brian—Centro Cultural
Fellger, Vara—WC Housing Services	Schrader, Brandon—Oregon Dept of Employment
Fields, Kaylie—Oregon DHS	Simmons, Ludy—
Galian, Katherine—Community Action Organization	Smith, Gareth “Gary”—US Dept of Veteran Affairs
Gawf, Mandy—City of Hillsboro	Stone, Lindi—Community Action Organization
Gonzalez, Ferzon—Centro Cultural	Swearingin, Nicole—New Narrative
Greene, Jacen—PSU-HCAC	Trinkle, Jamie—Oregon Law Center
Jeffers, Julia—Community Action Organization	Valencia Aguilar, Mari—WC Office of Community Dev.
Kass, Peter—WC Housing Services	Valfre, Val—West Tuality Habitat for Humanity
Krogh, Alli—Community Action Organization	Wilson, Alisa—Citizen At-Large
Ludlam, Mandie—Community Housing Fund	Youngs, Steven—Bridges to Change
Lukban, Minette—OHSU-Tuality Alliance	

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

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

I. WELCOME

A survey to ascertain the composition of the HSSN membership was launched with the following results:

- 41.5% Person employed by agency providing housing and/or support services to include treatment, healthcare, DV, outreach, other wrap-around services.
- 29.0% Person employed by agency providing services aligned with public institutions of care, e.g. Employment, Education, Criminal Justice, Foster Care, public resources/benefits (SNAP, Soc. Sec., VA Benefits).
- 15.0% Person with lived experience with homelessness (PLEH) employed by agency providing homeless services/housing supports.
- 2.5% Person with lived experience with homelessness (PLEH) providing advocacy and/or volunteering to improve the homeless system of care.
- 12.0% Other to include elected official, funding organization/foundation, etc.

II. APPROVAL OF MEETING MINUTES

Motion: Approve November 3, 2021, meeting minutes.

Action: Val Valfre

Second: Katherine Galian

Vote: Approved, consensus.

III. GUEST SPEAKERS

Brandon Schrader, Oregon Department of Employment, "Low Income Employment and Housing Implications."

Brandon provided an overview of wages and housing trends in Washington County between 2015 to 2020, and employment projections and economic indicators for the region going forward. The average wage (non-farm) in Washington County has increased 12% to \$79,960. Low-income employment industries (leisure and hospitality, agriculture and forestry, retail trade, educational services and transportation, warehousing, and utilities) have an average wage below \$54,000 and comprise 25% of the jobs in Washington County. Those industries have seen an increase of 13.7% over the same period but began at a lower starting base (\$31,000) increasing to \$35,000. Even with those income increases, fair market rent increases (30%) far exceed income increases across the region going from \$1019 for a one-bedroom apartment in 2015 to over \$1300 per month in 2020. According to Zillow, the average rent in the Portland Metro area increased an additional 8.7% between September 2020 and September 2021 to over \$1600 per month. Inflationary pressure is being seen not only in the cost of housing, but also in grocery receipts, utilities, goods and services, and also disproportionately impacts lower wage earners.

Employment between October 2020 and October 2021 reflects a 2.8% increase, confirming Washington County has officially recovered 80% of the jobs lost in April 2020 during the depths of the recession, however, several low-income industries continue to see high unemployment insurance claims. Also, employment projections point to one in five jobs created over the next decade will be in low-income industries and as such will remain a huge component of the economy moving forward. In October 2021 Washington County's unemployment rate declined to 3.7% representing a tight labor market and a return to pre-pandemic unemployment rates (3%). Despite an economic recovery many Oregonians continue to experience economic insecurity.

Brandon noted, economic indicators to pay particular attention to include consumer spending (70% of overall economy) and consumer confidence. Consumer spending has seen a consistent rise since April 2020 and reflects an improving economy. The Consumer Confidence Index looks at how consumers feel about today and how consumers feel about the economy moving forward. The steady decline of the index over the last few months to the lowest level since 2011 may be partly due to concerns about inflation (rising cost of groceries and durable goods) and also concerns about the impact of the new Omicron COVID-19 variant. For more information, contact Brandon Schrader at brandon.w.schrader@employ.oregon.gov.

Social Security benefits have only increased 8% in light of a 30% increase in rent and 12% increase in wages. Are there indications that those receiving Social Security Disability benefits are needing to work more hours in order to make ends meet?

Mellani Calvin shared Social Security's Supplemental Security Income (SSI) benefits have not increased proportionately from day one of the program's inception and the SSI Restoration Act, currently before Congress, hopes to remedy that. Brandon will present this question at a future data talk with other economists and share any feedback he receives.

Does the data include part-time employment?

No, the data is only looking at full-time work as opposed to part-time statistics.

IV. GENERAL BUSINESS

A. Report on Winter Shelters and Metro Supportive Housing Services Program – Alex Devin

Alex reported winter shelters officially opened November 15 with 187 beds available in five (5) locations. Depending on the site location, bed utilization is ranging from 60%-90%. He noted however, the 44 beds available to families are only at 60% utilization with the family shelter waitlist already cleared. He encouraged agencies to register any homeless families with children in the agency winter shelter portal.

The second Request for Programmatic Qualification (RFPQ) was launched in partnership with Multnomah and Clackamas counties. If an agency is already a qualified provider and is only interested in providing services in Washington County, they are not required to submit an application to the current RFPQ and will only be on the list to provide services in Washington County. If an agency is interested in providing services in all three counties, they will need to submit an application for the new RFPQ. A master list of qualifying agencies providing services in all three counties should be available within the next two (2) months. The SHS Program team hopes the expanded RFPQ will bring additional resources to Washington County. The Housing Case Manager (HCMS) program has enrolled 29 households with Regional Long-Term Rental Assistance (RLRA) applications submitted for all, with some already in the process of unit inspections prior to move-in. They are hoping to increase those numbers as agencies hire additional staff. For more information, contact Alex Devin at alex_devin@co.washington.or.us.

Is there funding available for winter shelter guests to receive housing stabilization?

There are no housing programs specific to winter shelters. All winter shelter providers should be enrolling guests into rehousing programs available to all qualified providers. Anyone that is chronic or high needs will be enrolled in a rehousing program when they enter shelter and can continue to work with their provider on the rehousing plan whether they remain in shelter or not.

How many people have completed a *Community Connect* Phase One assessment to date?

Alex shared 368 Phase One assessments have been submitted, 46 of which have been for a long-term rehousing intervention, 257 for medium-term rehousing interventions and the remaining, for one-time assistance needs. *Community Connect* has started matching this week with referrals to Family Promise and Bienestar. He noted as organizations hire additional staff, the matching process should go much faster.

Are there winter shelters that will accept law enforcement discharges or transports particularly late at night?

The SHS Program has an agreement with The Cloverleaf to put down 2-3 mats on a case-by-case basis for first responders. It hasn't been utilized yet, but the offer exists.

B. CoC Sheltered and Unsheltered [2022 Point-In-Time \(PIT\) Homeless Count](#) – Angela Mullins and Pat Rogers

Angela reviewed HUD PIT Count guidelines, noting CoCs who conduct an annual count are awarded points within the HUD grant competition.

Pat Rogers reviewed the planning process and methodology to be used for the PIT count scheduled for January 26, 2022. Similar to last year, volunteers will not be used,

and will consist of either service providers, municipal staff or police department personnel who are trained and experienced in working with the homeless population. All enumerators will follow COVID protocol (wearing PPE and conduct socially distanced interviews) and conduct a wellness check during the interview as well as provide information on symptoms of COVID, how to access COVID testing and where to find information on COVID vaccine availability. Counts within the cities of Beaverton, Tigard, Forest Grove, Cornelius, Hillsboro and Aloha will be conducted simultaneously on January 26, 2022. Outlying area counts (Sherwood, Banks, Gaston, North Plains) will be conducted January 28 – 31. All enumerators have already been trained, so any training required this year would only be on the use of the counting mobile App, “Counting Us,” developed by SimTech Solutions. A 10-day testing period for the mobile App is scheduled followed by a 2-day “no activity” period prior to the mobile app going live on January 24 – 31. The App’s Command Center allows monitoring of accumulated data during the counting period and access to real time information for where interviews are being conducted and who the interview is conducted with. SimTech also has an App that could be used by street outreach to collect data year-round, “Show The Way.” For more information on the Unsheltered count or inquiries about donations, contact Pat Rogers at progers@caowash.org.

Angela shared the sheltered count will include all persons in beds in HMIS (Program Entry) on January 26 and she will be supporting shelter and transitional housing providers, the SHS team and Community Action Organization in making sure data is entered correctly. She reviewed the timeline for the Sheltered and Unsheltered count data before presentation to the CoC Board at their April 8, 2022 meeting. For information on the Sheltered count, contact Angela Mullins at angela_mullins@co.washington.or.us.

Is there still a need for donation of items to be disseminated during the unsheltered count? If so, where can they be donated?

Donations of any items that homeless can use to stay warm (hand warmers, new socks, clothing items that can dry quickly), water, and PPE can be donated directly to street outreach providers (FG Foundation, Open Door HousingWorks, New Narrative, Project Homeless Connect, Centro Cultural, HomePlate or Just Compassion) or can be dropped off at Community Action Organization for Pat Rogers.

What is the confidence level this count will provide a more accurate street count?

The count consistently improves each year. Pat expects this year to be the most accurate because of the level of attention paid to persons living in places not meant for habitation. With the winter shelter program this year including family sheltering, and the consistent contact and year-round street outreach, the 2022 count should be the most comprehensive ever. There was 52 enumerators who helped with the count last year and he expects as many or more to help with the count this year. He noted Open Door Housing Works has increased their capacity for street outreach and cover a large geographic area, which will really help in this year’s count.

Annette shared there was discussion at the Tri-County level about a regional count in 2023 using a consistent methodology across all three counties (Washington, Multnomah, Clackamas) that would not only meet HUD’s requirements for a PIT count, but also provide data at a regional level.

C. FY2021 CoC Program Homeless Grant Application – Annette Evans

Annette reported the consolidated application was submitted on November 9 after a 14-day comment period. Comments received were positive in nature and no significant edits or revisions were required. The application requested \$4,400,262 in new and renewal funds to provide 263 units of housing and services to individuals and families experiencing homelessness in Washington County. HUD has not provided a date for

when awards will be made, but typically makes award announcements sometime in late January, February or early March. At their October 8 meeting, the CoC Board ranked and rated projects and reviewed the challenges and barriers preventing increased performance scores. Annette shared the continuum was de-obligating a substantial amount of funds (mainly in rent assistance). She shared there were currently funds available in rapid rehousing and permanent supportive housing programs that needed to be utilized and urged agencies to submit their applications to connect individuals to CoC programs.

D. Cancellation of January 5, 2022 HSSN Meeting – Annette Evans

With typical lower attendance at January HSSN meetings and extended holiday leaves, the January 5, 2022 HSSN meeting is cancelled. The February 2, 2022 meeting will include a presentation from Dario Hunter of the Fair Housing Council of Oregon.

V. ANNOUNCEMENTS

- Annette shared the Washington County Office of Community Development has entered into a contract with Community Alliance of Tenants to increase staffing to address tenant rights inquiries. She encouraged anyone working with individuals experiencing rent assistance concerns and their rights in their housing to contact the hotline at 503-288-0130 which is open Monday, Wednesday & Friday 1pm - 5pm, Tuesday 6pm - 8pm and Saturday 1pm - 5pm .
- Annette shared the Oregon Legislature will reconvene on December 13 to review the Eviction Moratorium.
- Martin Blasco announced Washington County Cooperative Library Services is once again making mini-libraries available to winter shelters (includes shelving units, books, magazines, activities, and resources). For more information or to have a mini-library delivered to your shelter, contact Martin at martin_blasco@co.washington.or.us
- Pat Rogers announced the state portal of ALITA will be closed at 11:59pm today. All applications for rent assistance submitted by that time will be accepted. Thereafter emergency rent assistance applications can be submitted to Community Action Organization at www.caowash.org, via telephone or online prescreening request.

VI. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting adjourned at 9:52 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