

Homeless Plan Advisory Committee

**Thursday, January 21, 2021
2:30 p.m.
Virtual Meeting via ZOOM**

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/88232771132?pwd=RzFPQS9TdWRlejVwZ05GdUJFazNrQT09>

Meeting ID: 882 3277 1132

Passcode: 715699



WASHINGTON COUNTY
OREGON



Purpose Statement

The purpose of the HPAC is to provide oversight to the implementation of the plan and leadership to effectively collaborate with state and local partners to develop additional resources to meet the ambitious goals included in “*A Road Home: Community Plan to Prevent and End Homelessness.*”

The HPAC will be advisory to the county Homeless Program Manager, the Director of Washington County Department of Housing Services, the County Administrator, and the Board of Commissioners for Washington County (“Board of Commissioners”).

Equity Statement

The Department of Housing Services provides housing opportunities to all eligible persons no matter their race, color, religion, national origin, age, disability, familial status, marital or domestic partnership status, sex, gender identity, sexual orientation, veteran status, legal source of income or type of occupation.

In order to be relevant and effective in a rapidly changing and increasingly diverse environment, the Department of Housing Services commits to the principles of diversity, equity and inclusion for all members of the community we serve. Equitable access to resources and opportunity is the means to healthy, economically vibrant people and communities. We believe that authentically listening to, working inclusively with, and being accountable to the community we serve increases innovation and effectiveness and leads to more successful outcomes.



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Future Meeting Schedule:

| |
|--|
| 2021 HPAC Meeting Schedule 2:30 to 4:30 p.m. |
| April 15 |
| July 15 |
| October 21 |



HOMELESS PLAN ADVISORY COMMITTEE

Thursday, January 21, 2021, 2:30 p.m.

Virtual Meeting via Zoom

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Meeting ID: 882 3277 1132

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Chairperson: Rachael Duke, Community Partners for Affordable Housing

Chairperson Elect: Kara Kazemba, Ancora Therapy

Secretary: Komi Kalevor, Housing Authority of Washington County

Officer terms end January 2022

AGENDA

- I. **INTRODUCTIONS – 2:30 P.M.**
- II. **ACTION - APPROVE AGENDA – 2:35 P.M.**
 - A. **ACTION**: Approve the January 21 Meeting Agenda.
- III. **ACTION - APPROVAL OF MINUTES – 2:40 P.M.**
 - A. **ACTION**: Approve the October 15 Meeting Minutes.
- IV. **COMMUNICATIONS AND PUBLIC COMMENT – 2:45 P.M.**
- V. **NEW BUSINESS – 2:50 P.M.**
 - A. 2021 Legislative Agenda – Paige Spence (20 minutes)
 - B. A Road Home Annual Report – Annette Evans (20 minutes)
 - C. Metro Affordable Housing Bond and Permanent Supportive Housing Initiatives – Komi Kalevor (15 minutes)
 - D. Metro Supportive Housing Services Local Implementation Plan – Ally Jamieson (15 minutes)
 - E. Report on Winter Shelter Operations – Annette Evans (5 minutes)
- VI. **UNFINISHED BUSINESS – 4:05 P.M.**
 - A. Addressing Homelessness Through Community Engagement and Information - All
- VII. **REPORT OF THE COMMITTEES – 4:20 P.M.**
 - A. Housing and Supportive Services Network (HSSN) – Annette Evans
- VIII. **ANNOUNCEMENTS – 4:25 P.M.**
- IX. **ADJOURNMENT – 4:30 P.M.**



MINUTES

HOMELESS PLAN ADVISORY COMMITTEE OF WASHINGTON COUNTY

October 15, 2020

Virtual Meeting via ZOOM

A. COMMITTEE MEMBERS PRESENT

Steven Berger
Talia Buchsbaum
Brenda Christoffer
Rachael Duke
Carol C. Herron
Jeff Hindley
Komi Kalevor

Kara Kazemba
Erroll McCrea
Dick Schouten
Kemp Shuey
Sarah Huggins Smith
Vera Stoullil
Phillip Williams

B. COMMITTEE MEMBERS ABSENT

Elena Uhing

C. STAFF PRESENT

Annette Evans
Vara Fellger

D. GUESTS PRESENT

Heather Lyons
Cole Merkel
Ruth Osuna
Beth Uno, M.D.

Val Valfre
Kasi Woidyla
Anita Yap

Chair Duke called the meeting to order at 2:30 p.m.

I. INTRODUCTIONS – A quorum is present.

II. ACTION – APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Motion: Approve agenda of October 15 meeting.

Action: Kara Kazemba

Second: Commissioner Schouten

Vote: Approved, unanimous.

III. ACTION – APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Motion: Approve minutes of July 16 meeting.

Action: Vera Stoullil

Second: Commissioner Schouten

Vote: Approved, unanimous.

IV. COMMUNICATIONS AND PUBLIC COMMENT

None.

V. NEW BUSINESS

A. Board Positions Expiring December 31, 2020 – Rachael Duke

The HPAC Bylaws require anyone interested in vacant or expiring board positions submit their application prior to the end of the term. All applicants will be interviewed, and recommendations for board appointments presented to the Board of County Commissioners (BCC) at a work session. The BCC will make the final appointment two weeks after the work session. Board members whose



terms are expiring and are interested in re-appointment will be reviewed in December along with all other applicants who had applied for board positions within the past year. Annette welcomed Kasi Woidyla and Beth Uno who were recommended to the BCC at their work session on October 13 and will be appointed to their respective HPAC board positions at the BCC's October 27 meeting. Annette also recognized Commissioner Schouten for his tireless work in serving the most vulnerable in the community and his advocacy for affordable housing, not only in his position on the HPAC Board, but through his work as County Commissioner.

B. 2020/2021 Winter Shelter Response Plan – Annette Evans

The winter shelter response plan will be five (5) enrolled shelter “hubs” with 30 beds at each site, located in west-county (Cornelius/Forest Grove), Beaverton, Hillsboro, and south-county (Sherwood, Tigard, Tualatin) open 7 days per week for up to 120 days. The shelters will aim to prevent COVID disease transmission by enrolling local homeless residing near one of the hubs using outreach referrals within geographic regions. Regular wellness checks and contact tracing in the event of exposure/testing positive will be required. Annette was working with an agency in Tigard to designate 5-10 beds for homeless discharged from hospitals. The shelter hub model will increase bed capacity to 150 beds every night and provide stability throughout the winter season. Registration will be coordinated with partner agencies via a web registration page maintained by Washington County. Washington County Public Health will perform onsite inspections and conduct training at each site. Annette is also working with Community Action Organization to provide funding for a “Crisis Intervention” option via hotel vouchers. The Built for Zero efforts which include outreach, service providers and housing case conferencing will be leveraged to transition clients into housing when the shelters close.

Chair Duke inquired whether shelters would be staffed with volunteers or had paid employees. Annette reported grant funds valued at \$1.2 million in federal Emergency Food and Shelter Program (EFSP), Emergency Solution Grant (ESG) and County CRF CARES Act will fund operations of the shelter hubs to provide paid staff and cover cost of meals, linen cleaning, overnight host security, insurance, leasing costs of some facilities and various other operational costs.

Talia Buchsbaum inquired of mobile COVID-19 testing for homeless individuals. Annette reported she was working with Washington County Public Health to implement a testing process at the shelters for those without insurance. Metro West currently provides transport to the Washington County Respite Center for isolation/quarantine.

Kasi Woidyla shared COVID-19 testing was currently provided at all Virginia Garcia Memorial Medical Center clinics. Free community events were also held in Washington and Yamhill counties using a mobile clinic to provide COVID-19 testing.



Dr. Beth Uno added, OHSU was also providing free drive-through COVID-19 tests at the Hillsboro Stadium to asymptomatic and symptomatic individuals and flu shots, for both OHSU and non-OHSU patients.

Kara Kazemba inquired whether those considered at higher risk for COVID-related complications, were prioritized for shelter beds. Annette reported the definition of “high risk” used by COVID-19 CARES Act funded programs now includes anyone who is homeless as they lack sanitation (e.g. restroom, handwashing) and experience food insecurity resulting in chronic health conditions. Outreach, who engage and make referrals to the shelter, make an assessment to prioritize homeless at highest risk (older homeless individuals and those with underlying health conditions). Once an individual is enrolled and assigned a bed, they will not be moved to provide room for someone at higher risk. Annette was working to build capacity in the system for hospital discharge and overflow.

C. Metro Supportive Housing Services Local Implementation Plan (LIP)

a. **Overview of Plan Development – Ruth Osuna**

Metro’s Supportive Housing Services measure was passed by voters in May 2020 and offers flexible funding that will expand the options currently available for providing solutions to homelessness in Washington County. Metro prescribed specific components to be included in the LIP, which included a strategy to achieve the desired impacts of the program and a regional response for coordinating access to services with partnering jurisdictions within the Metro boundary. Ruth emphasized, the community engagement process and the vast experience of LIP Committee members with homelessness and housing insecurity, will inform the development of a plan to serve priority populations in an equitable and racially centered way. Washington County had hoped to have the LIP completed by January; but has recognized a phased approach over a three-year period may be preferred which would allow adjustments to be made as funding becomes more known. Revenue collections were still expected to start April – June with the acknowledgement that it may take up to three years for collections to be fully realized. Program implementation was still targeted for July.

Kemp Shuey inquired how the LIP will work with the recommendations from the Trillium Report. Ruth reported the Trillium Report, along with other reports on homelessness and supportive housing, will inform the development of the LIP.

b. **Geographic Equity, Racial Equity and Gaps Analysis – Heather Lyons, Corporation for Supportive Housing (CSH)**

Heather provided an overview of CSH who was contracted by Washington County to write the LIP. She shared a geographic equity map reflecting where housing and homeless services were currently located in the part of



Washington County within the Metro boundary. She offered some questions to initiate a discussion of geographic equity.

Annette shared feedback from advocates for the houseless refer to Washington County as having service “deserts,” specifically in Western Washington County and south-county, where homeless services were severely lacking. While there are culturally specific organizations providing services in the Forest Grove/Cornelius area, there is a lack of housing and services available for the homeless population in general other than a winter shelter in Forest Grove and a day center in Cornelius. In Sherwood/Tualatin, transportation and the lack of services has created a barrier for the homeless population to access the homeless response system.

Heather provided an overview of Metro’s required elements for racial equity analysis within the LIP and the priority populations to be served by the program. HMIS data was extrapolated for persons served in Washington County with Personal Identifying Information (PII) removed and provided to the Joint Office of Homeless Services in Multnomah County to use a consistent methodology for developing racial equity analysis data for the 3-county Metro region. American Community Survey (ACS) data on race and ethnicity for all income levels of Washington County was used to compare those in HMIS who fit the parameters of Population A (75%) and Population B (25%). The data was then disaggregated into families, single adults and children under 18, and young adults aged 18-24. BIPOC, Non-Hispanic White and Race Unreported, were a separate data group from the specific race designations listed. She noted the underrepresentation evident in the “Asian” data group and apologized for the inability to disaggregate the data further and acknowledged it represented a huge diversity of races and cultures. The data clearly demonstrated the over-representation of certain racial groups within the service (homeless) population compared to their composition within the general population overall in both population categories. Hispanic or Latino/a/x group required further inquiry as to the reasons for under representation in the “Adult” and “Youth” groups, whether it was because they were just not seeking services and if so, why. She noted HUD’s narrow “chronic homeless” definition limited the sample size available in HMIS to reflect the true need within the county. As a result, CSH will also be using Child Welfare Systems data to provide a more comprehensive picture of need in Washington County.

Kasi Woidyla inquired whether disabling conditions referred to in the definition of Population A included mental illness. Heather reported “disabling conditions” include physical and mental illness.

Kemp Shuey inquired as to why the poverty population within Washington County wasn’t being used as the data against which the service population was compared as opposed to the overall population.



Heather shared, a similar concern was expressed by LIP Committee members. Poverty data for Washington County was available through the Consolidated Plan development efforts and was something they were looking at incorporating.

Kara Kazemba inquired about racial equity data for entry into the homeless system from jail and hospital discharges. Heather reported the Jail data will be included. Qualitative data for entry into the homeless system from other areas may be included in the community engagement.

Dr. Uno inquired of the percentage used for “Extremely Low” income levels for Population A. Heather reported the 30% percent or below of Median Area income (AMI) is the HUD federal housing income level.

Kasi Woidyla thought it would be interesting to see a breakdown of the Asian category to determine which groups were under-represented over others. With the limitation on disaggregating data for the Asian group, Heather was hoping that information might be more apparent in the qualitative data from community engagement.

HPAC board members were polled to prioritize the top three housing and service-based interventions with the following results:

| HOUSING INTERVENTIONS | | | | | |
|-----------------------|---------------------------|----------------------------|----------------------------|---------------------|----------------------------------|
| Supportive Housing | Long-Term Rent Assistance | Short-Term Rent Assistance | Housing Placement Services | Eviction Prevention | Shelter and Transitional Housing |
| 60% | 33% | 40% | 40% | 47% | 67% |

| SERVICE-BASED INTERVENTIONS | | | | | | |
|-----------------------------|-------------------------|-------------------|------------|------------------------------|--------------------------------|----------|
| Tenancy Support Services | Housing Case Management | Behavioral Health | Addictions | Culturally Specific Services | Employment and Benefits Income | Outreach |
| 50% | 38% | 75% | 56% | 13% | 31% | 38% |

c. Community Engagement Survey – Anita Yap, Multi-Cultural Collaborative

Anita Yap shared her background and experience was in centering racial equity in transportation and housing projects within racially diverse communities. She was contracted by Washington County to facilitate the LIP Committee meetings and do the community engagement required. She reviewed Metro’s required elements for community engagement and the community engagement events she was currently implementing (listening sessions, focus groups, written and online surveys in English/Spanish). She posed questions of HPAC members to initiate a discussion of and provide



recommendations for the community engagement she will be conducting. She encouraged members to complete the online Stakeholder survey she had developed and to reach out to her with information about culturally specific organizations who were working with Native Hawaiian/Pacific Islander/American Indian/Alaska Native and Black/African American populations. She can be reached via email at anita@multiculturalcollaborative.com.

Vera Stoulil shared, many youth couch surf and are often not connected to school. Those under 18 may not access services for fear of being reported to the state Child Welfare system. Youth may engage in street outreach, but most often are not included in homeless counts. Youth Point-In-Time counts are typically lower than the number that service providers know are out there.

Kasi Woidyla felt like the Latin/a/x community was not represented. With a general mistrust of government and recent legislation from Washington DC, people are afraid of being identified and have their voices be heard.

To get insight into improvements to the current system to inform the development of the LIP, Vera Stoulil suggested approaching provider staff managing programs currently serving targeted populations as a resource.

Kasi Woidyla shared Virginia Garcia Memorial Health Clinic had a very successful program, RISE, which was a 6-month class that met once per month to encourage and empower community engagement with local government.

Vera Stoulil felt the framework being used in the development of the LIP didn't work for homeless youth who had an entirely different developmental and educational experience from that of an adult.

Kemp Shuey agreed and further emphasized the need to put the people we are trying to serve at the center.

Brenda Christoffer inquired whether local businesses might be a way to reach the hard-to-reach populations in their local community.

Kasi Woidyla agreed, some populations don't consume information the same way we do and so traditional ways to reach them didn't always work. Connecting with those communities might be through an organization with whom they have an established trust.

VI. UNFINISHED BUSINESS

A. Lack of Affordable Housing and Impact to Employers – Annette Evans

Given the change in Washington County's economic environment as a result of COVID-19, Chair Duke suggested tabling the agenda item for the time being.



a. Public Education – Annette Evans

Given the change in the County's economic environment as a result of COVID-19, Chair Duke suggested tabling the agenda item for the time being.

VII. REPORT OF THE COMMITTEES

A. Housing and Supportive Services Network (HSSN) – Annette Evans

Annette referred the board to her report provided in the meeting packet and solicited comments or questions to which there were none.

VIII. ANNOUNCEMENTS

- Komi Kalevor announced the Fields Apartments, a 264-unit complex in Tigard, received a certificate of occupancy today. More information was available at www.gslproperties.com. The Housing Authority was a partner in the venture.
- Vera Stoullil announced Boys and Girls Aid had successfully convinced Department of Human Services to launch a comprehensive youth needs assessment which was launched last week. It was expected to be completed by the end of the year/first part of January. The information generated will support and advance bills in the legislative session to provide additional funding for homeless and runaway youth in Washington County.
- Rachael Duke announced Community Partners for Affordable Housing (CPAH) was currently leasing up at Red Rock Creek Commons in Tigard and Cedar Grove in Portland. Both locations include some permanent supportive housing units. More information is available at <https://cpahoregon.org/>
- Kemp Shuey announced Community Action Organization just released their 2020 Issues of Poverty Report which can be accessed at https://caowash.org/about_us/publications.html.

IX. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting adjourned at 4:22 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Komi P. Kalevor
Secretary, HPAC
Executive Director, Housing Authority of Washington County



VI. COMMUNICATIONS AND PUBLIC COMMENT – 2:45 P.M.

VII. NEW BUSINESS – 2:50 P.M.

- F. 2021 Legislative Agenda – Paige Spence (20 minutes)
- G. A Road Home Annual Report – Annette Evans (20 minutes)
- H. Metro Affordable Housing Bond and Permanent Supportive Housing Initiatives – Komi Kalevor (15 minutes)
- I. Metro Supportive Housing Services Local Implementation Plan – Ally Jamieson (15 minutes)
- J. Report on Winter Shelter Operations – Annette Evans (5 minutes)

VIII. UNFINISHED BUSINESS – 4:05 P.M.

- B. Addressing Homelessness Through Community Engagement and Information - All

IX. REPORT OF THE COMMITTEES – 4:20 P.M.

- B. Housing and Supportive Services Network (HSSN) – Annette Evans

COVID-19 RESPONSE FOR UNHOUSED POPULATIONS

Coronavirus (COVID-19) Response Plan Washington County continues to experience an increasing number COVID+ cases. The COVID programs are serving a diverse population (e.g. age, disabilities, race/ethnicity) who are at high risk due to age and/or underlying health conditions.

A prioritization of special populations to receive the COVID vaccine is available online at <https://www.co.washington.or.us/HHS/CommunicableDiseases/COVID-19/vaccine.cfm>

Washington County partnered with community-based organizations to implement shelter in-place programs funded by \$1.7 million in County CRF CARES Act and special grant funds.



COVID-19 CARES ACT PROGRAMS SERVING HOUSELESS POPULATIONS

| | Program Start and End Date | # People Served To-Date | # People Age ≤17 years (Child) | # People Age 18-44 Years (Adult) | # People Age 45+ years (Adult) | % Chronic* Homeless | % Persons of Color | # People Exit | % Exit to Housing | % Exit to Street |
|--|----------------------------|-------------------------|--------------------------------|----------------------------------|--------------------------------|---------------------|--------------------|---------------|-------------------|------------------|
| Family Promise Shelters | 6/22/2020 to 12/30/2020 | 140 | 54 | 55 | 31 | 15% | 32% | 110 | 77% | 23% |
| Safe Sleep Village | 8/4/2020 - 11/16/2020 | 106 | 0 | 53 | 53 | 34% | 19% | 106 | 0% | 100% |
| Hotel Vouchers | 6/24/2020 to 12/30/2020 | 84 | 6 | 27 | 51 | 42% | 14% | 84 | 24% | 76% |
| Safe RV Parking | 10/15/2020 to 12/30/2020 | 57 | 0 | 27 | 30 | 9% | 16% | 57 | 5% | 95% |
| Winter Shelters: 165-beds [Funds: CRF CARES; EFSP; ESG; EHA; and SHAP] | 11/15/2020 to 3/15/2021 | 255 | 5 | 117 | 133 | 41% | 26% | 90 | 9% | 91% |

Total People Served: 642

*Chronic = A person with disabling condition(s) and experiencing 12 or more months of homelessness

Winter Shelters opened on 11/15/2020 and comply with COVID Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) requirements. In partnership with shelter provider organizations, Washington County Housing implement a 120-day shelter program with 165 beds. The shelters operate in five cities where houseless persons can access a bed provided daily in a community-based shelter. Referral to the winter shelter beds is managed by Washington County Housing. Persons registering at the Winter Shelter Registration web-based platform are referred to shelter beds based on date/time of registration with a preference to remain in the city where they live.

Protecting people in shelters. *On January 9 the Winter Shelter Registration platform received an online registration from a citizen who was providing three (3) houseless persons in her neighborhood with meals. This woman was concerned for their wellness, safety and basic needs. She searched the internet and found the County’s Winter Shelter webpage with the link to register for shelter. When County staff contacted the name on the registration wait list, the woman advised that she was not homeless but very concerned for houseless persons in her neighborhood. Through a willingness to become involved, this caring woman supported the houseless persons to transition from the street to shelter.*

In the first two months of opening the Registration platform, 529 registrations received with persons reporting their current living location as follows:



2020/2021 WINTER SHELTER REGISTRATION WAIT LIST (UNDUPLICATED): 529

| Where Person Currently Lives* | 11/6/20 to 11/30/20 | 12/1/20 to 12/31/20 | 1/1/21 to 1/31/21 | 2/1/21 to 2/28/21 | 3/1/21 to 3/15/21 | % |
|-------------------------------|---------------------|---------------------|-------------------|-------------------|-------------------|-------|
| Banks | 0 | 0 | | | | 0.0% |
| Beaverton | 74 | 92 | | | | 31.4% |
| Canby* | 1 | 0 | | | | 0.2% |
| Clackamas Co.* | 0 | 1 | | | | 0.2% |
| Cornelius | 10 | 3 | | | | 2.5% |
| Forest Grove | 45 | 13 | | | | 11.0% |
| Gaston | 0 | 1 | | | | 0.2% |
| Happy Valley* | 0 | 2 | | | | 0.4% |
| Hillsboro | 114 | 97 | | | | 39.9% |
| King City | 0 | 1 | | | | 0.2% |
| Lake Oswego* | 0 | 1 | | | | 0.2% |
| Milwaukie* | 1 | 0 | | | | 0.2% |
| North Plains | 1 | 2 | | | | 0.6% |
| Portland* | 14 | 10 | | | | 4.5% |
| Seattle, WA* | 0 | 1 | | | | 0.2% |
| Sherwood | 0 | 0 | | | | 0.0% |
| Tigard | 20 | 19 | | | | 7.4% |
| Tualatin | 1 | 2 | | | | 0.6% |
| Wilsonville* | 2 | 0 | | | | 0.4% |
| Yakima, WA* | 0 | 1 | | | | 0.2% |

Monthly Registration 283 246

HOUSELESS SYSTEM FUNDING, REPORTING AND ACTIVITIES

Point In Time (PIT) Homeless Count (Census) is scheduled for January 27, 2021. Community Action Organization is leading the street count (unsheltered) census collection in collaboration with local city and community-based organizations.

Built for Zero (BfZ) is a national initiative aimed at ending chronic homelessness through a comprehensive list of persons and prioritizing the most vulnerable for housing. A By-Name Case Conferencing List is prepared using data extrapolated from HMIS that is prioritized by vulnerability/assessment score and length of time houseless.

<https://www.co.washington.or.us/Housing/EndHomelessness/by-name-case-conferencing.cfm>

Kaiser COVID Care Coordination Grant

Washington County Housing received a \$100,000 grant to fund two full-time temporary staff to perform Care Coordination to assist houseless persons access health care and housing while residing in the Winter Shelters. The program is funded by The Kaiser Permanente National Community Benefit Fund at the East Bay Community Foundation.



COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

Emergency Shelter for Adult-only Households remains a significant gap with zero year-round beds for adults in Washington County. The Metro Supportive Housing Services (SHS) levy may be identified as a funding source to address this critical need in our local CoC.

X. ANNOUNCEMENTS – 4:25 P.M.

XI. ADJOURNMENT – 4:30 P.M.