

HOUSING and SUPPORTIVE SERVICES NETWORK(HSSN)

CoC Board

Friday, June 12, 2020 - 8:30 to 10:00 am

Join Zoom Meeting: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/88502203999>

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AGENDA

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

Co-Chair: Katherine Galian, Community Action Organization

- I. Introductions (8:30 a.m.)
- II. Public Comment (8:35 a.m.)
- III. Approve Minutes (8:40 a.m.)
 - A) **Board Action: Approve CoC Board minutes for February 14, 2020**
Note: The April 10 meeting was cancelled due to COVID-19.
- IV. Business Items (8:45 a.m.)
 - A) Metro Supportive Housing Services Measure – Ruth Osuna, Deputy County Administrator
 - B) Report on *Project Reset* – Ellen Johnson, Attorney
 - C) 2020 Point-In-Time Homeless Census (PIT) and Housing Inventory Chart (HIC)
Board Action: Approve submittal of 2020 PIT and HIC to HUD.
 - D) CoC Board approve submittal of Longitudinal Systems Analysis (LSA) report at August 14 meeting
 - E) *Built for Zero* Implementation
 1. By-Name List Housing Case Conferencing Outcomes – Annette Evans
 2. Outreach and Geographic Coverage Outcomes – Katherine Galian
 3. Plan for Public Release and Communication
 - F) Briefing on COVID Response and Recovery – Annette Evans
 - G) 2020/2021 Severe Weather Shelter Response Update – Annette Evans
 - H) CoC Board prioritize project funding for FY2020 CoC Program Grant Application – Annette Evans
- V. Agency Announcements and Open Discussion (9:45 a.m.)
- VI. 2020 HSSN CoC Board Meeting Schedule, 8:30 to 10:30 a.m. (9:55 a.m.)
 - Friday, August 14, 2020
 - Friday, October 9, 2020
 - Friday, December 11, 2020

VII. Adjournment (10:00 a.m.)

The CoC Board meeting is open to the public. The full agenda and minutes are posted online at

<https://www.co.washington.or.us/Housing/EndHomelessness/hssn-workgroup-meetings-and-agendas.cfm>

Comments and questions can be directed to Annette Evans at 503-846-4760 Annette_Evans@co.washington.or.us

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www.co.washington.or.us/homeless



CoC BOARD MEETING MINUTES
Washington County Juvenile Services Building, Conference Room 258
February 14, 2020

CoC BOARD MEMBER PRESENT

- Brouse, Renee – Good Neighbor Center
- Calvin, Mellani – ASSIST Program
- Downen, Lindsay – Luke-Dorf, Inc.
- Evans, Annette – CoC Board Facilitator
- Fischer, Shawn – WashCo Sheriff’s Office
- Galian, Katherine – CoC Board Facilitator
- 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
- Ram, Sarala – CODA, Inc.
- Schaeffer-Bisht, Blair – WorkSystems, Inc.
- Schimmel, Brian – Old Town Church FG
- Taylor, Rowie – Domestic Violence Resource Center
- Valencia, Mari – Office of Community Dev.

CoC BOARD MEMBER NOT PRESENT

- Rogers, Patrick – Community Action Org
- Schnitzer, Cole – U.S. Dept of Veteran Affairs
- Teifel, Gordon – Families for Independent Living & DEAR

OTHER ATTENDEES

- Baker, Vernon – Just Compassion SWS
- Fellger, Vara – 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

Meeting called to order at 8:30 a.m.

I. INTRODUCTIONS

II. PUBLIC COMMENT

No public comment.

III. APPROVAL OF MEETING MINUTES

Action: Approve December 13, 2019 meeting minutes.

Motion: Renee Brouse

Second: Marcia Hille

Vote: Approved, unanimously.

IV. BUSINESS ITEMS

A. Perform Emergency Solution Grant (ESG) Program Consultation with CoC Board—Mari Valencia-Aguilar

Mari consulted with the CoC Board (Board) regarding the estimated \$181,000 of Emergency Solutions Grant (ESG) funding for FY2020 (7/1/20 - 6/30/21). She noted the consultation only applied to ESG funds administered through Washington County Office of Community Development (OCD). To reduce the administrative burden associated with these funds, OCD was again proposing to allocate all ESG funds to support rapid rehousing rental assistance in FY2020 (\$167,425), less 7.5% allocated for administration (\$13,575). 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 households assisted for Rapid Re-Housing would remain at a minimum of 60 (20 households, averaging \$6,000 per household). A final consultation is scheduled with the Housing and Supportive Services Network (HSSN) at their March 4 meeting.

Komi Kalevor requested clarification on how rapid re-housing was chosen? Katherine Galian explained it was determined county ESG funds were more impactful for rapid rehousing given the funding cap for street outreach, the administrative burden associated with county ESG funds and the availability of State funds available to CAO to backfill remaining activities.

Ellen Johnson inquired of any available statistics showing rapid re-housing outcomes upon completion of the program? Rapid re-housing outcomes were part of the System Performance Measurements that were being reviewed today (Return to Homelessness within two years) and were at a current rate of 7%.

Motion: The CoC Board recommends approval of the allocation of ESG funds and proposed activities as described in Attachment A and B and move for final approval by the full HSSN on March 4.

Action: Renee Brouse

Second: Ellen Johnson

Vote: Approved. Katherine Galian abstained.

B. Approve Federal FY2019 System Performance Measurements (SPM)—Annette Evans

Annette presented the CoC's system performance data (October 1, 2018 through September 30, 2019) reflecting a four-year data trend and was due at the end of the month. She noted there were software changes the vendor was still doing that may change the final numbers somewhat, but not dramatically. Going forward, she proposed sending SPM reports to agencies throughout the year to correct data, rather than waiting until after year-end.

M1. Length of Time Homeless increased in metric 1.b. due to the inclusion of severe weather shelter (SWS) data in 2019 reporting. She stressed the importance of updating self-reported "date of homelessness" as agencies and shelters encountered individuals already in the HMIS system.

Brian Schimmel inquired whether the SPM report could filter out SWS data? HMIS does allow filtering; however, the SWS data is required to be included so filtering would not change the data to be submitted to HUD.

M2. Recidivism increased slightly to 7.9% overall with 37 individuals returning to homelessness after leaving programs. She noted the Street Outreach (SO) recidivism rate of 0% didn't tell the whole story as the number of people who moved into housing from SO actually decreased from 30 to 7.

Ellen Johnson inquired if there was a way to evaluate the triggers for the return to homelessness? After agencies have reviewed the recidivism list, Annette would like to reconvene with agencies to case conference the individuals to specifically find out the triggers for returns to homelessness. Ellen was very interested in learning whether mental health played a role in recidivism and if so, may require the county to adjust their mental health and addiction services. Lindsay Downen shared 80-90% of individuals returning to homelessness had experienced an eviction as a result of substance use behavior on-site, resulting in psychiatric episodes. Even though some of those units are Single Room Occupancy (SRO) sites, many are community-based living sites which impact program rules. She noted, a lease violation didn't just pertain to an individual's room, but the facility rules and dynamics as a whole.

M3. Number of Homeless People (PIT) with increase in number of homeless and a decrease in Permanent Housing (PH) placements. Strategies include the Here Together/Metro initiative and implementation of *Built for Zero* to prioritize and house chronic homeless through case conferencing.

Brian Schimmel asked for clarification on how the Here Together Initiative would increase PH. The Here Together initiative implements the Tri-County Equitable Housing Strategy incorporated

into the Metro Bond which passed in November 2018, adding service dollars to the PSH units being built. Komi Kalevor confirmed 100 PSH units were committed to in the Local Implementation Strategy of the Metro Bond and would take approximately 5-7 years to come on-line.

Brian Schimmel inquired whether there was a policy in place requiring Washington County residency for those units? Ellen Johnson didn't believe constitutionally, there could be a residency requirement for public housing programs. Also, homeless tended to float across borders looking for services and there was no hard data to confirm residency when someone was homeless.

Blair Schaeffer-Bisht agreed it would be difficult to implement a residency requirement for homeless or provide proof of residency.

Ellen Johnson noted the community was moving to a regional coordinated plan on a variety of issues. Taking a regional approach in housing was new and wasn't fully understood yet. Local control was still very important in housing. Komi Kalevor suspected the residency requirement could indirectly be addressed through PSH units most likely going to people who were already engaged in services and were a known quantity.

Brian Schimmel wondered if it was a matter of the current system being underfunded or were there systemic changes that needed to be addressed? Katherine Galian acknowledged there were improvements that could be made to the existing system, but the biggest issue was that it was severely underfunded.

M4. Jobs and Income Growth exiting programs with earned income had increased; however, those exiting with cash income saw a marked decrease. Katherine Galian wondered if the decrease was a result of people on Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF) who found a job and were no longer eligible.

Rowie Taylor noted, in domestic violence situations in particular, even though child support was awarded by the court, it was often never received. Katherine Galian shared one of the strategies of the current Community Plan to Prevent and End Homelessness was to increase awareness of child support enforcement for case managers.

Blair Schaeffer-Bisht shared information from the Oregon Employment Department (OED) confirming the shrinking of the middle class: In Washington County over the last five (5) years, 18% of net new jobs created were in industries that paid \$35,000 or less and 50% in industries paying more than \$60,000.

Blair shared WorkSystems, Inc. received a \$500,000 contract from Washington to provide construction training which might help that income tier. They are working with Multnomah County providers of pre-apprenticeship training to hold training in Washington County and were currently searching for a location. She will reach out to the group once they were at a point of accepting referrals.

M5. First time homelessness increased primarily due to the addition of SWS data. The goal for the *Built for Zero* Case Conferencing was that it would expand outreach engagement to not only know more of who was houseless year-round and identify gaps in the homeless system, but to ultimately offset future first time homelessness.

Ellen Johnson noted that if we had data that distinguished between first time homeless and those who have been homeless for a while but were just now entering our system, the strategies would be different for how we would reach the two groups. Brian Schimmel suggested speaking with shelter staff to glean that information.

M7b.1. Successful Housing Placement decrease of homeless moving from Street Outreach to Permanent Housing which could be improved through the By-Name List being developed for the case conferencing through *Built for Zero*. Success; however, would depend upon additional housing resources being made available.

M7b.1. Winter shelter data also affected the number of exits to PH, which decreased overall; however, housing retention increased with those in housing staying longer in their units. The number of people exiting to jail, prison or juvenile detention decreased dramatically from 43 to 4 and only 1 person died while in the system compared to 24 in 2018.

Motion: The CoC Board recommends approval for the submission of updated FY2019 SPM data to HUD.

Action: Shawn Fischer

Second: Ellen Johnson

Vote: Approved, unanimously.

C. Report on 2020 Point-In-Time (PIT) Homeless Count Activities – Katherine Galian

Katherine provided an update of the status of the PIT count data reporting it went well with good volunteer support from cities. They had received data from all sources and were now in data entry mode with clean-up and data analysis to follow. The cities of Beaverton and Hillsboro piloted a cell phone app to enter PIT data electronically instead of using paper and clipboards and sent data directly to CAO for entry into HMIS. The app worked well, and CAO is considering adopting the app for their activities next year. So far, the street count numbers looked like they might be slightly higher compared to last year.

Annette shared there was a discussion underway with Multnomah, Clackamas, and Washington (with CAO) Counties to conduct the 2021 PIT count regionally and share costs. The count would occur on the same night across all three counties and the data collected would be analyzed by an agency under contract (e.g. Portland State University) and compiled into a regional report on homelessness. If a biennial regional count was agreed to (HUD requires a street and shelter count every two years), the request from the other counties was Washington County not conduct its own street count in the intervening years.

Ellen inquired of the rationale behind that request. Additionally, she inquired whether Washington County's strategy yielded better data and if so, shouldn't the other counties adopt our model instead.

Cost was a big factor for counties not conducting a count every year. While Washington County enjoyed collaboration and participation from partner agencies and local municipalities, one agency was responsible for the PIT count in both of the other counties.

Marcia Hille felt the PIT Count was a severe undercount of the overall number of actual homeless in our area.

D. Report on \$3,651,027 Federal FY2019 McKinney-Vento CoC Program Grant Award – Annette Evans

HUD announced a partial award on January 14 which was only for Tier 1 Priority Projects but included two new projects: Re-Entry Housing Program and Sojourner's House, which received "Conditional Awards" requiring an additional Technical Submission prior to contracts being issued. Funding awards were still pending for a portion of the renewal Shelter Plus Care project request and the new Permanent Supportive Housing (PSH) Bonus Program. Annette received an email from the HUD Technical Advisor that Tier 2 announcements may be delayed as the Tier 1 awards did not include the most recent Fair Market Rent Increases (FMR). Annette also reported she had submitted the FY2020 CoC Program Grant registration to HUD.

E. Built for Zero Case Conference Procedure—Annette Evans

A draft of the Case Conferencing Procedures document and the By-Name List that was provided to solicited feedback. The Case Conferencing document will stay in “draft” form until the process had been functional for a few months. She also reviewed the required revisions to the Community Connect policy to reflect the associated changes in the system, to include the work of the Street Outreach Convening group, the current system description and identification of prioritized populations and associated secondary prioritization for permanent housing for both chronic and non-chronic homeless populations. She noted the By-Name List being developed for case conferencing would be dynamic in nature, initially targeting the chronic homeless population and would be completely aligned with Community Connect.

Katherine Galian provided a status of the Street Outreach Convening group which will inform the development of the By-Name List to case conference chronically homeless individuals to help them quickly access housing and client-centered services. To date they have met three times working to develop a coordinated outreach system that would allow adequate geographic coverage and response to reports of camps and/or requests for Community Connect assessments and to better understand the full scope of homelessness in our community. Currently they were developing a purpose statement for the group and identify the activities needed to be performed within the context of the coordinated entry system. There is representation in the group from street outreach, law enforcement and mental health. They are also working on a process to add individuals who were not already entered in HMIS to include them in the development of the By-Name List.

Marcia inquired whether agencies currently working with individuals on the By-Name List might be notified to coordinate and complement the work.

Blair Schaeffer-Bisht would like to see household size be included on the By-Name List and Hispanic ethnicity be highlighted.

There was discussion about the privacy and security of the individuals on the list. Rowie Taylor shared VAWA and VOCA required Releases of Information (ROI) for DV and SARC individuals specifically name an individual with whom information was to be shared. It could not be an organization or entity. Annette explained the By-Name List did not pull from the parallel HMIS system for domestic violence victims.

C. Report on *Project Reset*—Ellen Johnson

Project Reset is a program that allows persons with court ordered fees and fines to perform community service hours to pay off debt. Community Connect data for a one-year period reports \$1.4 million in court fees/fines as self-reported by homeless persons. This debt, if not paid, can cause barriers to housing. Ellen Johnson reported the Public Defender’s Office see themselves as the legal entity to assist client through the process and had taken the lead on the program. They have similar programs in Multnomah, Clackamas and Columbia counties, each having a different rubric by which they allow a person to reduce or forgive court-ordered debt. They expect to receive a proposal in March which they will share with the CoC Board for review, prior to submission to the Washington County District Attorney’s Office. It’s unclear what the process will look like. She asked for guidance from the board for the review of the proposal.

V. AGENCY ANNOUNCEMENTS AND OPEN DISCUSSION

- Katherine Galian shared feedback from the community forum she attended on February 10 for the proposed Here Together Coalition measure being put forward by Metro for the May ballot to provide \$250 - \$300 million for housing vouchers and mental health and addiction services across the Metro region.
- Brian Schimmel tendered his resignation from the CoC Board effective at the end of the meeting. He recommended Vernon Baker of Just Compassion to replace him to provide more

racial diversity and severe weather shelter network representation on the CoC Board. Annette recognized Brian for his tireless work and leadership on the CoC Board.

- Ellen Johnson announced Oregon Law Center was currently holding an Expungement Clinic and still had spaces available.
- Komi Kalevor announced Washington County's Public Housing Wait List is open February 10 – Feb 24. Housing units in the program are owned and operated by Washington County, and are not part of the Section 8 program. Applications are submitted online at portal.WCHousingAuthority.org. More information was available at www.co.washington.or.us/Housing/
- Komi also announced the Housing Authority's opening of Willow Creek on February 19.
- Sarala Ram announced the opening CODA Inc.'s Medication Assisted Program in Seaside. She also reminded the board of the many posted positions available on their website, <https://codainc.org/>.
- Lindsay Downen of Luke-Dorf, Inc. announced the transition of Safe Haven to Permanent Supportive Housing effective March 1, with public communication to follow next week.
- Marcia Hille of Sequoia announced they have figured out a way to fund supportive employment services for a broader network of people.
- Renee Brouse announced Good Neighbor Center's annual fundraiser on Friday, March 13 which will include food, music and storytelling.
- Hanna Gustafson of Cascade Aids Project announced their hiring of two new peers to focus on housing retention.
- Annette announced Measure 34-296, Washington County's Replacement Local Option Levy for Countywide Public Safety services will be on the May 19 ballot and includes funding for Sojourner's House and Family Justice Center.

VI. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting adjourned at 10:32 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.