

HOUSING and SUPPORTIVE SERVICES NETWORK(HSSN)

CoC Board

Friday, October 8, 2021 - 8:30 to 9:55 am

AGENDA

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/83051897634?pwd=NkpRb255NHUz2NSTnNtTjhxGQ4QT09>

Meeting ID: 830 5189 7634, Passcode: 551333, Mobile: +12532158782, 89587246956#, *252415#(Tacoma)

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

Co-Chair: Katherine Galian, Community Action Organization

I. Welcome and Announcements (8:30 a.m.)

A) Roll Call of the [CoC Board](#) and Board Member Announcements

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

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

A) **Board Action: Approve August 13 meeting minutes.**

B) **Board Action: Approve September 9 Special Meeting minutes.**

IV. Business Items (8:45 a.m.)

A) [FY2021 CoC Program Homeless Grant Application](#) Timeline – Annette Evans and Phyllis Bittinger

1. CoC Consolidated Application, Project Application and Project Priority Listing

- 10/6/2021 – New CoC Bonus Project Proposals scored by HSSN
- 10/8/2021 – CoC Board rank all project applications and approve submittal under 24 CFR 578.9(b)
- 10/12/2021 – Notice to all project applicants on accept/reject of applications
- 10/25/2021 – Post all CoC application documents for 14-day public comment
- 11/12/2021 – Submit to HUD

2. [CoC Application Rating and Ranking](#) for new and renewal project based on project performance and CoC priorities.

Board Action: Approve submittal of the FY2021 CoC Consolidated Application, Project Applications and Project Priority Listing following 14-day Public Comment Period.

B) Proposal to add Culturally Specific Provider Organization to CoC Board Membership – Blair Schaeffer-Bisht and Lydia Radke

1. Proposed CoC Board Demographics Survey – Vara Fellger

C) Report on Project Reset Initiative– Rick Peel and Vernon Baker

D) Discussion to provide bonus points for CoC projects in rural cities to address geographic equity and local access to homeless services. – Annette Evans

V. Open Discussion (9:50 a.m.)

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

Future Meeting Information:

- Friday, December 10, 2021, 8:30 a.m.
- Friday, February 11, 2022, 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

111 NE Lincoln Street, Suite 200-L, MS 63, Hillsboro, OR 97124-3072

(503) 846-4794 • fax (503) 846-4795 • TTY 711 or 1(800)735-1232 English or 1(800)735-3896 Spanish

www.co.washington.or.us/homeless



CoC BOARD MEETING MINUTES

Virtual Meeting via ZOOM

August 13, 2021, 8:30 a.m.

COC BOARD MEMBER PRESENT

- Baker, Vernon – Just Compassion EWC
- Brouse, Renee – Good Neighbor Center
- Calvin, Mellani – ASSIST Program
- Cardwell, Shawn – Forest Grove Foundation
- Downen, Lindsay – New Narrative
- Galian, Katherine – Community Action Org.
- Hille, Marcia – Sequoia Mental Health Services
- Kalevor, Komi – WC Housing Services
- Logan-Sanders, Andrea – Boys & Girls Aid
- Peel, Rick – Oregon Law Center
- Radke, Lydia – WC Parole and Probation
- Ramirez, Bernadette – Bridges to Change
- Rogers, Patrick – Community Action
- Schaeffer-Bisht, Blair – WorkSystems, Inc.
- Taylor, Rowie – Domestic Violence Resource Center
- Valencia, Mari – WC Office of Community Dev

COC BOARD MEMBER NOT PRESENT

- Evans, Annette – Washington County Housing
- LeSage, Amy – Cascade AIDS Project
- Pero, David – Homeless Education Network/
McKinney-Vento Homeless Student Liaison
- Smith, Gary – U.S. Dept of Veteran Affairs
- Teifel, Gordon – Families for Independent Living
& DEAR
- Cohen, Megan – City of Beaverton
- Gawf, Mandy – City of Hillsboro
- Wyatt, Kent – City of Tigard

OTHER ATTENDEES

- Alexander Sheridan, Allie – WC Housing Services
- Bittinger, Phyllis – WC Housing Services
- Devin, Alex – WC Housing Services
- Fellger, Vara – WC Housing Services
- Schwoeffermann, Ty – WC County Administrative Office

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

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

Katherine Galian called the meeting to order at 8:32 a.m.

I. INTRODUCTIONS

II. PUBLIC COMMENT

No public comment.

III. APPROVAL OF MEETING MINUTES

Action: Approve June 11, 2021 meeting minutes.

Motion: Renee Brouse

Second: Vernon Baker

Vote: Approved, unanimous.

IV. BUSINESS ITEMS

A. Report on *Project Reset* Initiative – Rick Peel and Vernon Baker

Rick Peel reported the Oregon Law Center (OLC) had responded to the eviction crisis with all resources applied to eviction defense. He hopes things will slow down by the Fall, allowing him time to resume work on *Project Reset*. He reported receiving a case from Just Compassion EWC that does seem to meet the project initiative and hopes it will evolve into a larger impact type of case. Vernon Baker added the Just Compassion case manager and street outreach coordinator continue to work closely to try to identify other individuals that might be appropriate for *Project Reset*.

B. Proposal to add Culturally Specific Provider Organization to CoC Board Membership – Blair Schaeffer-Bisht

Blair Schaeffer-Bisht shared her thoughts on ways the CoC Board could be intentional about a more diverse membership. As with the SHS Program specifically calling out culturally specific organizations in their RFPQ, she thought adding a “Culturally Specific Provider Organization” as a separate board position might be a step in the right direction as well as recruiting BIPOC

members for open board positions from organizations that promote BIPOC leadership such as Beaverton BOLD, Tigard GOLD and Unite Oregon.

Lydia Radke noted the goal for a more diverse board was taken into consideration when filling the two recent open positions. She would support continuing to improve the diversity of the board membership.

Katherine Galian added both Hillsboro and Washington County had BIPOC leadership programs as well and agreed would be good organizations to recruit from for future open board positions. She suggested a small workgroup be convened to develop a proposal to bring back at the next meeting for discussion and vote. Blair Schaeffer-Bisht and Lydia Radke agreed to be part of the workgroup.

C. Supportive Housing Services (SHS) Implementation Readiness Update – Alex Devin

Alex provided a [presentation](#) on the SHS Program's implementation readiness. He reviewed the program implementation timeline for August and September, noting case manager and system of care trainings, Community Connect refinement and Tri-County capacity building programs were all underway as well as housing navigation, housing case management services (HCMS) and retention service programs. The Community Connect refinement will include different assessments done at different phases of a participant's journey into and through housing. All HCMS case managers and frontline staff at shelter programs will have the ability to do assessments that will be dynamic and allow for easier referrals. The initial assessment to get in the "front door" was currently at 20 questions.

Up to 40 Housing Case Management Services (HCMS) case managers will provide outreach, assessment, housing navigation and retention services to 500 households experiencing prolonged homelessness. Each HCMS case manager's caseload will support up to 20 households. Currently 36 positions have been contracted out through 14 partner organizations with 3 more partner organizations in the discussion phase. Many partner organizations were in the process of filling open positions to staff up to the level required. He hoped, in addition to the position's educational requirements, agencies were also looking at lived experience within their hiring strategies. With an RLRA voucher available for each household working with a HCMS case manager, he acknowledged the biggest barrier was going to be finding housing units. The SHS Program will be working with Washington County's infrastructure for additional unit acquisition strategies to assist the provider network.

Two bridge shelters were open, operated by Good Neighbor Center at Aloha Inn and Greater Good Northwest at EconoLodge. Both programs were supported by HCMS case managers from Urban league and Bienestar. He reported also having a meeting August 12 with Centro Cultural who may operate a third bridge shelter program at Forest Grove Inn for homeless families and single adults beginning September 30.

He noted they will continue to build out the programs and services provided by the system of care over the next 2 - 3 years, working around the different levels of infrastructure present within organizations.

Based on community feedback, the county's emergency sheltering needs include winter shelter, year-round emergency shelter, inclement weather (fires and extreme heat), bridge sheltering and population specific shelter. The goal for the SHS Program's Shelter System was to ultimately provide 250 beds year-round but given the community feedback and substantial infrastructure growth that will be required for building a year-round shelter, the focus for this year was the development of a winter shelter to provide 150-beds. In addition to providing permanent 24-hour shelter centers, the program hopes that year-round emergency shelters would also provide an opportunity for co-located services (service hubs) so that the building would not only be providing shelter, but could be a resource access/drop-in location for

households to walk in and receive services. The SHS Program would fund operations for 4 – 5 locations (providing geographical distribution/equity) across the county and some capital improvements. Washington County would partner with cities and service providers. Shelter operators would be selected from the Qualified Service Provider list in partnership with the city or building owner. He reviewed a list of potential shelter locations to include Project Homeless Connect at Sunrise Church (winter, 40-beds), Just Compassion EWC (winter/possibly year-round, 20-beds), Beaverton Community Center (winter, 30-beds), The Salvation Army Hillsboro Thriftstore (winter, 40-beds) and The Salvation Army's Oak Street location in Hillsboro (inclement weather). They were hoping to find a shelter location in Western Washington County where a known gap exists. He solicited board members to reach out to him via email, alex_devin@co.washington.or.us with other possible shelter sites. He reviewed the three (3) 24-hour and overnight cooling centers that opened during the extreme heat August 12 through August 15, all of which were pet friendly.

The Emergency Housing Voucher and Housing Navigation Bootcamp was held July 19 – July 23 and office hours were now established for HCMS case managers. Alex reviewed the additional staff trainings scheduled for September available to all providers whether they were qualified provider agencies or not. He noted the Housing Case Manager Bootcamp was now a series of 2-hour virtual trainings scheduled for September 20 through October 1 via Zoom. Recommendations for additional trainings should be directed to Allie Alexander Sheridan at allie_alexandersheridan@co.washington.or.us. Anyone interested in attending trainings, should send Allie an email to be added to the training mailing list.

Marcia Hille shared her appreciation for the development of a shelter system and how invaluable the resource was in their work.

Katherine Galian agreed, adding the responsiveness of the program to set up 24-hour overnight cooling centers as quickly as they did and the pace at which new resources were being made available through the SHS Program has been very impressive. She congratulated the team for the astounding amount of work accomplished to date and was looking forward to the additional programs and services to come.

Rowie Taylor had heard Virginia Garcia Cornelius Wellness Center opened a cooling center as well.

D. FY2021 CoC Program Homeless Grant Application Timeline and Process – Phyllis Bittinger

In Annette's absence, Phyllis shared the grant application timeline she was presenting was based on the Notice of Funding Available (NOFA) being released. As there was still no word from HUD, the dates on the timeline will change, although the sequence of events will not. Following the release of the NOFA, the CoC will publish its RFP for new projects. Agencies would submit their application and request to present project proposals at a HSSN meeting, where scoring of new projects would also take place by eligible agencies/individuals. Project scoring results would then go to the CoC Board for rating and ranking of new and renewing projects that is currently scheduled at a special meeting on September 9; however, may be delayed due to a delay in HUD release of the NOFA.

Katherine Galian inquired whether there was any indication whether there will be any funding beyond the pro rata share or what the priorities from HUD might be for this year. There hasn't been any word from HUD other than that the NOFA release was imminent.

Katherine Galian inquired whether there were changes anticipated in the rating and ranking of projects?

No changes were expected in the rating and ranking process for this year.

E. Review Scoring Criteria in the CoC Program Application Rating and Ranking Policy Project Scoring Criteria to Create Greater Geographic Equity – Phyllis Bittinger

Phyllis presented the agenda item in Annette's absence. The purpose is to begin a discussion in advance of the FY2022 CoC Program grant application process next year as the HSSN and CoC Board will want to consider amendments to the project scoring criteria that could create greater geographic equity and local access to homeless services in rural cities outside the Metro Service District boundary. The SHS Program limits funding to homeless services delivered within the Metro Service District boundary that excludes local service delivery in smaller cities and unincorporated areas outside of the Metro boundary. Homeless service needs exist in Washington County in areas outside of the Metro boundary and increases in homelessness is report/documentated. Clackamas County's CoC Board approved additional points for CoC Programs to encourage agencies who commit to providing services outside the Metro boundary. So far, Multnomah County has not responded. HUD has defined the minimum planning requirements for a Continuum so that it coordinates and implements a system that meets the needs of the homeless population across the CoC geographic area. This includes the rural cities and surrounding areas where people at risk or experiencing homelessness reside with no local access to homeless services.

The CoC Board needs to consider whether projects serving people experiencing homelessness and living outside the Metro service boundary should receive bonus points in the scoring process to encourage the creation of homeless services in rural cities and surrounding areas, and what the weighting should be. If not, how can geographic equity be addressed? Phyllis shared a timeline for developing draft CoC Policy language to address geographic equity, noting any new scoring policy would be effective beginning with the FY2022 grant competition and will not affect the current rating and ranking of projects.

Blair Schaeffer-Bisht inquired as to the number of homeless residing outside of the Metro service boundary.

Katherine shared CAO did some mapping during the recent Point-In-Time homeless count and have data for where unsheltered individuals were identified that she could share.

Shawn Cardwell was in support of rewarding agencies providing services outside of the Metro service boundary if services were known to be underfunded in those outlying areas. He shared homelessness looks different in Gaston, Banks and Gales Creek than it does in town with homeless camps harder to identify and find. Forest Grove Foundation's outreach team currently uses a fully equipped van to reach homeless in those remote areas. One of their priorities is to locate a service center in Forest Grove to provide a western most point of contact for homeless.

Alex Devin clarified, for SHS Program purposes, the state of homelessness meant "living where you stood," so homeless could receive services if they were physically within the Metro boundary when they applied to receive services. His concern was whether there was enough money involved in the additional CoC resources to even make the exercise of developing a geographic equity policy worthwhile.

Katherine Galian agreed it has been many years since CoC resources were enough to build a new project. Katherine asked whether an RLRA voucher could be used to house someone in Buxton.

Lydia Radke shared she was in support of rewarding projects to specifically serve homeless who wanted to stay in areas outside of the Metro boundary, if it was learned the RLRA voucher was limited to housing within the Metro boundary.

Komi Kalevor confirmed the Metro funding was limited to housing and services within the Metro service boundary, so areas such as North Plains, Banks or Gaston were ineligible for Metro funds. The CoC funding is available to areas outside of the Metro boundary.

Marcia Hille shared, to further this discussion, it would be helpful to know more about the need for homeless services in the outlying areas.

Shawn Cardwell shared outlying areas were underserved and contributed to an undercount with regard to homeless data. As far as he was aware, his outreach team was the only program going out to the rural areas and felt the number of homeless was significantly less than in town and would not be in the hundreds.

Mellani Calvin wondered if there was any data for the number of homeless who were living in campgrounds in Washington County and whether they would even consider moving into town for permanent housing.

Katherine Galian shared another consideration in the discussion was whether there was an adequate supply of rental housing in the rural areas, and also, for the past several years, HUD priority categories had tended to lean toward permanent housing over emergency shelter. She further clarified that HUD had priorities to transition those housing models that had been identified as less successful to proven program models to end homelessness. If a program didn't have an existing transitional housing program to transition to a rapid rehousing program, they were less competitive for bonus funds.

Shawn Cardwell shared the effort involved in homeless outreach in rural areas is more time intensive and as a result more expensive because homeless are living in more isolated areas and are harder to find. Providing rewards for projects in the rural areas might provide incentive for organizations to apply who might work with other homeless populations, like Centro Cultural working with migrant campers.

Katherine Galian felt it was important the policies we put forward not only align with our local CoC priorities, but matched HUD's priorities as well. Any overlaying scoring criteria should not make our overall application less competitive as it would impact existing funding.

Lydia Radke offered to provide rural homeless data from the Washington County Sheriff's Office to further the discussion.

There was a general consensus that the board continue to explore and discuss a policy change to the CoC's rating and ranking of new projects to address geographic equity.

F. Special Meeting: September 9

Katherine reviewed the agenda items for the CoC Board's special meeting scheduled for September 9, noting it will probably only include the Community Connect policy item as the HUD NOFA had still not been released.

V. AGENCY ANNOUNCEMENTS AND OPEN DISCUSSION

- Rick Peel of OLC shared his contact information (rpeel@oregonlawcenter.org, or 503-676-5416 for anyone working with individuals who had received an eviction notice adding, their agency covers Washington, Yamhill, Tillamook, Clatsop and Columbia counties.
- Katherine Galian shared OLC was monitoring court dockets statewide for eviction cases filed for non-payment and was sending a letter that included a 1-800 number to connect to an attorney. In Washington County they were also working with Community Action Organization (CAO) and Unite Oregon to send out a second mailer in English and Spanish. CAO was also following up with people who had started, but not completed, a rent assistance application, to educate them on what to do to prevent the eviction from going forward once they had the

declaration, and wherever possible, to expedite the application for assistance and payment as well. CAO also had staff present at Eviction Court and were going door-to-door to notify those scheduled for a First Appearance to make sure they attended the court appearance. They encouraged people to go to the state's application portal or call CAO to apply for rent assistance and receive the declaration to take with them to court that provides the 60-day protection from being removed from their housing. She reported, approximately 60 households have had an eviction filed against them for non-payment. Of those, only three had not been able to be dismissed or diverted. She committed to providing some additional materials about the referral process developed by OLC following the meeting.

- Rowie Taylor announced October was Domestic Violence Awareness month. She will share more specifics and flyers as she learns of the various events scheduled to bring awareness to the issue.
- Pat Rogers shared having learned this morning from Eviction Court that attorneys for a property management company were arguing the validity of the proof letter. Rick Peel shared SB 278 makes it pretty clear that the level of proof of rent assistance application was very broad and had a hard time believing the challenge would be successful.

VI. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting adjourned at 9:57 a.m.

Minutes prepared by Vara Fellger, Washington County Housing Services

CoC BOARD SPECIAL MEETING
September 9, 2021, 1:00 p.m. (Virtual Meeting)

CoC BOARD MEMBER PRESENT

- Baker, Vernon – Just Compassion EWC
- Brouse, Renee – Good Neighbor Center
- Calvin, Mellani – ASSIST Program
- Cardwell, Shawn – Forest Grove Foundation
- Cohen, Megan – City of Beaverton
- Downen, Lindsay – New Narrative
- Evans, Annette – WC Housing Services
- Galian, Katherine – Community Action Organization
- Gawf, Mandy – City of Hillsboro
- Hille, Marcia – Sequoia Mental Health Services
- Kalevor, Komi – Housing Authority of WC
- LeSage, Amy – Cascade AIDS Project
- Logan-Sanders, Andrea – Boys & Girls Aid
- Peel, Rick – Oregon Law Center
- Pero, David – Homeless Education Network/
McKinney-Vento Homeless Student Liaison
- Radke, Lydia – WC Probation & Parole
- Ramirez, Bernadette – Bridges to Change
- Rogers, Patrick – Community Action Organization
- Schaeffer-Bisht, Blair – WorkSystems, Inc.
- Smith, Gary – U.S. Dept of Veteran Affairs
- Taylor, Rowie – Domestic Violence Resource Center
- Valencia-Aguilar, Mari – WC Office of Community Development

CoC BOARD MEMBERS NOT PRESENT

- Teifel, Gordon – Families for Independent Living & DEAR
- Wyatt, Kent – City of Tigard

OTHER ATTENDEES

- Alexander Sheridan, Allie – WC Housing Services
- Bittinger, Phyllis – WC Housing Services
- Case, Julie – WC Housing Services
- Coppiano, Zoi – Community Action Organization
- Deters, Melia – Community Action Organization
- Devin, Alex – WC Housing Services
- Fellger, Vara – WC Housing Services
- Gonzales, Miguel – Open Door Housing Works
- Johnson, Zoë -
- Larson, Jes – WC Housing Services
- Marshall, Kim – Project Homeless Connect
- Merkel, Cole – Here Together
- Mullins, Angela – WC Housing Services
- Saldana, Austin – WC Housing Services
- Schwoeffermann, Ty – WC Housing Services/OEICE
- Skriver, Heather – WC Housing Services
- Smith, Janeen – WC Housing Services/OEICE
- Williams, Stacy – 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 1:02 p.m.

I. INTRODUCTIONS

II. BUSINESS ITEM

Modernization of Community Connect – Jes Larson, Alex Devin, Ty Schwoeffermann, Zoi Coppiano, and Miguel Gonzalez

Ty recognized the departments within Washington County and Community Action Organization who were part of the Planning Committee for the *Community Connect* modernization. He also reviewed the community engagement strategies that were employed which included convening a Workgroup (comprised of *Community Connect* Oversight Committee members and other partner agencies), conducting surveys, holding focus groups and virtual whiteboard sessions (at Community Action where most current assessments were being done).

Alex reviewed Phases I through III of the phased-assessment process being proposed to replace the existing assessment in *Community Connect* and noted the CoC Board were provided copies of the amended *Community Connect* Policy and appendices detailing the various phases prior to the

meeting. He reported the approval being sought from this meeting was just for the first three phases of the assessment process. The fourth phase, Housing Needs Review, was still in development and would be presented for approval at a later meeting.

Phase I Assessment, the Front Door includes 20 questions to screen for eligibility for a housing resource and flag the individual for specific items (veteran status, actively flee domestic violence, already connected to a provider or housing resource). It also includes demographic questions to identify the composition of the population being served to adjust future programming. The Phase I Assessment implements a prioritization method for program eligibility to identify those that are the most vulnerable within target populations by assigning priority levels to identified groups: 1) Chronic homeless/imminent risk of experiencing long term homelessness, 2) Literally homeless, and 3) Imminently at risk of homelessness and applying an ordering criteria (e.g. length of time homeless, program transfer and disability status).

Phase II Assessment, the Housing Placement Assessment identifies barriers that might preclude an individual from finding a unit, which might also flag an individual for future services (e.g. legal services) potentially available through the SHS Program, or identify whether they might be better served in a project-based unit. Availability of project-based units are limited so the assessment will ensure only the highest-need households are referred to those units.

Phase III Assessment, Housing Stabilization Plan, is a very comprehensive assessment that is completed after a lease is signed that focuses on the wrap-around services an individual might need for long-term stabilization, screening for medical needs, behavioral health, mental health, physical health, social supports, employment history and educational history.

Mellani Calvin inquired as to who would be doing the assessments throughout the various phases.

Alex reported the Phase I Assessments would be completed by any “Front Door” which could be a Shelter Case Manager, an Outreach Worker, staff at the ASSIST Program who may be coming into contact with someone for the first time and in a housing crisis. The SHS Program’s goal is to train all agency staff who interact with someone walking in and asking for assistance. Upon completing the assessment, the Referral and Eligibility Tool within HMIS will provide housing options for the client to select from with a referral made to the housing program selected. The Phase II assessment is completed by the housing program upon enrollment into their program.

Marcia Hille inquired of the plans for training on the new assessments.

Alex shared training for current assessors was scheduled for September 30. Invitations will be sent via the training curriculum managed by Allie Alexander-Sheridan. Training for Phase 1 assessments which is open to everyone is scheduled for October 9 and will be repeated bi-weekly as needed. Training for the remaining phased assessments would follow using a similar schedule.

Marcia Hille inquired as to how the different definitions for homelessness (HUD vs. SHS Program) were incorporated in the proposed phased assessments.

Heather Skriver clarified the Phase I assessment questions will meet both HUD and SHS Program “homeless” definitions, gathering all of the required data elements needed for the eligibility tool to identify which program the individual would fit into, whether it was a HUD or an SHS Program.

Blair Schaeffer-Bicht inquired whether there was flexibility built into the timelines of the new assessments that might allow for meeting other needs before housing, if requested by an individual.

Alex shared, the intent of the phased assessments was to ensure automated referrals based on answers to questions and should not eliminate a request for referral at any point in the process.

Blair Schaeffer-Bicht inquired whether an equity lens was applied to the development of the assessments with a priority to serve people of color.

Alex reported in developing the phased assessments, the SHS Program specifically chose to use an “eligibility” focus, rather than an “acuity” focus for that very reason, but will be watching enrollment data as the program was underway to make sure they were on track. Heather Skriver's team will be building out a dashboard and generate reports that will provide a clear view of the system and how it was performing to identify areas for improvement whether it be in assessments, training, or racial bias.

Ty Schwoeffermann added there was three elements included in the phased assessments that he saw as an improvement on equity: 1) data collection, 2) framing questions to reflect race, ethnicity and language and, 3) specifically within the Phase III Assessment, the inclusion of a question referring to culturally specific services. All questions and comments with regard to equity during the development of the assessments were researched and incorporated where appropriate.

Marcia Hille inquired how the priority populations (A and B) were incorporated in the prioritization schema within the Phase I Assessment.

Heather Skriver clarified the 75%/25% split applied to funding and not number of individuals but that data elements gathered in the Phase I assessment will properly apply the priority population requirements of the SHS Program.

Mandy Gawf inquired whether there could be a list published of all providers trained and ready to do Phase I assessments that was updated regularly.

Alex agreed, such a list would be useful and will give some thought to what it should look like.

Miguel Gonzales of Open Door HousingWorks and Zoi Coppiano of Community Action Organization, both of whom were involved in the Workgroup, were provided an opportunity to share their thoughts on the phased assessments being proposed.

Jes Larson added the assessments within *Community Connect* needed to be updated to incorporate the many new housing programs and services that will now be available through the support of Washington County voters and the Metro SHS Program. She expressed her appreciation for the complex work that was required over the summer to bring this modernized system to completion. She also hoped there was a recognition for the skill and expertise that was brought on-board to help guide the system forward into this next phase of programmatic implementation. She believed the modernized *Community Connect* embodies the person centered, trauma informed, culturally specific, values-based work that homeless programs have been hoping for, but also acknowledged that evaluation and system improvement was an ongoing process and expected to be back before this Board many times over the course of the program.

After discussion, a vote was taken seeking approval for the phased assessments and their incorporation into the *Community Connect* policy document.

Action: Approve the amended Community Connect policy.

Motion: Renee Brouse

Second: Komi Kalevor

Vote: Approved, unanimous.

Annette Evans shared additional questions/comments regarding the documents provided on the Modernized *Community Connect* can be directed to Alex Devin, alex_devin@co.washington.or.us. The *Community Connect* policy document will be revised over the next few weeks to incorporate the phased assessment process.

III. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting adjourned at 2:04 p.m.

Notes prepared by Vara Fellger, Washington County Housing Services