



**HOUSING and SUPPORTIVE SERVICE NETWORK**

*Providing a Continuum of Care for Vulnerable Populations in Washington County*

**Wednesday, September 2, 2015 ~ 8:30 to 10:00 a.m.**

>>> The Beaverton Building at "The Beaverton Round" <<<  
Third Floor Training Room  
12725 SW Millikan Way, Beaverton, OR 97005-1641

**AGENDA**

- I. INTRODUCTIONS: 8:30 a.m.**
- II. GUEST SPEAKER: 8:35 a.m.**  
Ms. Katherine Galian and Mr. Pat Rogers, Community Action
  - Review of Community Connect, Washington County’s Centralized Assessment System
 Ms. Marilyn Miller, Oregon Housing and Community Services
  - Oregon’s Focus On Ending Homelessness and Alignment of Funding
- III. APPROVAL OF MEETING MINUTES: 9:15 a.m.** ..... Action Item
- IV. REPORTS AND PROGRAM UPDATES: 9:20 a.m.**
  - Subcommittee Reports
    - Children
    - Youth
    - Homelessness
    - Permanent Housing
    - Income Support/Workforce Development Workgroup
    - DD Dialogue
    - Mental Health and Special Needs Community Consortium Steering Committee
    - Veterans
    - Washington County Reentry Council
    - Seniors
    - “Community Connect” Oversight Committee
  - Strategic Planning and Discharge Workgroup [the CoC Board]
  - Homeless Plan Advisory Committee (HPAC)
  - Homeless Management Information System (HMIS) – New HUD System Performance Standards effective 10/1/2015.
- V. GENERAL BUSINESS: 9:40 a.m.**
  - Emergency Food and Shelter Program (EFSP) Funding Allocation ..... Action
  - Update: FY2015 McKinney-Vento CoC Program Competitive Grant Application
- VI. ANNOUNCEMENTS: 9:45 a.m.**
- VII. ADJOURNMENT: 10:00 a.m.**

Next Meeting: Wednesday, October 7, 2015

Guest Speaker: Ms. Melanie Calvin, Assertive SSI Service Team (ASSIST)

**Department of Housing Services**

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*Equal Housing Opportunity*

# HOUSING AND SUPPORTIVE SERVICES NETWORK

## Maintaining a Continuum of Care in Washington County

Beaverton Building  
August 5, 2015 at 8:30 a.m.

**Goal: Housing and supportive service agencies working to bring a broad spectrum of organizations together as partners in the community to secure funding and other resources needed in providing a continuum of care for individuals and families who are homeless or with special needs.**

### ATTENDEES:

Anderson, Trell—Catholic Charities  
Blaker, Ann—Bienestar  
Browning, Rose—Good Neighbor Center  
Bundy, Valerie—Domestic Violence Resource Center  
Burton, Valerie—Luke-Dorf, Inc.  
Canning, Tina—Youth Contact  
Canne', Taylor—Luke-Dorf, Inc.  
Cassell, Stephen—CODA, Inc.  
Cockeram, Tami—City of Hillsboro  
Duncan-Perez, Martha—Washington Cty Reentry Council  
Evans, Annette—Washington County Housing Services  
Fletcher, Melanie—Washington County Housing Services  
Galian, Katherine—Community Action Organization  
Gordon, Wendy—Washington County HHS  
Herron, Carol—St. Anthony's Church, SW Shelter  
Heinlein, Becca—Washington County HHS  
Layton, Amber—HomePlate  
Linder, April—Housing Independence  
Lopez, Reyna—Our Oregon  
Mott, Holly—Housing Independence  
Morris, Daniel—Our Oregon  
Moseley, Renee—Bridge Meadows  
McVey, Jaycanna—Boys and Girls Aid  
Nelson, Barbara—Community Volunteer/Veteran Advocate  
Perkowski, Kaja—Open Door Counseling Center  
Pero, David—McKinney-Vento Liaison/Homeless Ed. Ntwk  
Potter, Yvette—Washington County DAVS  
Ram, Sarala—CODA, Inc.  
Richards, Tanya—Domestic Violence Resource Center  
Rodriguez, Adriana—Virginia Garcia Mem. Health Center  
Rogers, Patrick—Community Action Organization  
Rumanek, Skyler—Luke-Dorf, Inc.  
Sage, Christopher—Salvation Army Veteran Fam. Center  
Salvon, Jeff—City of Beaverton  
Schubert, Derenda—Bridge Meadows  
Schwab, Jack—Good Neighbor Center  
Seaton, Bill—Oregon Military Support Network  
Sechrist, Lauren—Wash. Co. Community Development  
Seward, Michelle—Lifeworks Northwest  
Skryha, Vicki—US Department of HUD  
Soneoulay-Gillespie, Toc—Catholic Charities  
Stoller, Rick—Salvation Army - Harbor Light  
Takayama, Sage—Salvation Army Veteran Fam. Center  
Teifel, Gordon—Families for Living Independence & DEAR  
Thomas, Josh—Wash. Co. HHS Residential Specialist MH  
Trunnell, Alan—City of Beaverton  
Valfre, Val—Housing Authority of Washington County  
Weaver, Evan—Oregon Food Bank  
Webber, Julie—DAVS, Washington County  
Weller, Sarah—Write Around Portland

Chair: Annette Evans, Public Agency Representative [annette\\_evans@co.washington.or.us](mailto:annette_evans@co.washington.or.us)

Co-Chair: Katherine Galian, Nonprofit Agency Representative [kgalian@caowash.org](mailto:kgalian@caowash.org)

## I. INTRODUCTIONS

## II. GUEST SPEAKER

### Beaverton Bridge Meadows Housing Project

Dr. Derenda Schubert, Ph.D., Executive Director of Bridge Meadows and Ms. Renee Moseley, LCSW, Associate Director

Dr. Schubert told the group about Bridge Meadows, explaining that it is a community designed to help children become adopted from foster care. The community provides supports to families while providing meaning and purpose to elders acting as mentors and surrogate grandparents to the families. Bridge Meadows opened in April, 2001, and in that time, there has been significant positive impact to the lives of people living there. Children

are matched with families by the Department of Human Services (DHS), and live with the families at Bridge Meadows with the expectation that the children will be adopted by the families. 80% of the children placed at Bridge Meadows have been adopted, with more in progress.

The community was created with public and private dollars, and the same model will be used in Beaverton. They have two acres across the street from Beaverton Christian Church, near Allen and Menlo Park, and plan to build 37 units. 9 units will be for families and 28 will be for the elders. Some of the elder homes and one of the family homes will be market rate. Dr. Schubert invited everyone to visit Bridge Meadows in North Portland any Wednesday at 4:30pm for Happiness Hour, when all three generations of the community gather and hang out together.

Renee Moseley told the group about the elders, explaining that they come to the community from all over the country wanting to be a part of an intergenerational "intentional community." They are required to volunteer 100 hours of time to the community quarterly per their lease agreements. They have a "circles" where all the elders come together, or all the parents, or all the kids. In the circles, they share their challenges and differences, and support each other. The principles guiding the community were created by Dr. Brenda Eheart from the University of Illinois. Bridge Meadows collaborates with the first such community, Hope Meadows, in Rantoul, Illinois, and consistently works to adapt that program to Bridge Meadows' needs.

Families most often in need of these supports are relatives adopting children. The leases require them to adopt at least three children in five years. This can be flexible per the needs of the family, but as three-sibling units are often broken apart, the standards are needed. Elders must fill out a 21-page application stating they are willing to uphold the needs of the community in terms of confidentiality, special needs and unique situations.

### **A Better Oregon to Family Promise**

Dr. Daniel Morris, MS, Ph.D., Research Director for Our Oregon

Dr. Morris explained that Our Oregon advocates for social and economic fairness for all Oregonians through ballot measure campaigns, outreach, and voter registration. The A Better Oregon campaign is parents, teachers, community members, and business people working together to make significant investments in service and education throughout the state. Work is being done to put a measure on the 2016 ballot proposing to raise minimum taxes on corporations that make over 25 million in sales in the state; just the "C" corporations. A minor change to our tax law would bring in millions of dollars while still keeping business taxes very low. Our Oregon believes that making this change will not result in the costs being passed along to Oregon Consumers. The plan is for the money to go into the general fund with direction as to how it is allocated. Our Oregon is interested in investing in childhood education and secondary education, while recognizing the need for technical and skilled training.

### **III. APPROVAL OF MEETING MINUTES**

Motion: Approve the June 3, 2015 HSSN meeting minutes.  
Action: Katherine Galian  
Second: Martha Duncan-Perez  
Vote: Approved, unanimous.

#### IV. GENERAL BUSINESS

##### CoC Review of Veterans Affairs (VA) request on exemption from 65% targeting requirement for chronically homeless Veterans for HUD-VASH (Veterans Affairs Supportive Housing program)

Melanie Fletcher explained that in early July, the Housing Authority received an email from the HUD field office indicating that the VA, in its efforts to end veteran homelessness by 2015, has agreed with HUD to exempt certain communities from a targeting criteria of 65% of the VASH vouchers being used for chronically homeless veterans. Since 2008, VASH vouchers have been awarded to communities based on geographic need data gathered during annual Point In Time (PIT) counts, data from the VA Medical Center (VAMC), and the performance of the Public Housing Agency (PHA) in the area in question. The VA and HUD then review the data and distribute vouchers accordingly.

In Washington County, there are 87 VASH vouchers available, with usually around 60 actually leased up. The VASH program does not operate from a waiting list, but from an "interest list" at the VA, and prioritized by need, including the 65% chronic targeting criteria. Melanie spoke with the VA lead for our area, and he indicated that he is seeing fewer chronically homeless veterans reaching out to them than in the past. He felt that exemption from the 65% chronic criteria would significantly enhance the VA's ability to get veterans in great need of housing leased up in the VASH program.

The criteria to request exemption is a collaborative effort. The VAMC, CoC, and the PHA have to agree that the exemption is a good idea and that there aren't enough chronically homeless veterans to meet the 65% criteria. As part of the request for exemption, the VAMC, the CoC, and the PHA have to certify that they will prioritize homeless veterans per the requirements for the exemption, which are similar to the definitions for chronic homelessness, but are a bit more flexible than the traditional definitions. The request must outline the methods used to determine the number of homeless veterans in the community and whether referrals are being made to the VA. Also needed is an estimate of how many new homeless vets will enter the community in the next six months and how they will be worked into the plan to end veteran homelessness.

If the exemption is granted, the VA HUD-VASH office will monitor the exempt area monthly to ensure that vulnerable veterans are still being served. If it is determined that they are not being served, the exemption can be revoked. Melanie said that the VASH team would like to apply for exemption, and would appreciate letters of support from the CoC and PHA to facilitate approval of the exemption. The turn-around time from request submittal is very short, as the VA is committed to moving forward with housing these veterans.

Christopher Sage noted that currently the VA is not processing the VASH applications submitted, citing staffing and other issues. Melanie responded that as the VA has added more staffing, more applications have been processed, and she stressed the hope that expediting the application for exemption might help streamline the process. Val Valfre added that the county has identified parking for VA staff if they are willing to come out to the Washington County CBOC (Community Based Outpatient Clinic) to work with veterans. Annette Evans asked about the VA's outreach plan for this area. Melanie replied that the VA relies on referrals to the Community Resource and Referral Center in Portland, and is working on staffing at the CBOC in Hillsboro. Valerie Burton shared that for a recent veteran client, it took around 6 months to get a VASH voucher.

Motion: Approve letter from HSSN supporting exemption of HUD-VASH 65% requirement.  
Action: Gordon Teifel  
Second: Pat Rogers  
Vote: Approved, unanimous.

Adopt the OR-506 CoC Planning Calendar for 8/2015 to 7/2016

Annette Evans provided a draft calendar showing key dates for the coming year, with some TBD dates which will be updated as they are known. She asked for ideas for guest speakers so she can follow-up and add them to the calendar.

Motion: Approve the OR-506 CoC Planning Calendar for 8/2015 to 7/2016  
Action: Gordon Teifel  
Second: Katherine Galian  
Vote: Approved, unanimous.

Adopt the Year 8 Work Plan Implementing the Goals and Strategies of A Road Home: 10-Year Plan to End Homelessness

Annette Evans asked if there were edits, comments or questions regarding the plan that was sent to members. There were not.

Motion: Adopt the Year 8 Work Plan Implementing the Goals and Strategies of A Road Home: 10-Year Plan to End Homelessness  
Action: Jack Schwab  
Second: Gordon Teifel  
Vote: Approved, unanimous.

Update: HSSN Workgroup Initiatives (the CoC Board)

Annette Evans reported the Workgroup is continuing to address the challenges of those coming through Community Connect. 49% have criminal history, and of that, 21% have debt through the courts, probation and parole, totaling about \$250,000. This is a significant burden. If an individual is housed and the courts find out they are now employed, their wages get garnished, often causing an inability to retain housing. In an effort to alleviate this burden, the Workgroup tried to facilitate a meeting with the presiding judge to discuss a standardized conversion rate for community service, but has not yet been successful. The workgroup and the HPAC (Homeless Plan Advisory Committee) have agreed to continue to push this initiative forward. The Workgroup is also working with Oregon Law Center to provide legal clinics in Washington County. Annette will share more information once the clinics are scheduled.

Annette said the HPAC has been working on developing affordable housing at or below 50% area median income in Washington County. There have been initiatives at the state level and many groups working toward this goal. The Affordable Housing Workgroup and Washington County Thrives have been keeping the HPAC apprised of their efforts. In looking at how to increase economic support, the HPAC viewed a presentation from Jill Cuyler-Cook, an economist for Oregon Department of Employment. Jill's report forecasts an increase of 130,000 new jobs in Washington and Multnomah Counties between 2012 and 2022. Her research indicates 41% of the new jobs will pay less than the necessary wages to rent a one-bedroom apartment. Jill will be presenting her data to the HSSN and to the Board of County Commissioners.

Annette shared the CoC uses Community Connect data to perform strategic planning and a gaps analysis, looking specifically at information regarding veterans, chronic homeless,

and the increase in elderly people entering the homeless system. Community Action will provide a presentation on the data outcomes at the September 2 HSSN meeting.

Update: FY2015 McKinney-Vento CoC Program Competitive grant application process requesting \$2.7 million in renewal funds

Annette Evans reported the CoC is seeking \$2.7 million in renewal funds, and she doesn't know if there will be new funds available. If there are, it will be announced via the HSSN listserv and new projects will be presented at a HSSN meeting, with members voting on which new projects to approve.

## **V. ANNOUNCEMENTS**

- Yvette Potter announced Washington County Disability, Aging and Veterans Services will be moving their offices from downtown Hillsboro to Elam Young Parkway next to DHS. Also, the Washington County Veterans Services is looking for members for their Veterans Sub-Committee. If you are interested, let Yvette know, and she will provide further information.
- Tanya Richards, the newly appointed project director for the Washington County Family Justice Center, announced they are looking for a 25,000 square foot space for the facility which would house all the agencies serving domestic violence. They would like a property centrally located in Beaverton or Aloha, so please let her know of potential properties.
- Trell Anderson announced Catholic Charities of Oregon is coming to Washington County in a small office in Forest Grove next to St. Anthony's Church. They will have limited hours, but will be offering several services. Catholic Charities has a presence in the Family Justice Centers in other areas, and is interested in having a presence in the Washington County Family Justice Center. Catholic Charities has also reached an agreement with Holy Trinity Church in Beaverton to use a property owned by the church to house refugees.
- Carol Herron announced Just Compassion has received their federal exempt status and is now looking for a location for their day center in Tigard.
- Lauren Sechrist announced the Office of Community Development will be conducting Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) workshops on Tuesday, August 18, 2015, with Public Services at 9am and Infrastructure Improvements - Public Facilities at 2:00pm. Applications are due before 5pm on Friday, October 2, 2015.
- Martha Duncan-Perez announced Washington County Reentry Council has created the Washington County Trans-Housing Coalition, and is continuing to work to identify and house those hardest to house.
- Sarah Weller announced Write Around Portland will be holding ten writing workshops with community partners in Washington County, and is planning fall workshops. If you or your agency are interested, please let her know.
- Amber Layton announced she is back doing outreach for HomePlate, and September 20, 2015, is the FarmPlate Dinner and Auction; tickets are available.
- Wendy Gordon announced that Washington County Health and Human Services (HHS) is working to help more low-income people and those without health insurance obtain health care. HHS has closed their limited service health clinics in Hillsboro and Beaverton and is partnering with local safety net clinics to provide primary and preventive care. She requested assistance getting the word out with fliers, posters and rack cards in English and Spanish that she brought and disseminated.
- Val Valfre announced there is a request for a project-based voucher proposal for 20 units for Veteran's housing currently in the works.

- Annette Evans shared Vera Stoullil's announcement that the Oregon Alliance of Children's Programs engaged the ways and means committee to request additional dollars for runaway homeless services. The request resulted in 1.6 million for the biennium, which almost doubles the current level of investment.
- Annette directed folks to Wendy's information and to information regarding the public services levy and the Community Connect informational cards.

## **VI. ADJOURNMENT**

The meeting adjourned at 10:00 a.m. The next meeting is September 2, 2015 at 8:30 a.m.

Minutes prepared by Veronica Clevidence  
Washington County Department of Housing Services

To be added to the HSSN email list, contact Annette Evans at  
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