



HOUSING and SUPPORTIVE SERVICE NETWORK

Providing a Continuum of Care for Vulnerable Populations in Washington County

Wednesday, March 1, 2023 - 8:30 to 10:00 a.m.

Join Zoom Meeting: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/89697002260?pwd=UGNabUQ5M0s5d2pzaWxpN01ac2Zzdz09>

Meeting ID: 896 9700 2260; Passcode: 300417 | To Join by Telephone: +1 253 215 8782 US (Tacoma)

AGENDA

- I. **INTRODUCTIONS: 8:30 a.m.**
- II. **GUEST SPEAKER(S)/TRAINING: 8:35 a.m.**
Courtney Yan, Washington County Emergency Management, “Sheltering in an Emergency”

Rosemary “Rowie” Taylor, DVRC, “Safety Planning”
- III. **MEETING MINUTES: 9:15 a.m.**
 - **Action:** Approve the February 1, 2023 meeting minutes.
- IV. **GENERAL BUSINESS: 9:20 a.m.**
 - Washington County Program Update
 - Partner Agency Program Spotlight
 - Dara Michelini, Boys & Girls Aid, “Infant Adoption Program”
 - Gov. Kotek’s Housing & Homelessness State of Emergency – TBD
- V. **ANNOUNCEMENTS: 9:55 a.m.**
- VI. **ADJOURNMENT: 10:00 a.m.**

Next Meeting: Wednesday, April 5, 2023

The HSSN is open to the public and all are invited to join – see [HSSN](#) website for additional information and past meeting agenda, minutes and handouts. Comments regarding the agenda can be directed to CoCinfo@washingtoncountyor.gov



HOUSING AND SUPPORTIVE SERVICES NETWORK
Providing a Continuum of Care (CoC) in Washington County
February 1, 2023, 8:30 a.m. (Virtual Meeting)

Mission: Housing and service provider agencies working to bring a broad spectrum of organizations together as partners in the community to perform strategic planning, gaps analysis, prioritize resources needed to provide a continuum of care for individuals and families who are at-risk of or experiencing homeless.

ATTENDEES:

Adams, Jessi – WC Housing	Ludlam, Mandie – Community Housing Fund
Angeles, Nic – Housing Independence	Marshall-Gordon, Kim – Project Homeless Connect
Baker, Marlee – Fair Housing Council of Oregon	McVey, Drew – Citizen At-Large (Formerly Homeless)
Baker, Vernon – Just Compassion EWC	Melton, Holly – Community Action Organization
Banek, Mario – Open Door Housing Works	Mohammad, Nadia – City of Beaverton
Bell, Melinda – Project Homeless Connect	Nice, Shayla, Community Advocate
Benavides, Lucia – Adelante Mujeres	Nitta, Ilima – 211 Info
Camp, Kaylie – DHS Oregon	O’Neil-Tutor, Marianne – Mental Health & Addiction Assn. of Oregon
Cardwell, Shawn – Forest Grove Foundation	Palestino, Sara – Beaverton SD/HEN
Coppiano, Zoi – Community Action Organization	Pero, David – Forest Grove SD/HEN
Donner, Crystal – Community Action Organization	Polanco, Wendy – Community Action Organization
Ezell, Kim – City of Tigard	Polinchuk, Katey – New Narrative
Feldes, Deena – Transcending Hope	Potter, Yvette – WC Disability Aging and Veterans Services
Fellger, Vara – WC Housing Services	Rose, Dixie – Providence St. Vincent Hospital
Fleming, Hannah – Community Action Organization	Schwoefermann, Ty – WC Housing Services
Flores, Leticia – Beaverton SD/HEN	Skriver, Heather – WC Housing Services
Francia, Belinda – Open Door Housing Works	Smith, Gareth “Gary” – Dept of Veteran Affairs
Gallian, Katherine – WC Housing Services	Stanwood-Gorvine, Alyssa – Beaverton SD/HEN
Gawf, Mandy – City of Hillsboro	Stoller, Rick – Ecumenical Ministries of Oregon
Gibb, Courtney – McKinney-Vento Liaison	Tabib, Mohamed – Open Door Housing Works
Greene, Jacen – PSU-HCAC	Taylor, Rowie – DVRC
Greenough, Carol – Family Promise of Tualatin Valley	Teifel, Gordon – Families for Ind. Living & DEAR
Guillen, Estela – Community Action Organization	Thomas, Lauren – Office of Community Development
Guzman Andrade, Eduardo – Community Action Organization	Trinkle, Jamie – Oregon Law Center
Heath, Kelsey – Metropolitan Public Defender	Troper, Michael – City of Beaverton
James, Karen – WC Behavioral Health Council	Valdovinos, Kelvin – WC Office of Community Development
Keller, Mel – Fair Housing Council of Oregon	Voss-Flowers, Charlie – CPAH
King, Frances – Ecumenical Ministries of Oregon	Williams, Carrie – Community Action Organization
King, Kandace – Here Together	Williamson, Drew – Boys & Girls Aid
Kozla, Bryce – Washington County Cooperative Library Services	
Lloyd, Rhonda – The Salvation Army	

Chair: Katherine Galian, CoC Program Manager
Co-Chair: Charlie Voss-Flowers, CPAH

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

I. INTRODUCTIONS

HSSN members were asked to introduce themselves by entering their name and agency in the chat.

II. GUEST SPEAKER(S)/TRAINING:

Mel Keller and Marlee Baker, [Fair Housing Council of Oregon](#), “Updates on Fair Housing, Sexual Orientation and Gender Identity.”

Mel Keller explained the Fair Rights Housing Council of Oregon is a civil rights organization with a goal to proactively promote housing justice, equity, and inclusion through education and enforcement of Fair Housing law. The organization has a discrimination team that advocates and assists tenants experiencing discrimination. Fair Housing laws are civil rights laws that promote equal access to housing making it illegal for housing providers to discriminate against certain groups and is different than landlord-tenant law. Discrimination is defined as treating a person differently in any housing transaction because they are a member of a federal protected class such as race, color, national origin, religion, sex, familial status, or disability. The State of Oregon also has protected classes such as marital status, source of income, sexual orientation, gender identity, and local protected classes. All of the above protected classes apply to every part of the housing process and must abide by the discrimination policies as it relates to dwellings that are inhabited over a long period of time from homes to retirement living facilities to non-profit housing and shelter. However the definition of a dwelling is decided on a case by case basis dependent upon the situation. Housing providers need to be consistent in how they apply policies, rules, and procedures in all stages of the housing process.

Marlee shared the history of Fair Housing laws in Oregon which began in 1957 and did not include protections for LGBTQIA+. The Oregon Equality Act was passed in 2008 which banned discrimination in employment, housing, and public accommodations based on sexual orientation or gender identity. In 2021 the Biden Administration issued a directive calling for HUD to interpret the Fair Housing Act to bar discrimination on the basis of sexual orientation and gender identity bringing it in alignment with Title VII of the Civil Rights Act. HUD investigates all complaints of sex discrimination including gender identity or sexual orientation to enforce the Fair Housing Act. State and local jurisdictions who are funded by HUD’s Fair Housing Assistant Program (FHAP) will be required to administer laws to prohibit discrimination because of gender identity and sexual orientation. This is also true for any organization that receive grants through the Department’s Fair Housing Initiative Program (FHIP). Under the FHA and HUD’s Equal Access Rule landlords are prohibited from discriminating against LGBTQ persons perceived or actual sexual orientation or deny housing based on actual or perceived HIV/AIDS status. Also, HUD funded homeless providers must place clients in a shelter or facility that corresponds to the gender with which they identify and ensure policies do not isolate or segregate clients based on their gender identity. Red flags were discussed highlighting instances considered to be discriminatory. HUD also provides examples of discrimination.

Housing Provider & Shelter Guidance

- Use the gender and pronouns the applicant prefers. Intake staff should ask about their preferred pronouns
- Do not assume gender based on appearance or ask about any transgender treatment they may have received
- Shelters are not permitted to segregate residents by gender or exclude a qualified applicant from housing because of gender under the Fair Housing law. There are exceptions as outlined by HUD
- A shelter that is not a dormitory cannot only house women or only women and children but must allow male parents and male children
- Shelter staff should respect all residents’ right to privacy and accommodate bathing and dressing areas to ensure privacy
- Faith based organizations are permitted to reserve shelter and housing for members of the same religion or give preference to their members. They can also discriminate on the basis of gender identity and sexual orientation. These allowances are not allowed if they receive federal funding in any manner

HUD adopted a ruling on harassment in 2016 that provides guidance to housing providers on what to do when they are alerted of harassment occurring. Harassment is a Fair Housing issue if the harassment involves verbal abuse regarding someone in a protected class or the threat of violence. In those cases, the landlord should take prompt corrective action, maintain documentation, and follow up with the victim. Failure to do so is a violation of FHA. Prevention starts with no tolerance policies that is reviewed with all tenants. When either discrimination or harassment occurs, the Fair Housing Council of Oregon is the first point of contact. They receive about 2,000 contacts a year and resolve about 70% of those cases through advocacy.

How do neighbors get involved in complying with Fair Housing?

Neighbors fall under Fair Housing when they share the same landlord. It is the landlord's responsibility to settle any issues between tenants they oversee. If they do not share the same landlord it may not be a Fair Housing issue but a case of discrimination.

For more information or additional questions, contact [Mel Keller](#) or [Marlee Baker](#). A copy of their presentation can be found on the [HSSN February 1, 2023 meeting webpage](#). Additional information provided during the meeting included a [link](#) to their evaluation and the [Good Neighbor Guide](#).

Nadia Mohammad & Michael Troper, [Center for Mediation and Dialogue](#), "Housing Mediation"

Nadia explained the Center for Mediation and Dialogue is one of five agencies chosen to implement a one year statewide demonstration project called Housing Mediation that will serve residents of Washington County regardless of status or income. The goal is to reduce evictions, creating a benefit to the community in a positive way through mediation. Some of the services offered through this program are to prevent eviction and range from rent repayment to repairs and maintenance to negotiating move-out terms. This program also provides conflict resolution between tenants as well as between landlords and tenants.

Michael explained the mediation process begins when they receive a referral which typically comes from a government organization, landlords, or a non-profit who is working with a tenant. When an eviction is filed, the court sends eviction paperwork to the tenant. Most often tenants contact their organization right before their first court appearance, making a successful mediation more difficult. Early contact with their office provides more flexibility and resolution to resolving issues and prevention of eviction. Once a court case is filed, it is much more difficult to make agreements with limited stipulations. The goal is to alert the community to their services so they can be contacted earlier on prior to a court filing for eviction. Once contacted the intake process begins with an assessment of the individuals needs and a mediator will be assigned to advocate on their behalf to either consent to a signed agreement or continue the court process. Conciliation services and conflict coaching is offered as well. The mediation is free, voluntary for both parties, confidential, and impartial. They do not provide legal advice, have legal authority, and do not guarantee a solution to all conflicts. For more information, contact [Nadia Mohammad](#) or [Michael Troper](#).

If a library staff member is approached by a patron who could be helped by housing mediation, where would they refer them?

They can be referred to the Center for Mediation and Dialogue who will assist them internally or refer them to other resources if mediation is not the right direction for their situation.

How often do landlords and clients agree to mediation?

More often than not people are provided with resources and conversations like conciliation which is a less lengthy process to pursue a resolution. Mediation is not always the best route and other avenues are pursued to assist someone seeking assistance.

III. MEETING MINUTES

Motion: Approve the January 5, 2023 meeting minutes

Action: Rowie Taylor

Second: Rhonda Lloyd

Vote: Approved, consensus.

IV. GENERAL BUSINESS

A. System Performance Measures Outcomes Analysis – Katherine Galian/Heather Skriver

Katherine reported the System Performance Measures (SPM) are part of the Continuum of Care's goals under the HEARTH Act which focuses on homeless response as a coordinated system of programs and interventions that work together to move people out of homelessness to reach functional zero. The SPM consists of seven metrics which include data from all projects included in the Housing Inventory Chart (HIC). This presentation includes data for fiscal year October 1, 2021 through September 30, 2022 with detailed descriptions, goals and outcomes on each of the metrics. She noted increases in the number of homeless and average stay in temporary housing and the number of homeless and the length of homelessness prior to obtaining shelter. There was also an increasing trend of persons returning to the homeless system after obtaining permanent housing. In light of those increases, it was important to note that the system was also serving an increased number of homeless individuals compared to years past. She also noted that even though the Point-In-Time (PIT) count has consistently shown an increase in the number of homeless over the past several years, it was important to note that the number of unsheltered homeless has shown a decrease during this period. Income levels for homeless persons are beginning to increase. First time homeless individuals have increased this past year which may also be due to the increased capacity in street outreach and accessibility of the coordinated entry system. Successful placement from street outreach or retention of permanent housing has returned to pre-pandemic numbers. Katherine's presentation can be found [here](#). The complete data will be made available on the HSSN webpage once the final report is submitted to HUD. For more information, contact [Katherine Galian](#). After discussion, a vote was taken.

Motion: Recommend the CoC Board approve submittal of the SPM data to HUD.

Action: Charlie Voss-Flowers

Second: Dixie Rose

Vote: Approved, consensus.

Are the increased homelessness numbers due to increased rents and the ending of COVID protections on rent and evictions?

The expectation is these factors play a role in the increase in first time homelessness but will mostly be reflected in next year's data as those protections ended in July 2022 with only a couple of months without these protections in place for this current data.

Is there a PIT Count for veterans?

Yes, and the finalized numbers from this years count will be available by May when they need to be submitted to HUD.

B. Washington County Program Update

Jessi Adams of WC Housing Services, shared via chat that the Tri-County RFPQ was open until March 17th. She encouraged agencies that did not apply for SHS funds in the last RFPQ round in any of the three counties, to apply as it is uncertain whether there will be another RFPQ in the near future. The spreadsheet in the exhibits attached to the RFPQ will list whether you applied last time, and for what. If there are questions, she suggested agencies attend the

next pre-conference session scheduled for February 6, 2023 at 5:30pm. Complete information and registration link for the preconference can be found [here](#).

C. One Homeless Services System – Transition Advisory Group

Ty reported all the homeless system's governance bodies are being evaluated to build them into a One Homeless Services System. Staff and stakeholders were invited to work with the community to determine the direction of the county in moving toward a more unified system. A review of the proposed future models, feedback received, and additional research on other models will all be used to find the best fit for Washington County. This process is projected to take about a year. A small group of advisors have been selected to take part in a Transition Advisory Group to guide the development of the new advisory structure, which will hold their first meeting on February 1, 2023. The development process has been divided into four phases. Phase I has launched with the convening of the Transition Advisory Group and community engagement. Phase II will look at the challenges of a new model, review outcome goals, and refine a proposal that will be presented to all current advisory boards as well as the county. Phase III, will be to create a vision that will be presented to County Commissioners and will include a public comment period. Phase IV will finalize the new system and structure and the formal documents to govern it.

D. 2023 HUD NOFO – Katherine Galian

Katherine reported, HUD has already opened registration for their 2023 competitive grant. The CoC will register for the grant by March 2 and she will be reaching out to current project sponsors to update any needed information.

V. ANNOUNCEMENTS

- Hannah Fleming of Community Action Organization announced Community Connect phone issues were in the process of being resolved and they hope to have responded to all voicemails by end of day Friday, February 3. If participants just need to update their information with Community Connect or confirm they are still interested in being connected to a resource, they can email those updates to communityconnect@caowash.org.
- Mandie Ludlam announced Community Housing Fund has a new Executive Director, Mary Routhieaux. She just started in January and is looking forward to meeting everyone.

VI. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting adjourned at 10:00 a.m.

Minutes prepared by Michelle Rubio.

To be added to HSSN email list, contact the [HSSN Listserv Administrator](#).