



HOUSING and SUPPORTIVE SERVICE NETWORK

Providing a Continuum of Care for Vulnerable Populations in Washington County

Wednesday, April 7, 2021 - 8:30 to 10:00 a.m.

Zoom <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/86437839959?pwd=UTYweFhuV0dEZ2hhVDUxUENBVU4xUT09>

Meeting ID: 864 3783 9959, Passcode: 384195; By phone dial (253)215-8782

AGENDA

- I. **INTRODUCTIONS: 8:30 a.m.**
 - Mental Wellness Moments (MWM) are brief daily practices of self-care and wellness.
- II. **MEETING MINUTES: 8:32 a.m.**
 - **Action:** Approve the March 3, 2021 meeting minutes.
- III. **GUEST SPEAKERS: 8:35 a.m.**
 - Erica White, Oregon Department of Human Services
Oregon Department of Human Services Aging and Persons with Disabilities (APD) Program
- IV. **GENERAL BUSINESS: 8:55 a.m.**
 - Metro Supportive Housing Services Program Implementation – Jes Larson
 - COVID Response: Vaccination and Respite Shelter Updates – Rodolfo Rodriguez
 - COVID Response: Renter's Relief Funds – Katherine Galian
 - 2021 Point-In-Time Homeless Census Results – Pat Rogers & Cecilia Bonvino
 - Winter Shelter Operations Extension through June 30 – Shelter Managers & Annette Evans
- V. **ANNOUNCEMENTS: 9:50 a.m.**
- VI. **ADJOURNMENT: 10:00 a.m.**

*Directly after the April 7 HSSN Meeting:
Public Hearing for the FY2021 Action Plan facilitated by
the Office of Community Development, the cities of Beaverton and Hillsboro*

Next Meeting:
Wednesday, May 5, 2021
Ken Cowdery, Union Gospel Mission - *Transitional Housing Program*

The HSSN is open to the public and all are invited to join – see [HSSN](https://www.co.washington.or.us/hssn) website for additional information and past meeting agenda, minutes and handouts. Comments regarding the agenda can be directed to Annette Evans, Homeless Program Manager, at 503-846-4760 or email Annette_Evans@co.washington.or.us

HOUSING AND SUPPORTIVE SERVICES NETWORK
Providing a Continuum of Care (CoC) in Washington County
March 3, 2021, 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 or experiencing homeless.

ATTENDEES:

Alexander Sheridan, Allie—Good Neighbor Center
Angeles, Nic—Housing Independence
Auslander, Jay—WC Mental Health
Auxier, Stephanie—Care Oregon
Bailey, Lisa—City of Beaverton
Baker, Vernon—Just Compassion
Barnes, Sierra—Bridge Meadows
Brownell, Amy—Ecumenical Ministries-Second Home
Burnett, Amanda—DVRC
Calvin, Mellani—ASSIST Program
Cardwell, Shawn—Forest Grove Foundation
Chavez-Sam, Karmen—APANO
Coppiano, Zoi—Community Action Organization
Dishman, Kirsten—Open Door Housing Works
Espinoza, Rocio—City of Hillsboro
Evans, Annette—WC Housing Services
Ferguson, Kerry—Family Promise of Beaverton
Fields, Kaylie—Oregon Dept of Human Services
Forshaw, John—Aloha Community Library
Franco, Magali—OHSU-Tuality Alliance
Galian, Katherine—Community Action Organization
Gnant, Brylee—Family Promise of Tualatin Valley
Greene, Jacen—PSU-HCAC
Guajardo, Roumaldo—Mental Health Assoc of Oregon
Hageman, Heidi—New Narrative
Kasim, Bashar—New Narrative
Larson, Jes—WC Housing Services
Lind, Stephanie—WC Cooperative Library Services
Ludlam, Mandie—Community Housing Fund
Marshall, Kim—Project Homeless Connect
Merkel, Cole—Here Together Oregon
Moshkowski, Melody—The Salvation Army

Peel, Rick—Oregon Law Center
Penney, Darcie—DVRC
Perkowski, Kaja—Open Door Counseling Center
Pero, David—McKinney-Vento Liaison-FG/HEN
Pope, Caroline—Care Oregon
Radke, Lydia—WC Community Corrections
Rhodes, Barbara A—
Rostampour, Theresa—Boys & Girls Aid
Ruiz, Roseanna—CPAH Oregon
Salisbury, Susan—Community Action Organization
Schaeffer-Bischt, Blair—WorkSystems, Inc.
Schimmel, Brian—Forest Grove Foundation
Schira, Danielle—Rebuilding Together Washington Co.
Schwoeffermann, Ty—WC Housing Services
Sell, Wendy—Lifeworks NW
Simpson, Robin—
Smith, Gary—US Dept of Veteran Affairs
Stone, Lyndi—Community Action Organization
Stormo, Robert—Job Corps
Swearingin, Nicole—New Narrative
Taylor, Molly—Oregon Dept of Human Services
Teifel, Gordon—Families for Independent Living/DEAR
Trinkle, Jamie—Oregon Law Center
Valdez, Bianetth—HomePlate Youth Services
Valencia, Mari—Office of Community Development
Valfre, Val—Citizen
Von Tersch, Meghan—CAP
Waltchew, Ivy—Community Action Organization
Welch, Lexi—Oregon Dept of Human Services
Williams, Carrie—New Narrative
Williams, Natalie—WC Office of Community Development
Younis, Balen—Lutheran Community Services NW

Chair: Annette Evans, Public Agency Representative, annette_evans@co.washington.or.us
Co-Chair: Katherine Galian, Nonprofit Agency Representative, kgalian@caowash.org

I. INTRODUCTIONS

Mental Health wellness moment observed.

II. APPROVAL OF MEETING MINUTES

Motion: Approve February 3, 2021 meeting minutes.

Action: Katherine Galian

Second: Susan Salisbury

Vote: Approved, unanimous.

III. GUEST SPEAKER

Caroline Pope, Care Oregon “Basic Health Plan Navigation – Understanding OHP and Care Oregon Coverage”

Caroline provided a basic overview of CareOregon, the Oregon Health Plan (OHP), Medicaid and Medicare health insurance plans, and provided an explanation of Coordinated Care Organizations (CCO). Care Oregon is a non-profit organization providing health insurance services to low-income individuals with Medicare and/or Medicaid coverage. OHP is Medicaid in Oregon and is administered by the Oregon Health Authority (OHA). Medicare is a federal medical insurance program for elderly (65+) or disabled individuals. Medicaid is a federal and state assistance program for low income individuals.

A CCO is a network of all types of health care providers (physical health care, addictions and mental health care and dental care providers) who work together in their local communities to serve people who receive health care coverage under the Oregon Health Plan (Medicaid). Trillium and Health Share are the only CCO's serving OHP members in the tri-county area. Health Share provides five (5) OHP health plans for physical services: Kaiser, Providence, Tuality/OHSU, Legacy and CareOregon. Different from the other 4 health plans, CareOregon is not a hospital system and contracts with different providers; e.g. county clinics, Federally Qualified Health Clinics (FQHC). CareOregon is the largest physical health plan provider and the only provider of behavioral health benefits for Health Share in the region. Health Share offers five plans for oral care: Kaiser, Advantage Dental, ODS, Willamette Dental and CareOregon Dental. She reviewed services provided by OHP Primary Care Providers (PCP) which she noted included supplies/durable medical equipment (DME). Caroline reviewed the services covered by oral care providers and the behavioral health services provided by CareOregon providers. Additional benefits available to OHP members included no cost pharmacy and prescription drug benefits, free language access and care coordination services (review and develop member-centric care plan by a team of providers from every discipline involved in the member's care). Benefits for health-related services are also available and include a wide array of items that indirectly improve a member's health. Approval for these benefits are made on a case-by-case basis and processed through a Care Coordinator or provider. Transportation benefits to medical appointments are also available to OHP members and includes transportation to a food pantry.

OHP members dually covered by Medicare and Medicaid can enroll in CareOregon's CareOregon Advantage plan which coordinates benefits from both plans under one program. Dual plans are available from other companies as well. She noted a new benefit available for CareOregon Advantage members that was underutilized was an OTC Plus debit card, a card loaded with \$190 per month for over the counter pharmacy items as well as food. She encouraged agencies to reach out to her for more information and encouraged them to utilize the care coordination services for their clients, popec@careoregon.org. The slides for [Basic Health Plan Navigation](#) are online.

Are residents who are not US citizens eligible for Medicaid and Medicare?

OHP is open to all children and teens younger than 19 regardless of immigration status who meet income and other criteria. Undocumented Oregonians under the income level are now eligible for full OHP benefits as well. This was a recent change and Caroline can provide more information to anyone interested.

IV. GENERAL BUSINESS

A. COVID Vaccination and Respite Shelter Updates – Rodolfo Rodriguez

No report.

B. Local Implementation Plan (LIP) process for the Metro Supportive Housing Services (SHS) Program – Jes Larson

Jes reported the LIP Advisory Table meeting on March 4 will be the 2nd to last. The advisory table serves to advise Washington County in the development of their LIP. Simultaneously, the SHS Program team and infrastructure were being built-out, and a public solicitation process (RFPQ) being developed for service providers interested in contracting as partners in the program. The timeline included approval of the LIP in April and SHS Program implementation in July.

She introduced Ty Schwoeffermann who recently joined the SHS Program team and will be developing engagement events for service providers to learn about the solicitation process as well as to provide feedback and insight to staff as the process was being developed. She noted the emphasis on culturally specific services and service providers. The team will be also be launching a survey to gather more information about the services to be provided in Washington County and providers who wanted to work through the SHS Program. The program is expected to grow from a homeless system of \$14 million to \$38 million in Year 1, with a goal of not only scaling up existing programs and services, but to increase supportive housing capacity overall. Maximum funding capacity was expected to be approximately \$78 - \$80 million per year thereafter. The dramatic increase in funding presents huge growth potential for service providers in the region's ability to respond to the homelessness crisis and address chronic homelessness. She provided a Zoom link to the SHS LIP Advisory Table meeting.

What was the timeframe for the RFPQ process?

The timeframe is being developed as the team conceptualizes a process that is inclusive of all the kinds of services that will be needed for the populations that need to be served. They are targeting completion of the process by April.

C. Emergency Solutions Grant (ESG) Consultation – Mari Valencia-Aguilar, Washington County Office of Community Development

Mari consulted with the HSSN membership regarding the \$190,064 of Emergency Solutions Grant (ESG) funding. She noted the consultation only applied to ESG funds administered through Washington County Office of Community Development (OCD), not ESG funds administered through the State of Oregon. To reduce the administrative burden associated with these funds, OCD was again proposing to allocate all ESG funds in PY2021 to Community Action Organization (CAO) to support rapid rehousing rental assistance, less 7.5% allocated for administration (\$14,254). 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 individuals assisted for Rapid Re-Housing would remain at a minimum of 60.

Motion: Approve the Emergency Solutions Grant (ESG) Allocation Methodology.
Action: Gordon Teifel
Second: Mellani Calvin
Vote: Approved, unanimous.

D. CoC Board Mid-Term Vacancies – Annette Evans

Nominations were received for the two mid-term vacancies on the CoC Board with terms ending June 30, 2023: Lydia Radke of Washington County Community Corrections for the Jail/Community Corrections position and Richard Peel of Oregon Law Center for the Legal Services position. The Legal Services position was added to create a 19-position CoC Board with an odd number of voting positions, and was approved by the CoC Board

at the February 12 meeting. Each nominee was given an opportunity to provide information regarding their interest in the position and then a poll vote was taken.

Motion: Approve slate of nominees and appoint to fill vacant positions beginning March 3, 2021.
Action: Gordon Teifel
Second: Katherine Galian
Vote: Approved, unanimous.

E. Report on Winter Shelter Operations – Annette Evans

Winter shelters for the 2020/2021 winter season were opened November 15 to run for 120 consecutive days. Annette reported there has been discussion about extending shelters that have site control through June 30 and she was working to secure FEMA funds to respond to COVID disease transmission through the shelter operations. She acknowledged there would be a slight decrease in the number of beds available. Winter shelter providers will be meeting later today to develop a strategic plan to transition individuals to prevent displacement. Annette will be sharing the complete shelter provider list once transition plans are in place.

Vernon Baker shared Just Compassion operates two shelters, a severe weather shelter in downtown Beaverton and a hospital discharge shelter in Tigard that operates out of their Resource Center. He reported approximately 4-7 people have transitioned from the Beaverton Shelter into housing and several who have found employment. Of all of the years he has been involved in winter shelters, this year's sheltering model and the focus on providing wrap-around services, has been the most effective in engaging guests. He thanked all the partners involved in working to take care of their guests.

Vernon noted this was the first time a shelter focused on hospital discharge and that it has been a learning process. They found communication with hospital administration and case managers of a guest's mental health issues was critical in shelter staff's ability to provide the support needed and to help keep the guest safe and well. They are now seeking additional funding and training to potentially expand shelter hours in order to reduce the separation time for how long a guest would be outside of the facility.

Kim Marshall shared Project Homeless Connect operated several shelters throughout the county. She reported the collaboration with New Narrative and Community Action Housing Navigators to work with shelter guests has been a very positive experience and successful in moving people forward with housing plans. The non-congregate shelter model which provides shelter guests with a private space has also given them a sense of ownership over their life, allowing them to thrive and look at making positive choices for themselves and their future. The continuous 120-day congregate shelter model has also been very helpful for their guests to have that safe place to go.

Melody Moshkowski shared Salvation Army operated a non-congregate shelter at EconoLodge in Hillsboro and have been working one-on-one with each shelter guest. She agreed the 120-day shelter model has been successful in providing a safe and supportive environment for homeless guests and anticipates long term benefits that were not currently apparent. She also learned that as a result of the shelter operating out of a hotel and employing staff to provide services for the shelter, it had worked to prevent homelessness for some of those employed. Overall, she felt the shelter model worked very well and was encouraged at the results she has seen at the individual client level and the increase in quality of life it provided. She hoped to investigate wraparound services as it related to mental health, drug rehabilitation and recovery.

Allie Alexander Sheridan of Good Neighbor Center reported on behalf of Pedro Oliveira, Jr., their Shelter Coordinator, that the shelter provided a safe environment for guests and the linkage with CareOregon for guests regarding their health care was a great outcome. She reported that the winter shelter does not have site control and will not be extending unless a new site for the shelter can be found soon. She encouraged anyone who might have a lead for a shelter building site to accommodate 30 guests, should contact Pedro at poliveira@goodneighborcenter.org.

V. ANNOUNCEMENTS

- Stephanie Lind of Washington County Cooperative Library Services announced Bella Donna's Bistro and Patisserie in Forest Grove was providing a free soup lunch every Monday 11-12 for food insecure folks in Western Washington County.
- Kaylie Fields announced ODHS was approved for emergency allotments for SNAP benefits for the month of March. More information was available at <https://www.oregon.gov/dhs/DHSNEWS/NewsReleases/March%202021%20Emergency%20Allotments.pdf>
- Zoi Coppiano announced Melia Deters of Community Action Organization will be transitioning into the new Community Connect Coordinator position starting March 8.
- Theresa Rostampour announced Boys & Girls Aid had started an Education Reengagement Program for young people ages 14 – 21. Contact Theresa at trostampour@boysandgirlsaid.org if any young person was interested in re-engaging with school to get their high school diploma/GED or were behind on credits.
- Robin Simpson announced Safe Families for Children hosts children of our unhoused neighbors who might need a safe space for their children while they are working on their goals. www.safefamiliespdx.org
- Roseanna Ruiz inquired if anyone knew about resources available for tax preparation services for their residents at CPAH.

VI. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting adjourned at 10:01 a.m.

Minutes prepared by Vara Fellger, Washington County Department of Housing Services

To be added to the HSSN email list, contact Annette Evans at Annette_Evans@co.washington.or.us