

OR-506CoC Hillsboro/Beaverton/Washington County

Continuum of Care (CoC) Board

Applicant Summary

Applicant: Dixie Amber Rose
Organization: Peer Support Specialist, Providence St. Vincent Hospital
CoC Board Position: Homeless/Formerly Homeless Consumer

Professional or lived experience in:

- Mental Health Supports
- Affordable Housing
- Rent/Energy Assistance
- Training/Education
- Homelessness Services
- Domestic Violence
- Other (Please describe)

Hi, I'm a woman in long term recovery and my name is Dixie. This has allowed me to be a mom to my 2 beautiful little girls as well as a contributing member of society. I have 13 years of sobriety and work as a Peer Support Specialist with the Providence BOB Program at Providence St. Vincent Hospital. I have lived experiences that include homelessness, addiction, criminality, the criminal justice system, DHS/CPS, the sex industry, and domestic violence. Because of this lived experience I'm able to connect with people who are needing support while going through uncomfortable periods in their lives.

Experience and willingness to serve on behalf of and advocate for people experiencing homelessness:

I am very passionate about the work that I do and would love the opportunity to be a part of the HSSN. I currently work with the Providence behavioral health department called Better Outcomes thru Bridges, or BOB. I was hired in 2019 pre pandemic and worked in the administrative offices calling people who had been to the Providence emergency departments for anything that falls under the behavioral health umbrella. This includes SI, psychosis, intoxication, substance use disorder, homelessness, and everything in between. This was a part time position.

Then the pandemic hit and we shifted to home based remote work for a while. I saw it as an opportunity to push myself to step up when others were stepping back. I understand it to be a part of my trauma response, but it worked well for me because I was able to get bumped up to full time and gladly took the opportunity to be a point person for the motel quarantine program for homeless folks in the early lockdown days. Since then I have worked as a peer in a few different capacities for Providence.

A skill that I have been able to hone over the last 10 years is public speaking. Starting with a mini doc that Community Action did of my story, that I presented to their Gala fundraising event, my voice shook as I looked out into the audience. After many 12 step meetings I'm able to get in front of anyone and speak clearly.

I currently attend a faith based 12 step meeting and am part of their core Leadership T-E-A-M as the 'E', Encourager. I lead small groups as well as the Newcomer 101. Sometimes I fill in as the Milestone Chip Presenter, but usually I am the female chip hander-outer. I spend about 10 hours a week on Celebrate Recovery things on a volunteer basis. I'm full of other skills like IT work, networking, greeting, mentoring, keeping things confidential, and so much more.