



HOUSING and SUPPORTIVE SERVICE NETWORK

Providing a Continuum of Care for Vulnerable Populations in Washington County

Wednesday, January 3, 2024 - 8:30 a.m. to 10:00 a.m.

Join Zoom Meeting <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/85060025655?pwd=RE1zcWEzTmVWYnJ2S0JZRmV6YkgyZz09>

Meeting ID: 850 6002 5655 | Passcode: 294026 | To Join by Telephone: +1 253 215 8782 US (Tacoma)

AGENDA

- I. **INTRODUCTIONS: 8:30 a.m.**
- II. **SPEAKERS/TRAINING: 8:35 a.m.**
 - Kaylie Camp & Dawn Dzubay, Oregon DHS, “Benefits offered by ODHS SSP”
 - Hannah Fleming, CAO, “The Community Connect Experience” and Vanessa Sanchez, CAO, “Utility Assistance Program.”
- III. **MEETING MINUTES: 9:20 a.m.**
 - **Action:** *Approve the December 6, 2023 meeting minutes.*
- IV. **GENERAL BUSINESS: 9:25 a.m.**
 - Access Team Update – Justin Fontenot
 - Homeless System Performance – Katherine Galian
- V. **ANNOUNCEMENTS: 9:55 a.m.**
- VI. **ADJOURNMENT: 10:00 a.m.**

Next Meeting: Wednesday, February 7, 2024

The HSSN is the meeting of the continuum of care in Washington County and is open to the public - all are invited to join – see [HSSN](#) webpage for additional information and past meeting agenda, minutes and handouts. Comments regarding the agenda can be directed to homeless_services@washingtoncountyor.gov



HOUSING AND SUPPORTIVE SERVICES NETWORK
Providing a Continuum of Care (CoC) in Washington County
December 6, 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:

Aguilar, Maria – City of Beaverton
Baker, Vernon – Just Compassion EWC
Barrera de Gomez – Community Action Organization
Biggs, Brittney – Community Action Organization
Cain, Jade - DVRC
Calo, Lauren – WC Office of Community Development
Camp, Kaylie – Oregon DHS
Cardwell, Shawn – Forest Grove Foundation
Cipriano, Maya – Oregon DHS
Cooke, Beth – New Narrative
Coppiano, Zoi – Community Action Organization
DeJarnette, Grace – CareOregon
Del Castillo, Jade - Providence
Dent, Lindsay – WC Housing Services
Dunford, Tachelle – Good Neighbor Center
Dwyer, DaNene – Portland Community College
Ezell, Kim – City of Tigard
Fellger, Vara – WC Housing Services
Fleming, Hannah – Community Action Organization
Fleming, Kadi – Community Action Organization
Fletcher, Torey – Centro Cultural
Gallian, Katherine – WC Housing Services
Garcia, Angelina – Boys & Girls Aid
Garcia Gonez, Abelmar – Hillsboro SD/MVEN
Garrett, Kim – The Salvation Army
Gibb, Courtney – Hillsboro SD/HEN
Gonzalez, Dominique – The Miracles Club
Gonzalez, Jorge – Providence
Greenough, Carol – Community Advocate
Guillen, Estela – Community Action Organization
Guillen Couple, Nicholas – Good Neighbor Center
Hageman, Heidi – New Narrative
Harvey, Adam – The Salvation Army
Heath, Kelsey – Metropolitan Public Defender
Hoffman, Shawna – WC Housing Services
Kennedy, Carolyn – New Narrative
Kightlinger, John – New Narrative
King, Frances – EMO – Second Home
Kinish-Omier, Kelsea – Community Action Organization
Ladley, Peter – WC Housing Services
Lloyd, Rhonda – The Salvation Army
Ludlam, Mandie – Community Housing Fund
Magdalene, Sage – Good Neighbor Center
Markus, Michelle – Mental Health & Addiction Assoc. of OR
Marshall-Gordon, Kim – Project Homeless Connect
Martinez, Kristina – Boys & Girls Aid
McVey, Drew – Citizen At-Large (Formerly Homeless)
Melton, Holly – Community Action Organization
Moshkowski, Melody – The Salvation Army
Negrete, Ana – Open Door HousingWorks
Palestino, Sara – Beaverton SD/MVEN
Pero, David – Forst Grove SD/MVEN
Pettefer, Christine – Good Neighbor Center
Pinto, Ursula – Sherwood SD/HEN
Potter, Yvette – WC Disability Aging & Veteran Services
Quanbeck, Kisa – WC Housing Services
Quintana, Rebecca – HomePlate Youth
Rubio Coyote, Jatelyne – Community Action Organization
Savannah, Fern – Boys & Girls Aid
Sellers, Zena – New Narrative
Shankel, Julie – New Narrative
Sloan, Jerome – The Miracles Club
Smith, Anne – US Dept. of Veteran Affairs
Smith, Gary – Us Dept of Veteran Affairs
Solis Ruiz, Margarita – Bienestar
Sparks, Amber – HomePlate Youth Services
Stanwood-Gorvine, Alyssa – Beaverton SD/MVEN
Stark, Aubrey – Oregon DHS
Stingh, Nicole – WC Housing Services
Taylor, Rowie - DRC
Taylor, Molly – Oregon Health Authority
Teifel, Gordon – Dear, Inc.
Valdovinos, Kelvin – WC Office of Community Development
Voss, Charlie - CPAH
Williamson, Drew – Boys & Girls Aid
Yehle, Staci – Community Action Organization

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

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

Presentations and flyers are available on the [HSSN Agendas and Minutes webpage](#). Click the link, select “2023 Meetings” and scroll down to “December 6, 2023.”

I. INTRODUCTIONS

HSSN members were asked to identify themselves in the chat listing their organization followed by their name for purposes of attendance and voting.

IV. SPEAKERS/TRAINING

Angelina Garcia, Boys & Girls Aid & Frances King, EMO-Second Home, “Education Re-engagement Program.”

Boys & Girls Aid and Ecumenical Ministries-Second Home partner to reengage youth 14 – 24 in education. Angelina shared her role in the Reengagement Program includes homeless prevention, 1:1 case management, financial assistance – education, support to remove barriers to education, help accessing & building resources in the community, aftercare check-ins. Frances shared her role included 1:1 case management, providing resources, advocacy, and mentorship, and reinitiating the Resource Room at UCC Church in Forest Grove which provides a computer w/internet, homework support, resources and hot drinks. Challenges with this program include finding students not engaging with school, schools not sharing engagement data, accessing consistent communication, limited resources, and navigating school schedules. There is a tuition and fee waiver available to students to attend state schools in Oregon who had been in the foster care system, experienced homelessness, and have worked with a contracted DHS agency for at least six months. For more information or to refer a student to the program, contact Angelina Garcia at agarcia@boysandgirlsaid.org, (503) 913-9393; or Frances King at fking@emoregon.org, (503) 922-5170.

Is childcare assistance available for students with children?

That is not currently available but that option can be explored to refer them to ERDC for aid.

What does EC Oregon stand for?

Second Home is a program within Ecumenical Ministries of Oregon.

Rebecca Quintana, HomePlate Youth Services, “Education Program.”

HomePlate Youth Services offers drop-in, outreach, employment, housing, and education services to reconnect youth ages 12 – 24 to education. Reconnection to education services include assistance with financial aid, enrollment in college or trade schools, and life skills classes for youth experiencing houselessness or housing instability. Two volunteers are available to assist youth in GED tutoring. Youth Education Scholarships (YES) are available to youth ages 18-24 to financially assist those in underserved communities in Washington County. The Spanish GED is a new program that provides six months of funding for students pursuing their GED. This is available for Spanish speaking youth 18-24 years of age with past or present experience of houselessness receiving HomePlate services. For more information contact, Rebecca Quintana (503) 758-3800; rebecca@homeplateyouth.org.

Abelmar Garcia Gomez, Courtney Gibb and Sara Palestino, “Washington County School Districts’ McKinney-Vento Program

The federal McKinney-Vento program provides services for any child experiencing housing instability which includes immediate enrollment in school, transportation to and from school, the ability to remain at the same school for the entire year, free breakfast and lunch and school

supplies. Each school district is required to have at least one McKinney-Vento Liaison. Homeless student data is tracked and reported to the Oregon Department of Education at the end of the school year. So far this year, Beaverton (1,364) and Hillsboro (336) school districts have the highest number of homeless students who qualify for this program. Beaverton (154) and Hillsboro (67) school districts also have the highest number of students who are not in the custody of their parents. These students can receive services without proof of guardianship. Some challenges in the McKinney-Vento program include being mistaken for a housing program, increased referrals, rising evictions, families in substandard housing due to doubling up, influx of refugees and immigrants, unaccompanied youth due to safety concerns, and difficulty finding or accessing rental assistance. Liaisons meet monthly to share resources and collaborate. The list of liaisons is available in the presentation. For more information, contact Abel García Gómez, Hillsboro SD McKinney-Vento Liaison/ Foster Care Point-of-Contact: Office: 503-844-1556; Google Voice: 971-238-8803; garciaga@hsd.k12.or.us; <https://www.hsd.k12.or.us/Page/1968>

Why does Beaverton School District have the largest number of students in this program?

The size of the Beaverton School District (40,000) is attributable to these numbers (3.5%) along with the low barrier eligibility for those applying for services. The average in other districts was 2.2% from 2020-2021 school year however this rate is slowly rising.

What is the screening criteria for the McKinney-Vento program?

Students or families who are doubled up with another family, in a shelter, hotel, transitional housing, or substandard conditions would qualify.

Peter Ladley, WC Housing Services, “FYI – Building Bridges to Self-Sufficiency.”

The Foster Youth to Independence (FYI) program is HUD funded and provides Housing Choice Vouchers to foster youth ages 18 – 24, who are at risk for homelessness. They receive 3 years of rental assistance through local Public Housing Authorities and wrap-around supports through the Oregon Department of Human Services (ODHS) and other community-based agencies. The goal is to assist in transitioning these youth from being a ward of the state to living independently in adulthood. To be eligible, youth must be between 18 – 24, have left or will be leaving foster care within 90 days, and homeless or at risk of homelessness. Wrap-around supports include basic life skills, counseling on managing a home on their own, landlord assurances, job attainment counseling, and education or career advancement support. Currently HUD issues 25 non-competitive vouchers each fiscal year with the ability to apply for an additional 25 if 90% of the first vouchers are utilized. This program is fairly new and underutilized. Last year, HUD recognized Oregon with the best FYI utilization rate. Many participants have been co-enrolled into the Family Self Sufficiency (FSS) program) which allows an additional two years of rental assistance. The strength of this program comes from the partnership with ODHS-CW (eligibility), ODHS-SS (self-sufficiency resources), HAWC (rental assistance FYI coordination), Community Action and referrals from Youth Village, New Avenues, and Boys & Girls Aid. These partners meet monthly to collaborate to ensure the success of the participants in the program. The needs of the youth in this program are more extensive than originally projected when this program was implemented by HUD. Peter is reaching out for additional help in to provide intensive counseling and social work, access to mental health resources, partners with expertise helping at-risk youth, opportunities for youth to network with their peers, more referrals and community awareness about the FYI Program.

Barriers in assisting these youth include lack of steady employment, struggle with interpersonal skills, building trust and rapport, poor to no rental history, navigating complex governmental systems, mental and emotional needs, dedicated case management, and additional funding. Feedback from youth in this program indicated the need for receiving this information one to two years before aging out of the foster care system, training in basic life skills, and availability of a group transitional housing. Participants have expressed their gratitude for this program in helping them navigate life independently. The FYI program has housed 14 youth, are currently assisting 15

more, and enrolled 7 into the FSS program. For more information contact, Peter Ladley at peter_ladley@washingtoncountyor.gov.

Is the referral pathway through coordinated entry?

Referrals come through coordinated entry or directly to the FYI program itself. The referral form along with a release of information is received and sent to DHS to confirm eligibility. Qualified youth pending housing placement within the CoC can be referred by those providers to the FYI program.

III. MEETING MINUTES

Motion: Approve the November 1, 2023 meeting minutes.

Action: Charlie Voss Flowers

Second: Margarita Solis Ruiz

Vote: Approved, consensus.

IV. GENERAL BUSINESS

A. Homeless System Performance – Katherine Galian

In previous years the performance of the homeless system was reported in conjunction with the System Performance Measures (SPM). HUD is in the process of making changes to the SPM report and has not made it available yet. The Longitudinal Systems Analysis (LSA) being presented today, is HUD's data collection analysis tool that provides an overview of the homeless response system as a whole measuring the impact of the coordinated effort to make homelessness rare, brief, and non-recurring. The LSA includes data from federal fiscal year, September 1, 2022 – August 31, 2023, and covers demographics, length of time homeless, information on specific populations, housing outcomes for those exiting the system and those who have reentered the system. Street outreach, coordinated entry, and CompSite (comparable HMIS site for DV) data is not included in this report.

2023 LSA data revealed a large upscaling in the system with 300 more households exiting the system compared to 2022. It also showed an increase in returns to homelessness from 2022 but about the same number as seen in 2021. There were 72% of families, 25% adult-only, and 22% of youth households who exited to permanent housing. A majority of households came directly from the streets with others coming from shelters or temporary situations. For questions/comments, contact Katherine Galian, Katherine_galian@washingtoncountyor.gov. After discussion, a vote was taken.

Motion: Approve submission of LSA upon review by the CoC Board at their meeting on December 8, 2023.

Action: Shawn Cardwell

Second: Kim Marshall Gordon

Vote: Approved, consensus.

B. County Budget Process Overview – Nicole Stingh

Nicole presented the forecasted budget for Washington County Housing Services which includes budgets for programs within the Housing Authority of Washington County and the Homeless Services Division. She noted the forecasted budget for Homeless Services allocates the majority to supportive services. Housing Services is seeking feedback on the housing needs seen in the system and is requesting stakeholders to complete a survey, a link to which will be sent out via email following this meeting. Refinements to the forecasted budget will be made incorporating feedback, prior to submission of the finalized budget in Spring, 2024. Survey responses were due by December 13 and she encouraged HSSN members to share the survey link with others outside of HSSN. For questions/comments, contact Nicole Stingh, Nicole_stingh@washingtoncountyor.gov.

V. ANNOUNCEMENTS

- Katherine Galian announced two alternative shelters were scheduled to open – Hillsboro Safe Rest Village on December 8, 2023 and Aloha Safe Rest Village on February 2, 2024. Each will provide 30 pallet homes and be operated by Open Door HousingWorks. As with all homeless programs within Washington County, referrals to alternative shelters go through Community Connect.
- Omar Martinez announced, the City of Hillsboro will be accepting applications for the Community Development Block Grant Program (CDBG) starting December 15 with a deadline of January 26, 2024. The City of Hillsboro funds public facility improvement projects through the CDBG Program. For more information or questions, contact Omar at omar.martinez@hillsboro-oregon.gov.
- Vara Fellger announced the December 13 Learning Community will be an in-person event at the Washington Street Conference Center, 10:00am – 12:00pm. Staff who work in shelter, outreach or other housing programs are encouraged to join and learn about some of Washington County Homeless Services Division's highlights and updates over this past year. There will also be small group discussions and networking opportunities for providers to reflect on their accomplishments and troubleshoot common challenges.
- Nicole Stingh invited HSSN members interested in the CoC Board's vote to approve applicants being recommended to the Homeless Solutions Advisory Council, to attend the CoC Board meeting on Friday, December 8, 2023; 8:30am – 10:00am. A link to the meeting will be provided in a HSSN meeting follow-up email.

VI. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting adjourned at 10:02am.

Minutes prepared by Michelle Rubio.

To be added to HSSN email list, submit a request to homeless_services@washingtoncountyor.gov.