



**Home, Opportunity, Planning, and Equity (HOPE)
Advisory Board Meeting
Approved Minutes
January 25, 2023 from 4 pm to 6 pm
ZOOM Meeting**



Members Present: Catherine Biscoe; Karyle Butcher; Alice Carter; Ricardo Contreras; Bryan Cotter; Caden DeLoach; Anita Earl; Joel Goodwin; Ari Grossman-Naples; Barbara Hanley; Melissa Isavoran; Briae Lewis* (Corvallis City Councilor); Cindee Lolik* (Business Associate); Charles Maughan* (Corvallis Mayor); Pegge McGuire* (CSC Director); Andrea Myhre; Chanale Propst; Nancy Wyse* (Chair of Board of Commissioners).

Excused:

Absent:

Staff Present: Julie Arena (Benton County Health, HOPE Program Coordinator); Paula Felipe (Benton County Public Health, recorder); Suzanne Hoffman, Health Department Director; Kailee Olson, Health Department Communications Coordinator; Paul Bilotta; Community Development Director with City of Corvallis.

Guests:

*Executive Committee Members.

- I. **Welcome and Introductions.** Reminder of culture of agreements, such as inclusivity, kindness, and respect.
- II. **Public Comments (limited to 2-3 minutes).** No Comments.
- III. **Approval of Minutes: MOTION** made by Joel Goodwin to approve the December 2022 Minutes; **Seconded** by Bryan Cotter; All in favor; **MOTION** passed. Abstained: Karyle Butcher; Caden DeLoach; Cindee Lolik; Andrea Myhre; Chanale Propst.
- IV. **HOPE Board Membership Update: (Charles Maughan):** Welcome to the first HOPE meeting of 2023. Maughan has been on HOPE since it was created. Previous appointee from City Council was Jan Napack. Briae Lewis now serves as the Ward 2 City Councilor, and she wishes to stay on the HOPE Board. Briae is the City Council’s appointee to the HOPE Executive Committee. Jan Napack is appointed to the Metropolitan Planning organization. Jan commented: “I have been blessed to be part of HOPE. It has been a great privilege to serve with insightful, dedicated individuals.”

Currently, there are two open chair positions and three openings on the HOPE Advisory Committee. Mayor Maughan encouraged members to bring their perspectives and spread the word about the HOPE Board positions. “Thank you all and let’s move forward together.” Pegge McGuire introduced Kayla Armstrong, new CSC Deputy Director who previously worked at the Cascade West Council of Governments (COG); she underwent the onboarding process at CSC. Kayla Armstrong started in case management and worked in adult protective services as a program supervisor. Kayla commented: “Very excited to work with all of you in this new role with Pegge.”

V. Co-Chair Election

- Catherine Biscoe expressed appreciation for all HOPE has done. She has been with this group since the beginning and witnessed the changes over time. Catherine is excited about the initiatives and programs HOPE supports. Her background includes serving on Philomath Board of Directors and Gleaners Program. She continues to be a voice for Philomath and rural county experiences to the Corvallis and Benton County government. Catherine said a silver lining in the pandemic was bringing food and homeless service providers together to a whole new level. She had the opportunity to serve on Philomath City Council last 2 years and worked on policy, legislation, and other issues working with HOPE advisory board recommendations. Want to throw hat in the ring to serve as a HOPE co-chair.
- **MOTION** was made by Nancy Wyse to approve Catherine Biscoe to serve as HOPE's co-chair; Briae Lewis seconded; **MOTION** passed.

VI. HOPE Board's Role in HB 4123 Pilot: Coordinated Homeless Response (Nancy Wyse, Board of Commissioners, introduced county and city staff: Suzanne Hoffman, Health Department Director; Rebecca Taylor, Project Manager; Kailee Olson, Health Department Communications; Libbi Loseke, Grant Writer. City of Corvallis: Paul Bilotta, Community Development Director; Brigetta Olson, Housing Director. Community Services Consortium: Pegge McGuire, Executive Director; Kayla Armstrong, Deputy Director)

- HOPE Board will meet every other month for the first half of 2023 (January, March, May).
- Opportunity to better fund efforts; pilot provides framework and support from the State.
- Rebecca Taylor is project manager.

Pilot Components:

- 2-Year pilot funding for 8 counties statewide
- Coordinated response office for housing needs and homelessness prevention.
- Point of contact and communication.
- Develop 5-year Strategic Plan that includes:
 - Sustainable funding ideas to leverage existing resources
 - Incorporate best practices
 - Eliminate racial disparities
 - Pathways to housing
- Execute agreement between county and other interested jurisdictions

What's Happening Now?

- Outreach and engagement with providers, stakeholders, and small cities.
- Developing the Roles/Functions of an office
- MOU completed with City of Corvallis and Community Services Consortium (CSC) that includes commitment to collaborate as part of a coordinated office.
- Executing the functions of the office with ongoing work.

Requirements of the Legislation:

- Coordinated Homeless Response Office - functions and workload: 5 Year Strategic Plan with specific components
- Governing body for the City/County/CSC Coordinated Office operations and staff. (Intergovernmental Council that includes city and county leadership)
- Community Engagement Body: HOPE Advisory Board

Examples of Coordinated Office Work

- Projects that illustrate the functions and the work of the Coordinated Office.
- Also serves as a community progress update.

Coordinated Entry (CE):

- Prioritizing our most vulnerable for housing with data-informed decisions and human centered case conferencing.
- CE improvements are an example of a system-level improvement.
- The Coordinated Office's role: support system improvements in our community with the purpose to better match more individuals with housing, prevent duplication of efforts across providers, best use our housing resources and funding to help our most vulnerable folks.

Sustainable funding, grant writing, coordination across system to leverage funding: Libby Winter, Grant Writer and Researcher.

- Identify and vet relevant funding opportunities for the County, Coordinated Office, and service providers that align with HOPE Recommendations:
 - Creating and continue to build database of funding opportunities for County, Coordinated Office, and service providers.
 - Develop strategies and models for sustainable funding (part of the Strategic Plan for the Coordinated Office).
 - Create ready-made models of funding that providers can use.
- Collaborate and coordinate with internal and external partners on funding opportunities.

DISCUSSION/COMMENTS:

- **Coordinated Homeless Response System Framework and Office Structure:** (Suzanne Hoffman): Biggest step forward was hiring Rebecca Taylor as project manager, who plays a critical role in helping us understand the requirements of the bill. She helped create the structure and team. It is a structure under construction with flexibility based on evolution, community needs, and funding opportunities. Key among HOPE recommendations is to have capacity to build foundation for system change—working hard to reflect that here while mindful of the legislation requirements. Important note: It is a county-wide coordinated effort with plans to reach out to other cities as well.
- Paul Bilotta: Re-emphasize 4123 assumes a community has done nothing; so our work in HOPE puts us far ahead. A lot of city/county cooperation comes out of the Emergency Operations Center (EOC) (even though shut down now), but the homeless work never stopped. How to build on what we've done. Like to get more people on board and expand. Not micro-manage and no term limits. It will be up to member organizations on who to put in and what authority to have--want this to be inclusive; non-binding memorandums of understanding. 5-year strategic plan; how to balance urgent with longer term value; plan will help us have that community conversation.
- Pegge McGuire: Dina has driven this process across agenda and communities and pioneered this; put HMIS/service point (name of system); evaluates people's vulnerabilities. From list, we can put together case processing. Convene groups for wrap around services; what are the clients' needs and how to provide supports.
- Dina Eldridge: Case conferencing will be more comprehensive, informed, client centered way; new projects in pipeline; resources today to use to make this successful; excited to make progress.
- Julie: Coordinated entry is part of HOPE recommendations and from members

experienced with homelessness. Give credit for collaboration to our many community partners. Rebecca to move forward and to support Dina with collaboration/organization; system support for coordinated entry and office staff.

- Pegge: coordinated entry is not a waiting list—identify individuals by name and what their needs are and support their needs.
- Question: Karyle Butcher: Linn Benton Housing Authority connected too? Julie: yes, Donna and Jennifer involved in conversations; planning and strong link with CSC.
- Examples scheduling, coordinating; internally we work with BC Behavioral Health for secure residential treatment facility; shout out to Damien Sands; work with external projects project turnkey 2.0; Andrea Myhre shout out; facilitate meetings and letters; help with grant applications.
- Brigetta Olson: Work with affordable developers (in chat about new development underway) 174 units under construction. Help identify resources and leverage federal and state resources.
- One stop shop navigation / resource center: (Julie Arena): share space and serve people so clients don't have to go to several places to get needs met. Corvallis Daytime Drop-in Center interested in bigger space, so United Way convened providers; keep momentum moving forward; so, concept of Navigation Center encompasses HOPE Recommendations.
- Libbi: My role helping to work on funding sources; grants; government sources at state and federal level; work with city and county to identify sources of funding; preparing materials to Speaker Rayfield's office; work with nonprofit and government entity; blending funding sources; which entity most appropriate; working with Oregon Community Foundations and others to work with nonprofit. Connect drop-in center with external organizations like contractors and developers to see what's feasible. Working with South Benton Food Pantry with navigation center.
- Work with IHN CCO to map funding streams in homeless services so we don't duplicate and what is available.
- Open to discussions with providers and what their funding needs are.
- Suzanne Hoffman: County also hired a firm to identify state and federal sources around housing and homelessness; example, state level expert working with county able to have meeting with Allison and Sue talked through nuances govt/ nonprofit approach to make reality. Bond measure in May could be included as homeless services facilities; speaker Rayfield talking with Allison; familiar with lobbyist; could be effective partnership; Allison to meet with Speaker; person working with county; make sure we are doing everything to make navigation center a reality. Firm does an assessment to see if wise choice; look at priorities of feds for example; to go after funds most likely to get and administer effectively. Also, pushing for more project Turnkey funding throughout areas of the state. Asked lobbyist to advocate for more of that kind of funding. As we work thru strategic plan, work for sustainable funding plan.

Central Point of Communications for Outreach, Engagement, and Education: (Kailee Olson, Communications Coordinator). Website design; social media; newsletter; coordinating with PIO for county; work with service providers PIOs; design visuals for story telling; community progress report; press releases; half time goes to Health Department communications; show website on HOPE Advisory Board. New graphics and visuals under recommendations and progress: HOPE News - can subscribe. Also, launched HOPE Stories and amazing progress when we put housing first and support people in our continuum of care. Leverage resources to help everyone in need. Also highlighted on social media; Facebook page with HOPE related content. Also, highlight our

service providers info on social media sites. Facebook.com/Benton County

- <https://www.co.benton.or.us/health/page/hope-recommendations-community-progress>
- [Subscribe to the HOPE News & Updates email list here:](#)
- <https://www.co.benton.or.us/health/page/housing-and-homelessness>

HOPE Board Role in Strategic Planning Process

- Community Engagement & Feedback on the Strategic Plan
 - Timeline:
 - March HOPE meeting: 1st Draft Outline that will inform the content
 - May HOPE meeting: 1st Draft Content
- Analyze and give feedback on the plan.
- Points of clarity: **intergovernmental council role**; hope to have more member cities

QUESTIONS AND DISCUSSIONS: Office, Pilot, Role, Planning, etc.:

- Melissa: IHN perspective regional and broad; complicated; we have waiver that will allow for some housing benefit. Focus on temporary, 6-month rental assistance; we like to create a regional group that could come together and help define those benefits. OHA engaging us – for entire population. If you bring us a draft; nice to have something to work from—is there a point for us to connect along the way. Julie: HOPE board recommendations are the foundation for strategic plan. HOPE Board has been engaged into the content from the beginning. Pegge: CSC engaged in same work; could convene subset of partners to feed info to the larger group.
- Andrea: Structure to meet requirements of the program. Tension between govt and agency and providers and people on the street. Submitted letter to HOPE executive for a shelter and solution to camping issue (still posting people) if continue to be relevant to community, have to take action on some of these issues. Feel like we can step in and help with those issues—the day-to-day issues happening.
- Catherine Biscoe: Effort and staffing of HOPE Advisory board, exciting to expand the foundation we built and look to expand to rural areas and bring in more partners.
- Karyle Butcher: Concerned about levels/layers that could be functional or less so—hope we guard against that—is there any concern that we are creating a multi-layer organization versus a coordinated organization.
- Suzanne: a valid question: layers already exist and ways we operate that are represented here—this can bring more clarity of purpose and roles—and that is a good thing. This is new and under construction and we have to be mindful and not become a bottleneck or confusing. How we do this graphic is very flexible at the local level. So, we can be streamlined and diligent about
- Paul: Just having a single point of contact helps; pull people into the same spot and have some traffic control. Four years ago, a lot happening in a vacuum and gaps, and this will bring together.
- Ari: Executive board made decision to meet every other month—it would be helpful for those members to communicate to the group as whole before moving forward. Feels like that piece is missing.
- Pegge: we were talking about how much to accomplish with only limited staff—so we

could meet every other month to focus on the projects. It was a spur of the moment decision.

- Julie: from staff perspective, wanted to come back to you with an outline that is fleshed out to work on content.
- Andrea: We can do things without always having a structure; sometimes is horse driving cart or vice versa...maybe we could do something where having meeting every other month and be working on other projects.
- Paul: If you are going down South Third, the construction fencing is going up at the affordable housing project at Wake Robin/Goodnight. This is the largest of our affordable housing projects in the pipeline, so we're moving to the construction phase!

VII. Educational Component and Community Engagement: Pegge McGuire will speak on: a) Executive Orders from Governor Kotek on Homelessness; b) Continuum of Care Update; and c) Governor Kotek's roundtable discussions on homelessness by region.

- Pegge McGuire: Governor's Office transition team reached out for a round table discussion about housing and homelessness. Unfortunately, they decided that Linn, Benton, and Yamhill belonged together, but Lincoln belonged to the coastal group. I told them about Linn-Benton-Lincoln as a regional group. General themes emerged along with areas of priority. We put together items/themes, such as: non-competitive funding opportunities; real costs; flexibility in funding; get away from bi-annual cycles; make big blocks of funding instead; sustained funding; eviction prevention; local control and jurisdictional access to funds; Medicaid waiver; statewide zoning; behavioral health/assisted living/ drug treatment; ways to bundle funding for services; special, dedicated funding for youth homelessness issues.
- After hearing input from roundtables, Govt issued 3 executive orders declaring emergency in homelessness: 2302 and 2303 (deal with homelessness) and 2304 (mental health and substance issues).
- Homelessness in various counties; I told them when I was a little girl, my grandfather would say at times we were so poor we ate chicken shadow soup—where you just waved the chicken over the pot of boiling water; shadow was the flavor of the soup. And, that is what we got on Executive Order 2303: We got the shadow.
- Executive Order 2302 said we have at least 40 million of funding earmarked and more coming. Requirements can be waived in emergencies. Divided the two areas by continuum of care that have dedicated planning groups; have to register with HUD and this is area we serve; manage point in time count and coordinated entry process and submit an application for Hud funding.
- We belong to rural Oregon continuum of care (26 counties). All counties that were named (Multnomah, Jackson, Marion, Polk) are in Executive Order 2302; other counties not treated as serious in 2303.
- Looked at data (Dina pulled data) for coordinated entry, Linn County had 55 percent increase in homelessness (2017-2022); Lincoln had 72 percent increase; Benton County had 89 percent increase. Governor thought other counties had bigger increase.
- Pegge drafted a resolution: Lincoln County passed a resolution; and Linn County will write letter to Governor and Oregon Emergency Management and ask to be added to 2302 executive order.
- CSC/Pegge will lead effort to have Linn/Benton/Lincoln have a coordinated continuum of care. Have to register next year; this is a big deal; as more money from state targeted to

communities in 2302 executive order and the rest get shadow soup.

- Julie: Board of Commissioners in Benton County working on letter. We want to know what this order means. During covid with EOCs, staff pulled away from other work. BOC wants to know what opting into Executive Order means and have opportunity to join with the Linn, Lincoln, Benton continuum of care.

VIII. Next Steps:

- Upcoming HOPE Meeting: March 22, 2023
 - HOPE's ROLE In Strategic Planning Process: Meet every other month first half of 2023. Come back in March and present draft outline of strategic plan. In May come back with first draft of strategic plan; your role to analyze and give feedback of plan.
 - City and County staff will attend to hear feedback from the HOPE Board on the Strategic Plan Draft Outline for HB 4123.
- Coordinated Response Office working on:
 - HB 4123 Pilot requirements, structure, and projects for a coordinated response to homelessness solutions. Rural outreach and engagement.
 - Improving coordinated entry by implementing ROCKit action items for coordinated entry training and case conferencing.
 - Coordinating and supporting community partner projects.

IX. Meeting was Adjourned at 6 pm.