



HOPE Advisory Board

March 2023 Public Meeting

Meeting facilitated by HOPE Coordinator, Julie Arena

3/22/2023



Virtual Meeting Housekeeping

- Please mute your microphone until it is your turn to share.
- All attendees can unmute themselves and choose to be seen visually by clicking “Mic” or “Camera” at the top right of the screen.
- **Public comment:**
 - Type your name into the “Chat” area, say you want to make a public comment, and on what topic.
 - Example: “Julie – public comment – crisis response.”
 - For those on the phone, there will be an opportunity to comment, too.
- **Questions during the meeting:**
 - Type into the “Chat” area and send it to host, Julie Arena.



Meeting Agenda

- I. Welcome, Meeting Housekeeping, Overview of Agenda.....4:00pm
- II. Public Comment (up to 10 minutes)4:00pm
- III. Roll call and approve January 2023 meeting minutes4:10pm
- IV.HOPE Board feedback on the Strategic Plan Draft Outline for HB 4123 Pilot
Guests: Coordinated Homeless Response Office staff
- V. Community Progress Update5:15pm
- VI.Educational Component: OR Legislation & How to Track Bills.....5:35pm
- VIII. Next Steps5:55pm



Agreements for our culture + conduct:

Fun

Inclusive ✓✓

humor

Food ✓

Action/roll up sleeves

Change the face of Homelessness

honesty

Respect ✓

Consensus

Think before you speak

Courtesy ✓

transparency

Recognize personal bias

Kindness ✓

time management

Concise communication

Open minded ✓

opinions matter

data driven

Do your homework!

patient

authentic

Valuing personal experience

dedication/work ethic
honor the expectations of
the work

Public Comment

10 minutes

- Comment limited to 2-3 minutes based on number of people wanting to comment
- Type into the “Chat” and say you want to make a public comment and on what topic.
- For those on the phone, I will ask if there are any public comments from callers.
- Can also submit written comments to the Board via email to Julie.Arena@co.Benton.or.us

Vote on January 2022 minutes, roll call

Catherine Biscoe

Karyle Butcher

Alice Carter

Ricardo Contreras

Bryan Cotter

Cade DeLoach

Anita Earl

Joel Goodwin

Ari Grossman-Naples

Barbara Hanley

Melissa Isavoran

Briae Lewis* (Corvallis City Councilor)

Cindee Lolik* (Business Community)

Charles Maughan* (Corvallis Mayor)

Pegge McGuire* (CSC Director) –
excused

Andrea Myhre

Chanale Propst

Nancy Wyse* (County Commissioner)

*Executive Committee Members

Benton County Coordinated Homeless Response Office:

Strategic Plan Community Engagement

HOPE Advisory Board meeting

3/22/2023



Coordinated Office Staff



- April Holland, Interim County Health Director
- Rebecca Taylor, Project Manager
- Julie Arena, Program Coordinator

Today's Goals:

Understanding and Feedback



Roles and functions of different entities:

- Inter-governmental Council (IGC)
- Elected Bodies (City Councils and County Board of Commissioners)
- HOPE Advisory Board
- Coordinated Response Office



HOPE Policy Recommendations Foundation

Mission ➡ Values ➡ Policies ➡ Operations



HB 4123 Coordinated Office Strategic Plan

- HOPE Policy Recommendations & HB 4123 priority areas
- Review a draft strategic plan outline
- Hear HOPE Board feedback

Why?

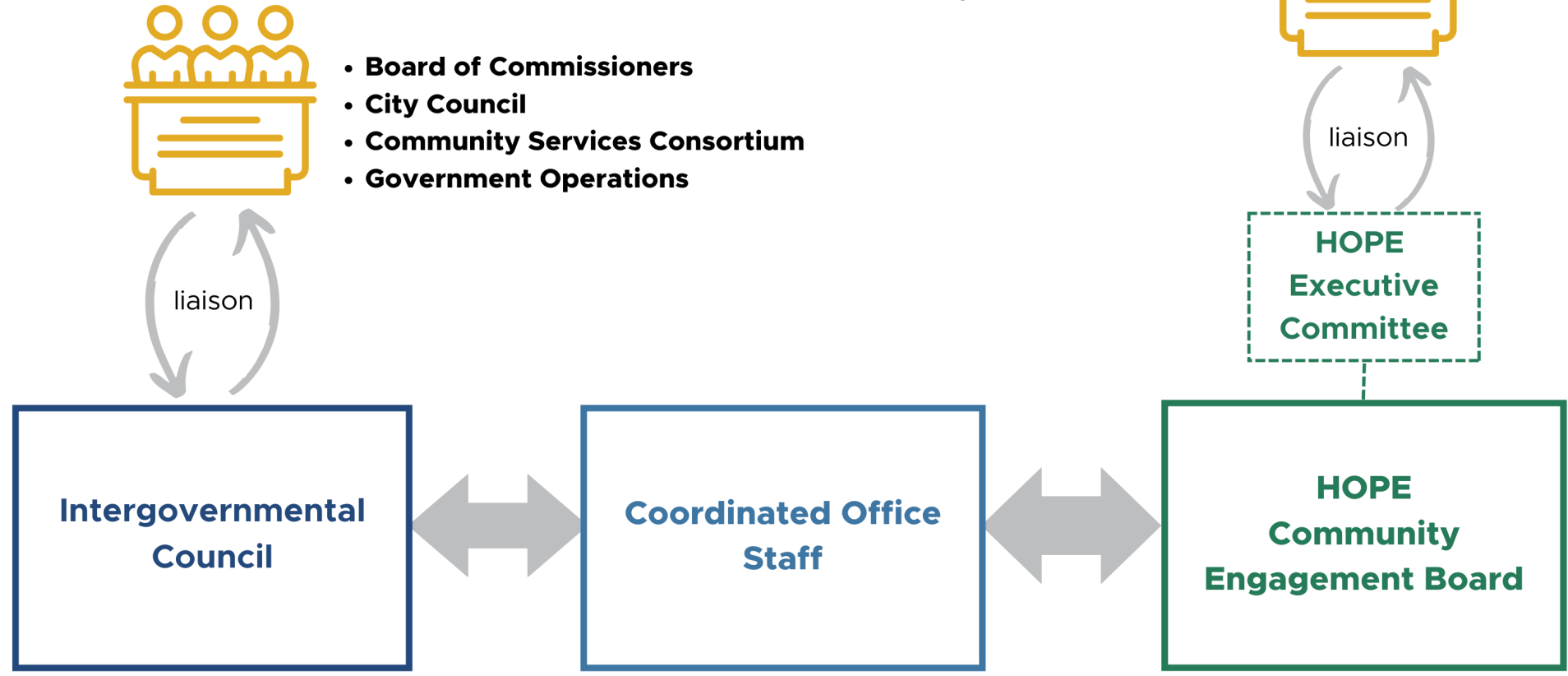
Everyone in Benton County should have the opportunity to live in decent, safe, and affordable housing.

- HOPE Bylaws



The Coordinated Office creates a framework to provide **cross-sector operational coordination** to support *countywide efforts* and support cities and service providers with the ultimate goal to sustain housing in every community.

Coordinated Response Structure



Clarifying Roles



Elected Bodies

- City Councils
- County Board of Commissioners

Purpose: continue to drive policy decisions, provide a representative liaison to the Inter-governmental council.

Inter-governmental Council (IGC)

- 1 elected official from each member government serve as a liaison to their respective elected body.
- City Manager & County Administrator
- CSC Director or designee

Purpose: Operational coordination and staff-level collaboration. Determine when to elevate policy issue to elected bodies for decision-making.

Clarifying Roles



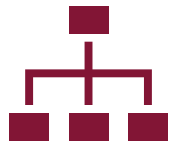
Community Engagement Body: *HOPE* Advisory Board

- Public engagement and community input forum for feedback and involvement from diverse cross section of communities
- Advise elected bodies on policies
- Elected Officials on HOPE Board communicate updates back to their elected bodies.

Coordinated Homeless Response Office

- Staff level work on policy implementation
- Staff level coordination between county, cities, and CSC staff
- Coordination regionally and with community partners
- Provides updates to Inter-governmental Council

Coordinated Homeless Response Office



- **Leadership, structure, and support** for providers and system improvements.



- Build **sustainable resources and additional funding** beyond the local level.



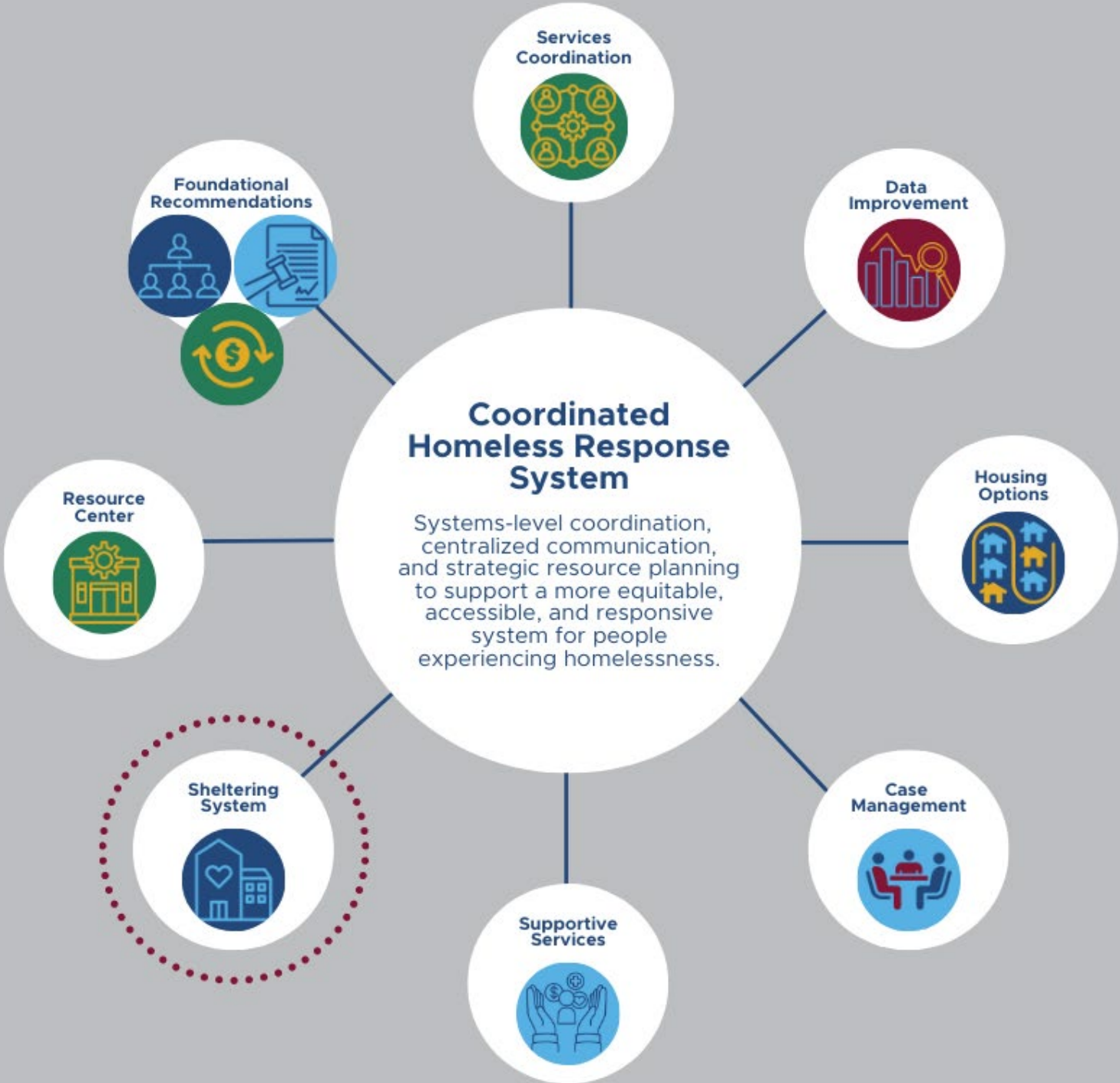
- Central point of **communication**.



- **Community engagement**.

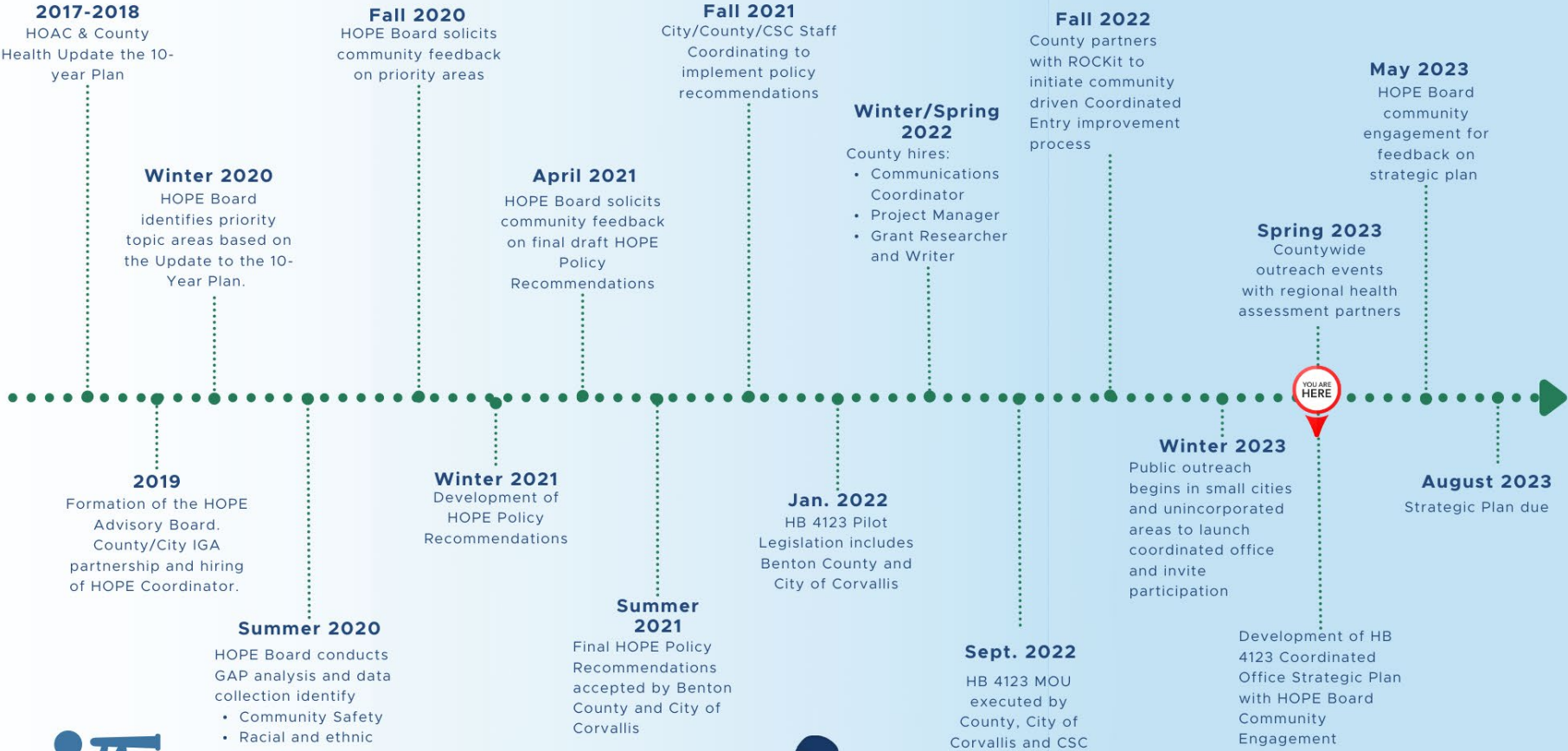
HOPE Policy Recommendations

Benton County's foundation for HB 4123



Community Progress Timeline

The Foundation for a Coordinated Homeless Response in Benton County, OR



From Policy to Progress...

What are we hoping to achieve today with the HOPE Board?

Strat Plan purposes:

- Goal 1: Strategic Plan communicates our local work to the State within the framework they are funding.
- Goal 2: Strategic Plan guides staff work to implement policy recommendations.
- Goal 3: Community Roadmap

HOPE Feedback Purpose:

Help us effectively communicate our local work to the State and to Benton County communities.

HOPE Values from Bylaws:

- Use data to drive assessments, prioritization and accountability.
- Take a comprehensive systems and multi-sector approach.
- Engage and involve the community, not just direct service providers.
- Prioritize vulnerable populations.
- Promote community safety for all.
- Promote racial and ethnic justice.

HB 4123 strategic plan requirements:

- Sustainable funding for ongoing operations of coordinated homeless response system.
- Increasing or streamlining resources and services to people at risk of or experiencing homelessness.
- Incorporating national best practices for ending homelessness.
- Eliminating racial disparities within the service area.
- Create pathways to permanent and supportive housing that is affordable to local populations experiencing or at risk of homelessness.

Alignment of HOPE Policy Recommendations with HB 4123

| HOPE Policy Recommendations | HB 4123 Required Focus Areas | | | | |
|--|---|--|---|---|--|
| | Sustainable Funding to support the ongoing operations of the coordinated homeless response system | Increasing or streamlining resources and services to people at risk of or experiencing homelessness. | Incorporating national best practices for ending homelessness | Eliminating racial disparities within homeless services within the services area; | Creating pathways to permanent and supportive housing that is affordable to local populations experiencing or at risk of homelessness. |
| Facilitate and coordinate data improvement efforts with community partners. | | | X | | |
| Work with providers to create metrics for successful program goals. | | | X | | |
| Prioritize collaboration and coordination of providers and partners with routine meetings for improved care coordination facilitated by a full-time staff member. | | X | X | | X |
| Collaborate with social services and health care partners to increase the number of paid full-time case managers to support people transitioning out of homelessness. | X | X | | | |
| Pursue implementation of a crisis response team and collect data on the scope and scale of need for crisis response. | | X | | X | |
| Provide organizational capacity to facilitate and coordinate providers in establishing a 24/7/365 Sheltering System for all populations with onsite resources at shelter locations to transition people out of homelessness. | | X | X | X | |
| Facilitate and support the creation of a Resource Center | | X | X | X | X |
| Explore and investigate the need and the barriers to accessing housing for individuals and their families in our community whose history has impacted their ability to secure housing | | | | X | X |
| Provide routine communication, notice, and opportunities for community involvement on the topic of homelessness services. | | | | | |
| Increase development or acquisition of affordable housing units for permanent supportive housing (PSH) by 20 new units per year for the next eight years to add at a minimum 160 new units of PSH in Benton County. | | X | | | X |
| Increase available rental/income assistance options. | X | | | | |
| Increase supportive services and stable funding streams to provide services to residents at more affordable housing locations. | X | X | | | |

Cross-cutting Recommendations

- Foundational Recommendation A: Capacity
- Foundational Recommendation B: Funding
- Foundational Recommendation C: Legislative Advocacy
- Recommendation #9: Communications

This HB 4123 Pilot is the result and embodiment of all of these.

Coordinated Office Strategic Priorities

- Chart overview handout

I. Sustainable funding for ongoing operations of coordinated homeless response system.

- **Policy #4:** Increase the number of paid, full-time case managers to support people transitioning out of homelessness.
- **Policy #11:** Increase available rental/income assistance options.
- **Policy #12:** Increase supportive services and stable funding streams to provide services to residents at more affordable housing locations.

II. Increasing or streamlining resources and services to people at risk of or experiencing homelessness.

- **Policy #3:** Collaboration and coordination of providers and partners for improved care coordination.
- **Policy #4:** Increase the number of paid, full-time case managers to support people transitioning out of homelessness.
- **Policy #5:** Crisis response team.
- **Policy #6:** Establish 24/7/365 sheltering system for all populations with onsite resources.
- **Policy #7:** Facilitate and support the creation of a Resource Center.
- **Policy #10:** Increase development or acquisition of affordable housing units for permanent supportive housing (PSH).
- **Policy #12:** Increase supportive services and stable funding streams to provide services at more affordable housing locations.

III. Incorporating national best practices for ending homelessness.

- **Policy # 1:** Facilitate and coordinated data improvement efforts with community partners.
- **Policy # 2:** Work with providers to create metrics for successful program goals.
- **Policy #3:** Prioritize collaboration and coordination of providers and partners for improved care coordination.
- **Policy #6:** Establish 24/7/365 sheltering system for all populations with onsite resources.
- **Policy #7:** Facilitate and support the creation of a Resource Center.

IV. Eliminating racial disparities within the service area.

- **Policy #5:** Crisis response team.
- **Policy #6:** Establish 24/7/365 sheltering system for all populations with onsite resources.
- **Policy #7:** Facilitate and support the creation of a Resource Center.
- **Policy #8:** Explore and investigate the need and the barriers to accessing housing for individuals and their families in our community whose past history has impacted their ability to secure housing.

V. Create pathways to permanent and supportive housing that is affordable to local populations experiencing or at risk of homelessness.

- **Policy #3:** Policy #3: Collaboration and coordination of providers and partners for improved care coordination.
- **Policy #7:** Facilitate and support the creation of a Resource Center.
- **Policy #8:** Explore and investigate the need and the barriers to accessing housing.
- **Policy #10:** Increase development or acquisition of affordable housing units for permanent supportive housing (PSH).
- **Policy #11:** Increase available rental/income assistance options.
- **Policy #12:** Increase supportive services and stable funding streams to provide services at more affordable housing locations.

Questions and Feedback

- Does this make sense?
- Will it be understandable to a broad range of community members?

Progress Update


- New projects in Benton County that implement HOPE Recommendations.
- Role of Coordinated Office staff to support and coordinate community partners.
- Community updates will happen regularly at HOPE meetings.

Coordinated entry (CE): A system-level improvement



Prioritizing our most vulnerable folks for housing with data-informed decisions and human-centered case conferencing.

- **Coordinated Office** 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 housing resources & funding to help most vulnerable

-  role: HMIS and case conferencing

Coordinated Entry: supports system improvements

- **HOPE Recommendation 1:** Facilitate and coordinate data improvement efforts with community partners.
- **HOPE Recommendation 2:** Work with providers to create metrics for successful program goals. Improved data is the foundation for successful metrics.
- **HOPE Recommendation 3:** Prioritize collaboration and coordination of providers and partners with routine meetings for improved care coordination.

Crisis Response and Services

HOPE Rec. #5

- Crisis Outreach Response and Engagement (CORE) team with behavioral health professional and law enforcement is recruiting for more behavioral health staff to expand.
- The Crisis Center site in downtown Corvallis has broken ground. (one-pager)

More 24/7/365 Sheltering Options for all populations – HOPE Rec. 6

- Additional capacity in community from service providers: Unity Shelter, Corvallis Housing First, COI, Jackson Street Youth, CARDV, upcoming Navigation Center from CDDC.
- County code changes allow more flexibility in rural Benton County areas.

New Transitional Shelter Option

- A state law passed that allows the county to adopt rules for overnight camping on public and private land. Oregon House Bill 2006 (2021)
- The county chose to adopt a code to allow up to 3 vehicles to camp overnight on religious property in unincorporated areas. (one-pager)
- “Vehicle” includes a car, RV, trailer, or movable microshelter.



One church in unincorporated Benton County is hosting microshelters under the current code, supporter by Unity Shelter.

South Benton Food Pantry: Becoming the Kepi Nak-Nak Resource Center



Kepi Nak-Nak Resource Center



Coordinated Office role:

- Connecting with other providers and funding sources
- Leveraging resources
- Awareness and Education
- Supporting additional funding

Homelessness Services Housing & Navigation Center

Current Problem

The number of individuals experiencing homelessness in Benton County increased dramatically by 89% between 2017 and 2022. Benton County has one of the highest rates of income inequality in Oregon. Among renters, 40% spend more than half of their income on rent; the number rises to 83% for extremely low-income individuals. For every 100 families with exceedingly low income, there are only 14 affordable rental units available. The Corvallis Daytime Drop-in Center is a 503(c)(3) organization with a long history of serving Benton County; employing 7 staff and 50 volunteers and serving 40-70 guests per day. The need and request for service outweighs CDDC's current capacity; with a current footprint of ~2,500 square feet, there is not enough functional space to accommodate the guests and the people who serve them. Additionally, the space is not sufficient for persons with mental, physical, and/or development disabilities, alcohol or drug addictions, or who are frail elderly which makes up a large percentage of the population served.

Project Description

Benton County, in alignment with the Corvallis Daytime Drop-in Center, is seeking support that will provide resources to build a Navigation Center which will provide 24-7 shelter and crucial services to Tri-County residents who are experiencing homelessness. The Navigation Center will be a low-barrier, non-congregate emergency shelter that is open 7 days per week and connects individuals with health services, permanent housing, and public benefits. All guests served will have a one-stop-shop access to service providers and case management, community spaces, basic needs navigation, healthcare, behavioral healthcare, employment resources, and affordable housing services through drop-in hours, Monday – Friday between 9:00 AM and 5:00 PM.

Intended Outcomes & Benefits

The Navigation Center will support systems-level outcomes to improve data coordination, improve care coordination and case conferencing, augment sheltering, identify and address gaps in services, and provide a one-stop resource center for people most in need. Immediate-term impacts of the Navigation Center involve getting individuals off the street, access to diverse services and shelter that springboard people into affordable housing, as well as access to longer-term behavioral health supports (including addiction treatment). Additionally, it would enable our community to build more effective and efficient collaborations. Priority groups for the Center include seniors, people with disabilities, veterans, LGBTQ+ people, and people of color.



Navigation Center Inspiration Photo

Project Budget & Funding Gap

The total estimate for the construction of a Homeless Navigation Center is approximately \$14.2 million. The County will be contributing \$3.0 million of resources, and the Corvallis Daytime Drop-in Center will be providing \$1.0 million from donations and fundraising. **The resources needed to complete the Homeless Navigation Center is \$10.2 million.**

Contact Information

Zack Reeves, State Affairs Manager | CFM Advocates
zackr@cfmpdx.com

Allison Hobgood, Executive Director | Corvallis Daytime Drop-in Center
Allison.hobgood@gmail.com

Rick Cragger, CFO | Benton County
rick.cragger@bentoncountyor.gov

Implementing HOPE Recommendations

6. Provide organizational capacity to facilitate and coordinate providers in establishing a 24/7/365 Sheltering System for all populations with onsite resources at shelter locations to transition people out of homelessness.

7. Facilitate and support the creation of a Resource Center.

- Navigation Center in Corvallis – Daytime Drop-in Center expansion
- Kepi Nak-Nak Resource Center in Monroe

HOPE Rec. #9: Communications

**Countywide
communication
and outreach for
education,
collaboration, and
system
improvements**

Coordinated Office outreach:

- **Monroe City Council**
- **Adair Village City Council**
- **Philomath City Council**
- **Albany City Council**
- **Community Health Assessment (CHA) and Community Health Improvement Plan (CHIP) outreach events in Monroe and Alsea**

Implementing HOPE Recommendations

11. Increase available rental/income assistance options

- CSC's work with Linn Benton Housing Authority to improve voucher placement rates in Benton County.
- Coordinating with IHN-CCO on new Medicaid waiver benefit for rental assistance via Coalition for Housing Equity.

Emergency Housing Vouchers (EHV)

Linn Benton Housing
Authority and
Community Services
Consortium cooperative
effort to house people
who are literally
homeless or fleeing
domestic violence.

New support from HUD only for EHV:

- A housing navigator to help find and secure housing for each EHV recipient

AND

- \$3,000 per voucher

(for deposit, moving costs, landlord incentives, first/last months rent)

Emergency Housing Voucher Success: housing navigator & \$3,000 per voucher

Housing Choice Vouchers (HCV)

- HCV typical success rate: **37-54%** depending on the type of voucher.
- **Currently 31.4% leased** in Benton County for the regular HCV program.

Emergency Housing Vouchers (EHV)

- EHV success rate in 2022: **63.5%**
- **Currently 59% leased** in Benton County for the ECV program.

Implementing HOPE Recommendations

4. Collaborate with social service and health care partners to increase the number of paid, fulltime case managers to support people transitioning out of homelessness.

12. Increase supportive services and stable funding streams to provide services to residents at more affordable housing locations.

- Collaboration with IHN-CCO on new Medicaid waiver benefits for housing navigation (and rental assistance).
- Grant writer support to organizations applying for funding.

Educational Component: Legislation

Catherine Biscoe,
HOPE Co-Chair

- **Current Bills involving Housing**

<https://www.oregonhousingalliance.org/2023-legislative-agenda/>

- **How to track bills and get updates**

<https://www.oregonhousingalliance.org/legislative-website/>

- **How to give testimony**

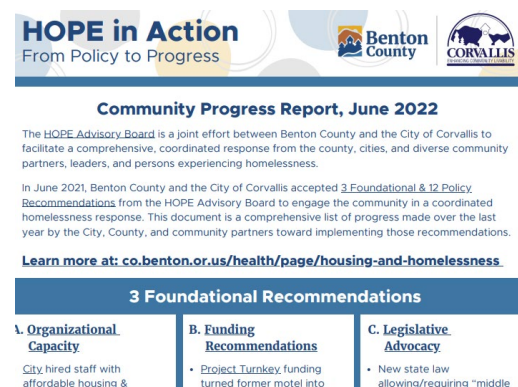
<https://www.oregonhousingalliance.org/testimony/>

Central Point of Communications



HOPE Website

- [Central point of communication](#)



Graphics & Visuals

- [Storytelling](#)



e-Newsletter

- [Subscribe to HOPE News & Updates](#)



Social Media

- [Amplifying aligned messaging through partner engagement](#)

Next steps...

Upcoming HOPE Meeting: May 24, 2023

- City and County staff will return to hear feedback from HOPE Board on Strategic Plan for HB 4123.
- Hybrid in-person and virtual meeting at county Kalapuya building, details to come.



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every day.



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