



Home, Opportunity, Planning, and Equity (HOPE) Advisory Board Meeting Approved Minutes

May 24, 2023 from 4 pm to 6 pm
Kalapuya Building, 450 SW Research Way



- Members Present:** Catherine Biscoe; Alice Carter; Ricardo Contreras; Bryan Cotter; Cade DeLoach; Anita Earl; Joel Goodwin; Ari Grossman-Naples; Barbara Hanley; Melissa Isavoran; Briae Lewis* (Corvallis City Councilor); Aaron Lewis; Cindee Lolik* (Business Community); Charles Maughan* Mayor (Corvallis City Council); Pegge McGuire* CSC Director; Andrea Myhre; Nancy Wyse* (Benton County Commissioner).
Excused: Charles Maughan; Chanale Propst; Karyle Butcher
Absent:
Staff Present: Julie Arena (Benton County Health, HOPE Program Coordinator); Paula Felipe (Benton County Public Health, recorder); April Holland, Director, Health Department, Benton County; Rebecca Taylor; Brigetta Olson (City of Corvallis); Damien Sands (Director, Behavioral Health, Benton County)
Guests: Ty Anderson-Hubler (LBHEA)
 *Executive Committee Members.

- I. **Welcome and Introductions.** Reminder of culture and conduct agreement, such as kindness, open-mindedness, curious, respect, inclusivity. Welcome new member: Aaron Lewis, born in Corvallis and works in Oregon State Legislature as an aid; graduate from the University of Oregon last year; wants to serve and use his voice for community.
- II. **Public Comments (limited to 2-3 minutes).** No Comment.
- III. **Approval of Minutes: MOTION** made by Cindee Lolik to approve the March 2023 Minutes; **Seconded** by Joel Goodwin; All in favor; **MOTION** passed. Abstained: Aaron Lewis; Bryan Cotter
- IV. **Keys for the People - Community Event/Housing Festival, Ty Anderson-Hubler, Coordinator, Linn Benton Health Equity Alliance (LBHEA).**
 - Excited to share successes this year and goals of the festival that took place on April 29, 2023. Grateful for help of people.
 - Started with idea I had and involved awesome people around the country; sharing info and resources to reach out to marginalized groups. For example, bring folks to teach about real estate. Barriers involved. So, create events to help involve marginalized communities to overcome barriers.
 - Also member of CSC and NAACP on the Housing committee; shared the idea and they loved it.
 - Event provides resources that not everyone knows about; place to acknowledge history and build community; especially historically excluded groups.
 - Learning how to market and advertise. NAACP event last year support by CSC and Health Equity Alliance—advocate for people who do not have the resources and capacity; NAACP

is volunteer based.

- When member of housing committee and with CSC, Pegge promoted Advocacy and Liaison for communities of color position. Pitched idea to Dina and Pegge; great event last May. Two other colleagues, Carla and Jessica, helped with event.
- Community led event. About 200 people at event this year.
- Had presentations; about 25-30 people attended.
- Last year and this year at Corvallis Community Center-beautiful space-reserved entire building.
- Had resource tables for community partners; 4 presentations.
- Hybrid presentation for those who cannot attend in person.
- 2018 film shown—support artists.
- Kids corner provided; childcare is a barrier.
- Music, catering, everything was free of charge.
- Learned how to share and market the event, particularly in Spanish.
- Translations to check meaning; identifying other languages too.
- One goal is that it continues – designer for branding and social media. Supported by Health Equity Alliance. NAACP can help continue the tradition. Biggest thing is building community. Working at CSC, relationship cannot be transactional; different agencies; some not trusting certain systems; want joy there; more of a celebration and then happens to be resources and historical contacts related to housing.
- Exciting to see friends and come back each year. Hope to see more of you next year.
- Fair Housing Oregon did a presentation on land use and historical discrimination; had coalition on a panel to discuss community housing solutions. Could create a meeting so folks can log in and have virtual meeting.

Discussion/Comments:

- Pegge: Ty put together a fabulous event during COVID-19; people had such a lovely time and shared great info with others. Look forward to future when doing event again, and we will say wow, remember when we first started and now thousands are coming!
- Brigetta: I had opportunity to be there; it was fabulous, and people gathered indoors.
- Catherine Biscoe: sense of community evident in every room; really was impressive; thank you so much!

V. 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
- CSC role: HMIS and case conferencing
- CSC is convening community partners twice per month for case conferencing:
 - Making housing connections
 - Learning about gaps/needs
- Coordinated Office staff supported Release of Info (ROI) language so we can talk across organizations about helping folks with housing.

- Julie will bring back some take aways at next meeting.

VI. **HOPE Recommendations: #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 5/22/23; Community Health Assessment (CHA) and Community Health Improvement Plan (CHIP) outreach events in Monroe and Alsea 5/23/23:

VII. **City of Corvallis Consolidated Plan – HOME and CDBG (Brigetta Olson, Housing Manager, Community Development).**

- The Consolidated Plan helps states and local jurisdictions to assess their affordable housing and community development needs and market conditions, and to make data-driven, place-based investment decisions.
- The consolidated planning process is a framework for a community-wide dialogue to identify housing and community development priorities that align and focus funding from the CPD formula block grant programs:
- **Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) Program**
 - Benefiting low- and moderate-income persons and communities:
 - The CDBG program works to address a range of community needs. Funds are targeted to assist low- and moderate-income persons and families with the intent of filling gaps in funding.
 - Acquisition of real property
 - Relocation and demolition
 - Rehabilitation of residential and non-residential structures
 - Construction of public facilities and improvements, such as water and sewer facilities, streets, neighborhood centers, and the conversion of school buildings for eligible purposes
 - Public services/human services, within certain limits 15%
 - Activities relating to energy conservation and renewable energy resources
 - Provision of assistance to profit-motivated businesses to carry out economic development and job creation/retention activities
 - **CDBG – Not Eligible:**
 - Generally, the following types of activities are **ineligible:**
 - Acquisition, construction, or reconstruction of buildings for the general conduct of government
 - Political activities
 - Certain income payments
 - Construction of new housing (with some exceptions)
- **HOME Investment Partnership Program**
 - The HOME Investment Partnerships Program (HOME) provides formula grants to states and localities that communities use - often in partnership with local nonprofit groups - to fund a wide range of activities including building, buying, and/or rehabilitating affordable housing for rent or homeownership or providing direct rental assistance to low-income people.
 - HOME is the largest federal block grant to state and local governments designed exclusively to create affordable housing for low-income households.

- **The Annual Action Plan and CAPER**
 - The Consolidated Plan is carried out through Annual Action Plans. These provide:
 - A concise summary of the actions and activities
 - And the specific federal and non-federal resources that will be used each year to address the priority needs and specific goals identified by the Consolidated Plan.
 - Consolidated Annual Performance and Evaluation Report (CAPER).
 - In the CAPER, grantees report on accomplishments and progress toward Consolidated Plan goals in the prior year.
- **Consolidated Plan Goals**
 - Draft 2023-2027 goals CDBG and HOME, most carried over from last plan
 - Create and retain affordable housing opportunities
 - Infrastructure for the development of affordable housing or in low mod neighborhoods
 - Maintain the quality of affordable housing
 - Support achievement of the policy recommendations of Housing, Opportunity, Planning, and Equity (HOPE) board and strategic plan priorities of the Coordinated Homeless Response Office.
 - Support agencies that provide direct services to low income and special needs populations
- **Annual allocation CDBG and HOME**
 - Currently-
 - \$545,000 – Community Development Block Grant
 - \$380,000- HOME Investment Partnership Program
 - Program income
 - \$150,000- estimated
 - Point in Time- houselessness in Benton County: 293 in 2022 (see PowerPoint)
 - Severely Cost-Burdened Households by Housing Tenure (going up)
 - Age of Corvallis Housing Stock: (most built from 1970 to 1979—see PowerPoint)
- Working on plan and putting out for public comment by June 17th; on website and go before Council July 17.
- One goal to commit infrastructure adjacent for a property for affordable housing development; costly to build housing; want to leverage other resources like Oregon housing community services.

Comments/Questions:

- Different definitions on how household is defined.
- Student population included.
- Does city have property and block grants for construction? Brigetta: block grant not for new construction generally; city currently does not own any land we can use.
- Alice: NPR had report in Texas which had land for permanent housing; more stability and addictions dropped; amazing program. Wish we had the property to put to use. Brigetta: we have more resources than we ever had. Have tools and resources available.
- Catherine Briscoe: potential properties; city of Corvallis—open to talking with the County to collaborate.
- What is construction access tax? For residential and commercial development; taxes put into loan fund for help organizations.

VIII. Strategic Plan DRAFT – Community Engagement. (Benton County Coordinated Homeless Response Office - Julie Arena, Program Coordinator, Rebecca Taylor, Project Manager; April Holland, Interim County Health Director)

- Julie sent materials out on Friday.
- Today's Goals: Understanding and Feedback: HB 4123 Coordinated Office Strategic Plan: Review draft plan and hear HOPE feedback.
- 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
- Review Community Progress Timeline.
- **From Policy to Progress: Strategic 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.
- **Update to the 10 year Plan:**
- Recommended advancing priority policy recommendations – led to the creation of HOPE Board.
- Identified strategic priorities across the whole spectrum of housing issues – "Broad Intervention Areas"
- Research and best practices in the field show are each key to reducing homelessness.
- **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 (see graph).**
- **Development since the March HOPE meeting:**

- We are organizing our 5-year strategic plan with the same broad priority areas from the 10-year plan to accomplish the following:
 - Strategic priorities that are inclusive and relevant for community partners working on urban and rural solutions.
 - Showing alignment for collective impact.
 - Community roadmap of all the work beyond HOPE recs and HB 4123 requirements.
 - Holding space for countywide and even regional approaches.
- **5 year Strategic Plan will inform our work as 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.
 - **Strategic Plan feedback work session**
 - Does this make sense?
 - Will it be understandable to a broad range of community members?

Questions/Comments:

- Catherine Biscoe: Appreciate approach and messaging in coordination with partners and Benton County; encompassing everything and gives better picture; appreciate what you ‘ve put together and I support it.
- Julie: to coordinate across spectrum; unique plan, involves whole communities.
- Pegge: This is such great work. CSC sits on all different groups-- You are light years ahead of everyone; wonderful work; deep thinking; deserve pat on the back.
- Benton County Coordinated Homeless Response System

• **DRAFT Strategic Plan 2022 – 2027**

- **The Coordinated Homeless Response System:** A. Benton County’s Coordinated Homeless Response Office; B. HOPE Advisory Board; C. Intergovernmental Council; D. Service Provider Network.
- **Guiding Principles, Values, and Resources for the Coordinated Office**
- **Organization and Purpose of the Strategic Plan:** A. Community Roadmap; B. Work and Resource Prioritization; C. Accountability/Stewardship; D. Strategic Priorities
- **The Strategic Plan: Community and Organizational Systems and Policy Change; Comprehensive Care Coordination; Prevention; Street Outreach and Rapid Response; Housing; Community Engagement – Inclusion & Neighborhood Belonging.**

Comments/Questions:

- Joel: To share with public, would be good to provide summary with basics and not just the entire document. Julie: Kailee took 17 pages and put into 2 pager.
- Joel: list all recommendations in one place; to make sure it is a comprehensive list; and not just picking out a few randomly.
- Cindee: what is HB? Can we include a glossary of terms?
- April: Really like all the feedback; like ideas of appendix illustrating alignment at a glance. Thanks for the feedback.

- Joel: helpful to put all recommendations in one place along with appendix; since they are numbered; helps to show the entire numbered list.
- Julie: community partners can impact timelines; list not all inclusive; good examples.
- Melissa: two main components; prioritization and data—would it be better to break those out? Julie: not including every detail in this plan; operational work will evolve with plan.
- Barbara: Need to add what directs community on how they can give input; thru the HOPE board. Julie: good feedback.

Questions/Comments (on Next Section: Comprehensive Care Coordination: The Work: Action-Projects-Progress/Partners/Timeline):

- Melissa: streamlining social service applications and intent there; could be pretty broad—how is that included in intent?
- Julie: comprehensive care coordination; how to collaborate better; and accessible to under representative communities. Pegge: can talk about application piece and partnerships: as social service providers, talked about having one application, so all navigators and all social service providers could use it.
- Ricardo is a great example working with Casa Latinx; CSC trying to take the lead and better serve those communities.
- Melissa: social services relate to government services; like food stamps and Medicaid eligibility; very broad term.
- Pegge: one system that DHS launched: happened after original conversation; adds more complexity to it. Melissa: hard to get government streamlined.
- Julie: Have navigation and one stop shop resource center and OHN on site and have people spend time; all in same building; greater foundation; one form and auto populate other forms.
- Brigetta: how to measure success? Serving individuals; important that we are measuring what we are doing. Julie: great feedback.
- Rebecca: Metrics could change.
- Andrea Myhre: lay out framework to pursue these goal areas.
- Melissa: These are goals not necessarily the details/specific tasks. Identify over the course of 3 years how to meet the goals and show progress.
- Ari: acronyms-spell out.
- Joel: spell out the first time
- Julie: meet to discuss Samaritan and Casa Latinos Unidos strategic plan with Ricardo Contreras and with Anita Earl.

Comments/Questions (on Next Section: Prevention and Street Outreach and Rapid Response):

- Aaron Lewis: soft skills?
- Julie: soft skills: relationships; engage with trauma informed way. Concept of harm reduction style; human centered; motivational interviewing; low barrier; build relationship; so important to be able do data collection; asking a person questions; could be traumatic to talk about. Soft relationship skills needed.
- Brigetta: and measure it; served X number of individuals.
- Rebecca: Albany City had training on crisis response; good to look at community belonging and inclusion and enhance understanding across the community.
- Cindee: trainings for business community; de-escalation trainings; OSU do a workshop;

most people don't know what to do.

- Damien Sands: One example; can google this: simplistic intervention called "QPR" which is "Question; Persuade; Refer" - for someone who is actively suicidal; gives some basic soft skills tools to engage that person where they are and to assist them. QPR easy access point to engage with individuals. Email Damien if you are interested in learning more. He will share email of resources to Julie to share with board.

Comments/Questions (On Next Section: Housing):

- Andrea: camping/unsheltered issue not in our revision to 10-year plan; but it is on-going community debate; city is handling it largely themselves with policy. HOPE has little advisory capacity on that issue; I think somehow we need to include the full scope of what people are experiencing; people who are on streets and camping—part of spectrum where people are living; and what recommendations can we give to deal with that issue. Camping is still housing/shelter issue. Not in legislative requirements; but should make a change to address community response to unsheltered people living on streets/camping issues. Need to address Boise issue and reviewing best practices for dealing with people on street.
- Rebecca: interim harm reducing solutions?
- Brigetta: what shelter capacity is needed? When are beds available? Another measurement; and what population?
- Rebecca: how to connect people to resources.
- Andrea: our focus is on shelter and microshelter which is fine; but until we have capacity to serve everyone, what are we doing to help people on the street. Give some evaluations and recommendations for people on the street.

Comments/Questions (on Next Section: Community Engagement, Inclusion, and Neighboring Belonging):

- Catherine: provide a short description and list of service providers.
- Alice: appreciate what Andrea said about unsheltered. As provider working with people under water – like trying to bring oxygen to people barely surviving. Hard to imagine success. To improve structure, need to push mayors to get together with governors; huge national problem; like to see a national response and have to start pushing from the bottom. Harm reduction team is there responding to crisis day in day out—good to coordinate with Benton County Harm Reduction Team.

IX. Next Steps:

- If anyone has other thoughts, will work on end of July; due end of August; let Julie know.

X. Meeting was Adjourned at 6 pm.