



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

August 23, 2023 from 4 pm to 6 pm  
Kalapuya Building, 4500 SW Research Way



**Members Present:** Catherine Biscoe; Karyle Butcher; Alice Carter; Bryan Cotter; Cade DeLoach; Anita Earl; Joel Goodwin; Aaron Lewis; Ari Grossman-Naples; Barbara Hanley; Briae Lewis\* (Corvallis City Councilor); Pegge McGuire\* CSC Director; Andrea Myhre.

**Excused:** Ricardo Contreras; Matt Easdale; Cindee Lolik; Charles Maughan\* (Mayor, Corvallis); Ailiah Schafer; Nancy Wyse\* (Benton County Commissioner).

**Absent:**

**Staff Present:** Julie Arena (Benton County Health, HOPE Program Coordinator); Paula Felipe (Benton County Public Health, recorder); Johnna Peters (Benton County Healthy Communities); Rebecca Taylor; Eric Bowling.

**Guests:**

\*Executive Committee Members.

- I. **Welcome and Introductions.** Reminder of culture and conduct agreement, such as kindness, open-mindedness, curious, respect, inclusivity.
- II. **Board Membership Update.** Chanale Propst has resigned from HOPE Board, and Melissa Isavoran is no longer with IHN-CCO, so Charissa Young-White has applied to be the IHN rep. Two New Board Members joining next month: Ailiah Schafer and Matthew Easdale, so we will have a total of 20 members with room for one more.
- III. **Public Comments (limited to 2-3 minutes).** No Comment.
- IV. **Approval of Minutes: MOTION** made by Pegge McGuire to approve the July Minutes; **Seconded** by Andrea Myhre; All in favor; **MOTION** passed. **Abstained:** Bryan Cotter, Aaron Lewis; Ari Grossman-Naples; Andrea Myhre; Joel Goodwin.
- V. **Regional (Linn, Benton, Lincoln) Coordination and Updates & Discussion Questions:** (Note: Speaker Karen Rockwell of Lincoln County is not able to attend and Pegge McGuire of CSC was called away unexpectedly.) Speakers present were introduced as follows:
  - **Linn County’s Erik Anderson, Health Emergency Manager for Linn County Health services.**
  - **Linn County: Shane Sanderson, Public Health Manager.**
  - **Benton County: Johnna Peters, Regional Health Assessment epidemiologist (filling in for Sara Hartstein, Deputy Director of Public Health).**
  - **Charissa Young-White, IHN-CCO.**

### Discussion Questions:

- **Organization – who is coordinating, what entities play which roles?**
  - HB 4123 (2022) for Lincoln and Benton to create Coordinated Homeless Response Office
  - Multi-agency council (MAC) for Linn from Executive Order in 2023.
- **HB 5019 for all three counties as part of the Rural Oregon Continuum of Care (ROCC) – Top subpopulations, lessons learned.**
- **Main Progress Updates (Successes in your area and hurdles?)**
- **Opportunities for regional coordination or leveraging collective impact**
  - **Regional Community Health Improvement Plan (CHIP)**
  - **Continuum of Care (CoC)**

### Discussion & Comments:

- **Erik Anderson, Emergency Manager for Linn County Health Services:**
  - Linn County declared a State of Emergency in response to the Governor's executive order 2 in January. Linn County was accepted, but did not receive the funding they wanted. Created a multi-agency coordination group at county level, and still included in Governor's list. Erik was hired in response to COVID-19 for emergency management; so new to this job and concerned that coordination/collaboration happening. Linn County funding is now coming from HB5019. OEM has a hand in this process but not overall control of it.
  - Executive Order/State of Emergency is unique: State had \$7 million; and told us our county will get \$1.5 million.
  - Homeless needs help; there are gaps in services.
  - Erik's goal to identify every agency serving homeless individuals and what they provide, so I can formulate a plan. If someone presents themselves in need of housing; can refer to appropriate agency. Want to make sure everyone provides best service possible.
  - Shane Sanderson: One obstacle is the frustration of shifting back and forth responding to various state messages. Thought we jumped through all the hoops. Cannot entirely understand the holistic vision and intent of the State. Seems like a comprehensive problem that needs a more comprehensive approach.
  - Erik: Government said State properties are available for homeless projects; still waiting for the list. Limited locations in city.
  - Julie: Recent news: overwhelming request for emergency sheltering funds; way more than 6 million for 26 counties. OHCS is pivoting; Going to be reducing rapid rehousing allocations toward shelters. More to come on that issue.
  - Rebecca: planning process here to fill in the gaps; seems to be where current, available funding does not fit; like landlord engagement incentives. Original intent to transition homeless to sheltered. Also, looking at how to engage landlords more creatively like block leasing, etc. Rental assistant programs to make those connections. People who need emergency services but don't qualify for resources. Balance between prevention and flexibility; don't want to compete with existing systems.
  - Erik: Some concern about funding for COVID-19 going away.
  - Julie: Hope the State will figure out how to reliably and sustainably fund shelters. We lost half capacity of local shelter when covid funds went away; and now with

HB 5019 getting that capacity back.

- Rebecca: Also, concerns about rural communities and methodology on how to get included in executive orders. Strategic planning process is one of the requirements of the house bill. In November, we report to State talk about challenges. Key feature local control and local flexibility.
- **Question: How do we coordinate as Tri County area and leverage collective experience to community and coordinate for regional impact?**
  - Charissa: As for funding and housing landscape, opportunities for IHN CCOs to provide funds for the gaps in services. IHN interested in high-risk folks who are unhoused and the FUSE model. Collective impact perspective.
  - Charissa: Example of collaboration of resources is new program with Albany Fire Department. Convening and collaboration with Linn County for a paramedic program like the FUSE model where they have an EMT / social workers visit people's homes who need support. Help to establish FUSE model to help connect people with resources and wrap around services. IHN CCO supporting this program with funding and is supportive of the model and wants to be a collaborator. In Lincoln County collaborate with Sheriff's Office to figure out a space for people at high risk and need continuum
  - of care or health supports. Also working with regional health assessment so we work with priorities and focus on health improvement plan—along with community partners. How can we take strategies and foundation for priority areas. Listening to HOPE board and other boards and gather information so we can have a regional perspective on needs and realize each county and cities are different.
  - Rebecca: About collaborating with the Albany Fire Department, how is that related to what we are doing here? Charissa: It is an innovative, collaborative program IHN is interested in supporting, so that is one example of an initiative and Albany Fire has experienced with high-risk folks who have social needs and not all fire department have those kinds of programs.
  - Erik: Also, when individuals get plugged into the social services they need, there is less demand on the emergency 911 services and urgent care services. A lot can get accomplished when you have everyone around a table cooperating on problem solving.
  - Joel: Yes, sounds similar to the situation table that we are looking forward to starting in collaboration with our partners too.
  - Bryan: we currently don't have a community paramedic in our fire department—would be great to have, and we do work with other agencies like CPD and Benton County Crisis Teams who come out to calls that aren't only EMS.
  - **About Coalition for Housing Equity:** Charissa: IHN CCO started this coalition about 6 months ago. We meet every other month. Main goal is housing benefit for Oregon Health Plan members. Starting July 1, 2024. Awaiting more information from our regulatory agencies. Focus on prioritized, marginalized populations, includes rental assistance. Includes regional collaboration and communication. Another goal is to advocate for resources including OHA and other groups at state and national level.

- **Other Populations Experiencing Barriers to Housing. Julie:** Looking at data—Black and Native American community are overrepresented by race and ethnicity; also, those with criminal history and felony convictions. And those without a federally recognized tribe, difficult to access resources. Also, families with children have barriers to housing; and those who don't qualify for certain program. Another topic is people who are insecurely housed and borrowing from network but cannot get access to resources to prevent becoming homeless.
  - Erik: Spoke with people homeless in Salem, restrooms were shutdown at night, and police found a homeless person in bushes going to the bathroom, and he lost everything and now has criminal record, which makes it more difficult to get back on feet.
  - Erik: Therapy and Service Dogs—people have difficult time to get job and housing if pets not allowed. Need some boarding services and vaccinations too.
  - Cade: Question: does HOPE prioritize and reach out for people with those perspectives to be on the board and to share with us like those with service animals who are homeless or who have other barriers? Erik: Yes, it is good to ask individuals about their experiences and not assume.
  - Strategies regionally to include variety of perspectives? Johnna: CHIP regionally planning: Just beginning the design and important to gather list of community partners; still brainstorming and working on it.
  - Julie: With the HOPE outreach, we have had three focus groups: one was at Corvallis Housing First at Van Buren; including review of data and research. And focus group at COI with deep conversation about housing; and at Unity Shelter, among others. Yes, HOPE has actively engaged with community in focus groups. And have provided incentives as well.
  - Julie: Faith, Hope, and Charity have stepped up in leveraging local groups and want to expand more in Benton County.
  - Alice: Recommends reading “Poverty, by America”. This book raised questions about how houselessness is a planned agenda funded by the tax welfare the 1 percent are receiving.
  - Andrea: Any update on CSC Continuum of Care efforts and update on legislative efforts?
  - Julie: Pegge got green light from her board to pursue Tri County Continuum of care; lots to figure out on capacity. She got approval to get in touch with head representatives.
  - Andrea: There will be need to collaborate among the counties to work together, including policies, procedures, data needs, systems used by CCOs, and among topics. Will need to regionally plan on shelter issues.
- **HB4123 Coordinated Office Strategic Plan and HOPE Advisory Board Role.**
    - **Forum** for community and stakeholder engagement.
    - **Liaison** between the community and the governing boards.
    - **Input** to support the development and ongoing updates of the 5-year strategic plan.
    - **See ‘Recap for how the parts work together’ graphic.**
    - **The Strategic Plan:**

- Community and Organizational Systems and Policy Change
- Comprehensive Care Coordination
- Prevention
- Street Outreach and Rapid Response
- Housing
- **Community Engagement, Inclusion, and Neighborhood Belonging.** (HOPE plays key component in this role).
  - HOPE Board community progress updates to highlight partner achievements.
  - Improve public visibility of HOPE Advisory Board as Community Education Forum.
  - Build Community-wide awareness and understanding in and around homelessness.
- See graphic for 5-year Timeline with metrics.
- **Educational Components:** (Previous topics: Equity, Diversity, inclusion; Behavioral Health System; Homeless Service Provider system; IHN-CCO roles and organizational chart; and Law enforcement experience and data.)  
**What are some current educational needs of the Board and the Community? Example: Fair Housing Council in January 2024.**

#### Discussion:

- Cade: Info on LGBTQ and housing issues—like finding themselves homeless due to family rejection—helps to build awareness and compassion.
- Cade: What is being done? Annual recap of activities of the HOPE board to raise awareness.
- Karyle: Address issues of homelessness, such as why so much garbage and why don't more families get more attention; and why is it hard to have a women's shelter? What is the City doing? Education about the ways someone becomes homeless. Talk about the impact on children. Like NPR says, you tell them over and over again.
- Rebecca and Julie meet with business community; and some ideas are de-escalation and trauma informed care trainings for businesses; trainings hosted by business communities this fall in restaurant environment. More details to come.
- Ari: More info about barriers like convictions, incarceration; the downward spiral; education on that; people on their own impossible to secure housing.
- Julie: invite success stories to share.
- Andrea: educate the public about the situation we are facing and the challenges. Complex stories and not enough housing and behavioral Health with house options and not enough treatment centers.
- Ari: Difficult to find housing on a small income with four children and not able to rent an apartment or house because too many children and they will not rent a 2-bedroom house; but they cannot afford a larger house. Talk about the homeless families.

#### VI. Community Networks: What are you seeing in gaps of knowledge?

- Rebecca: Some people don't have the vocabulary and have fear; emotion. Some just starting to get into this topic. How to be more prepared to invite people who are new.
- Cade: Helps to have outlet to share frustrations about homelessness.
- Catherine: appreciate feedback from county partners and this kind of conversation. Need

more discussion on how do we collectively solve warming and cooling shelters. Holidays and families in homelessness is a particularly hard time. In the past Philomath hosted holiday meals here and shared time with people and hear about experiences. Being in that space and time, better awareness of what those situations are like and learn about demographics. Also, what is our evacuation planning for homeless?

- Karyle: Also, what about the OSU student population? How many students are sleeping in cars? Some stories covered finding segments of homeless populations along with taking photos with permission. People were shocked. Some are using shelters for showers.
- Catherine: Melissa Bird of Whiteside theater put on a powerful presentation.
- Distribute informational fliers at the Farmer's market?
- **Resource expo:** Joel Goodwin said the Corvallis Areas Resource event takes place on Oct 10 at 10 am-2pm. It will be a one stop shop for issues regarding housing, veterans, service providers, mental health services, and more. Samaritan will be there too. Joel will share the flier.

**VII. Meeting was Adjourned at 6 pm.**