



**Home, Opportunity, Planning, and Equity (HOPE)  
Advisory Board Meeting  
Approved Minutes  
March 22, 2023 from 4 pm to 6 pm  
ZOOM Meeting**



- Members Present:** Catherine Biscoe; Alice Carter; Ricardo Contreras; Cade DeLoach; Anita Earl; Joel Goodwin; Ari Grossman-Naples; Barbara Hanley; Melissa Isavoran; Briae Lewis\* (Corvallis City Councilor); Cindee Lolik\* (Business Community); Charles Maughan\* Mayor (Corvallis City Council); Andrea Myhre; Chanale Propst; Nancy Wyse\* (Benton County Commissioner).
- Excused:** Pegge McGuire\* CSC Director.
- Absent:** Karyle Butcher; Bryan Cotter
- 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.
- Guests:** \*Executive Committee Members.

- I. **Welcome and Introductions.** Reminder of culture and conduct agreement, such as kindness, open mindedness, respect, inclusivity. Introductions of Benton County Coordinated Office Staff: Welcome April Holland, Rebecca Taylor, Julie Arena.
  
- II. **Public Comments (limited to 2-3 minutes).** No Comments.
  
- III. **Approval of Minutes: MOTION** made by Andrea Myhre to approve the January 2023 Minutes; **Seconded** by Briae Lewis; All in favor; **MOTION** passed. Abstained: Melissa Isavoran.
  
- IV. **HOPE Board feedback on the Strategic Plan Draft Outline for HB4123 Pilot; Guests: Benton County Coordinated Homeless Response Office (Project Manager Rebecca Taylor, Interim Health Department Director April Holland, Program Coordinator Julie Arena)**
  - **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.
- HB 4123 Requirements: Coordinated Response Structure (see slide for diagram).
- **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.
  - **Intergovernmental 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.
  - **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
    - 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** (See diagram): Includes Coordinated Homeless Response System. Benton County's Foundation for HB 4123.
- **Community Progress Timeline**—thanks to Rebecca Taylor! Tracks where we are now and starting a brand new pilot; state wants to fund it. Thanks to HOAC and Healthy Communities update for 10 year plan and for groundwork they did. See timeline on graph. In 2023 will do a lot of public outreach.
- Communicate to the State the great work we are doing; we are doing countywide community engagement.
- **From Policy to Progress: Strategic Plan** (see slide)
  - 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 (Rebecca Taylor)**
  - 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 slide).
  - 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 (Julie Arena): How HOPE Policy Recommendations fall under each priority the State wants to fund:**
  - **1. 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.

**Feedback/Discussion:**

- Favorable feedback on overview-several HOPE members said they appreciate comprehensive overview, which was ‘succinct and clear.’ Thank you!
- Alice: more rent support—more section 8 vouchers? Julie: Good example of that and update later in meeting about that one.
- Barbara Hanley: appreciate overview—well done! Do we have estimate of amount of money needed for sustainable funding. Julie: no, working in collaboration with others on how to sustain certain portions of system. Barbara has experience in program management—happy to assist. Julie: need state and federal components as well. Will develop a workgroup.

- **2. Increasing or streamlining Resources and Services to people at risk of or experiencing homelessness(see slide)**
  - **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.

**Feedback/Discussion:**

- Alice Carter: About Policy 5: Is it part of new crisis center on 4<sup>th</sup> street?
- Joel Goodwin: utilize both together; crisis outreach response and engagement team that pairs a mental health clinician with a police officer that responds to mental health crisis. It is not confined to just homeless community members. When crisis center is completed, a safe environment to gain some stability; go hand in hand but the two are separate.
- Alice Carter: federal program to address the housing crisis—many states are overwhelmed. Julie: been a steady decrease in funding housing—federal level grappling with now. Would like to follow up with info about National Association.
- Charles Maughan: believe for a long time we cannot do this alone; using connections made with State legislators and with congress members about need for federal assistance—it is a national program. Doing what we can with tools we have; need more ways to fund programs.
- Rebecca: circle back to foundational recommendations and groundwork. Elevate how we are doing the policy recommendations and how we communicate that and not doing this alone.

- **3. 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.

**Feedback/Discussion:**

- Alice: Question about one stop shop: Julie: we should make clear the Corvallis Day Time Drop In Center expansion to a navigation center and on site sheltering is embodiment of that resource center. Also, one in South Benton County.

- Alice: Corvallis is ahead in coordination--an amazing part of what we are doing here.
- Melissa: appreciate navigation at the forefront. All of this makes sense on surface; landscape has adjusted since the big process in 2018, and are we going to have opportunities to provide feedback to make adjustments? Julie: might be new gaps to fill? Rebecca: 5-year strategic plan: more operational components come out of strategic plan and reviewed on annual basis; we want to make sure this plan is community roadmap and find other strategic plans and align with others; includes how we support others' work on the same timeline.
- Melissa: a lot of issues IHN-CCO also serves and sometimes I see organizations with certain focus; and build resources in work happening in other counties with different regional dynamics that we should incorporate at some point; think about it creatively. Julie: Yes, including coordinating with regional strategic plans and communicate with the state all the great work people are doing in unified way. We will be talking more about how to incorporate IHN's work.
- Alice: community progress: we will be operational by summer; sharing good news. Julie: Congrats to you!
  - **4. 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.

**Feedback/Discussion:**

- Barbara Hanley: Add Policy #1 to track the data on who is homeless and needing resources. Julie: CSC and Continuation of Care updating vulnerability assessment.
- Melissa Isavoran: how to address structural racism; not just policies and populations divided by race and ethnicity; about structural components; how inclusive are we in things we do and our social support system in making people feel comfortable and being trusted; think about expanding this in strategies and work plan.
- Andrea: I agree with Melissa. Not enough to address this issue in our planning. Continually shocked about high percentages of homeless are multiracial, including Native American and Black community members-we should do more work in this area. Will make recommendation to executive committee to make it a point of discussion in future.
- Chanale: in addressing structural racism and historical racism in Oregon; trust is a big factor; and think of being able to build that trust and addressing those injustices; and dealing with historical structures and oppression; being able to understand racism, sexism, and others; representatives of people of color being included in crisis response team and resource center are essential; to have representation and with wisdom and knowledge about barriers to thriving; and giving input in creating and establishing new things at the table. Chanale offers to help and learn.
- Ricardo Contreras: we had meeting with Allison; to address cultural appropriate strategy that Latinx community can support; collecting data on site with homelessness. Working on keeping people housed and working with community health workers at housing development currently, and with nonprofit.

- Alice Carter: Should address issues of racism with Samaritan and other organizations how to address people of color, indigenous people; immigrants, LGBTQ, all of them. Julie will connect with Alice on that and how best to move forward, such as training.
  - **5. Create pathways to permanent and supportive housing that is affordable to local populations...**
    - **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.

**Feedback/Discussion:**

- Melissa: amazing work exploring the barriers; but one thing is how to work with business and industry to look at costs of housing because what is happening in Washington is get vouchers and get priced out of vouchers like \$2,400 then axed out. How to build those into our strategies? Julie will connect Melissa with Alice, so they can connect about healthcare setting.
- Cindee: maybe include a glossary of definitions. Rebecca: will do.
- **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 (see slide)**
  - 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
  - **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 and the Kepi Nak-Nak Resource Center in Monroe - coordinated office role:**
  - Connecting with other providers and funding sources
  - Leveraging resources
  - Awareness and Education
  - Supporting additional funding
- **Homelessness Services Housing & Navigation center (see slide)**

**Implementing HOPE Recommendations (see slide)**

- **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 (see slide): 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 (continued);**
  - **11. Increase available rental/income assistance options (see slide)**
    - 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's:
  - 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**
  - HCV typical success rate: 37-54% depending on the type of voucher.
    - Currently 31.4% leased in Benton County for the regular HCV program.
  - EHV success rate in 2022: 63.5%
    - Currently 59% leased in Benton County for the ECV program.

### **Implementing HOPE Recommendations (continued):**

- 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.

### **Feedback/Discussion:**

- Andrea: Re: increment weather shelter -- so proud of Faith, Hope, and Charity work with Tara and Chris. Julie: would like to present about that program—on motel sheltering during severe weather. County contracted with them to get homeless folks into motel rooms quickly. First activation over 60 people; helped so many—it is uplifting and heart-wrenching. Thanks to Andrea for remembering that work!
- Anita Earl: Samaritan efforts have progressed a million fold; now 4 people; went from 2 to 15 respite beds in three county region; now collect data all the time on unhoused and have auto referrals to our team; Voice of the homeless has increased through storytelling and caring and education. Feel very proud; Samaritan is on board.
- Cindee: Unity Shelter was recognized at Celebrate Corvallis.

## **V. Educational Component (Catherine Biscoe, HOPE Co-Chair): Oregon Legislation on Housing & How to Track Current Bills**

- 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/>

**VI. Central Point of Communications (Kailee Olson)**

- HOPE Website: [Central point of communication](#)
- Graphics & Visuals: [Storytelling](#)
- e-Newsletter: [Subscribe to HOPE News & Updates](#)
- Social Media: [Amplifying aligned messaging through partner engagement](#)

**VII. Next Steps:**

- **Meeting on May 24<sup>th</sup> from 4 pm to 6 pm.**
- City and County staff will return to hear feedback from HOPE Board on Strategic Plan for HB 4123
- Hybrid virtual and in person meeting. 4<sup>th</sup> Wed of the month—same room where Board of Commissioners meet in Kalapuya Building, 4500 Research Way in Corvallis.

**VIII. Meeting was Adjourned at 5:50 pm.**