



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

October 25, 2023 from 4 pm to 6 pm
Kalapuya Building, 4500 SW Research Way



- Members Present:** Catherine Biscoe* (Co-Chair); Karyle Butcher; Bruce Butler; Alice Carter; Cade DeLoach; Sarah Devine (Co-Chair); Anita Earl; Matt Easdale; Joel Goodwin; Aaron Lewis; Briae Lewis* (Corvallis City Councilor); Cindee Lolik*; Charles Maughan* (Corvallis Mayor); Pegge McGuire* CSC Director; Andrea Myhre; Ailiah Schafer; Nancy Wyse* (County Commissioner).
- Excused:** Ricardo Contreras; Bryan Cotter; Aaron Lewis; Ari Grossman-Naples; Barbara Hanley
- Absent:**
- Staff Present:** April Holland (Interim Health Department Director); Sam Bailey (Benton County Health Department Admin Specialist); Paula Felipe (Benton County Public Health, recorder); Rebecca Taylor (Benton County Health Department). Excused: Julie Arena (on vacation).
- Guests:**
- *Executive Committee Members.

- I. **Welcome and Introductions.** Reminder of values such as inclusivity, curiosity, kindness, and respect. Welcome two new members: Ailiah Schafer and Matthew Easdale. Now HOPE has 20 members with room for one more member.
- II. **Public Comments (limited to 2-3 minutes).** No Comment.
- III. **Approval of Minutes: MOTION** made by Nancy Wyse to approve the September Minutes; **Seconded** by Briae Lewis; All in favor; **MOTION** passed. **Abstained:** Cindee Lolik; Pegge McGuire.
- IV. **Co-Chair Election.**
Sarah Devine nominated herself; Charles Maughan then made a **MOTION** to accept and approve her nomination for Co-Chair; the **MOTION** was seconded by Andrea Myhre, and passed unanimously.
- V. **HOPE Board Responsibilities in HB 4123 Strategic Plan (Rebecca Taylor)**
Strategic Plan includes:
 - Community and Organizational Systems and Policy Change
 - Comprehensive Care Coordination
 - Prevention
 - Street Outreach and Rapid Response
 - Housing
 - **Community Engagement, Inclusion, and Neighborhood Belonging**
 - *Action items that involve HOPE:*
 - HOPE community progress updates to highlight partner achievements.
 - Improve public visibility of HOPE as community education forum.
 - Build communitywide awareness and understanding in and around

homelessness.

- Other ways of leveraging the HOPE board: Equity, Diversity, and Inclusion, reducing racial disparities. Schedule educational components for HOPE Board meetings.
- Invite culturally responsive organizations to attend HOPE Board meetings and share progress updates.
- HOPE Board members attend existing community forums as a HOPE ambassador.
- Ensure HOPE Board membership includes representatives from communities of color, marginalized groups, and people who have experienced homelessness.
- Evaluate ways to make HOPE Board participation more available to all community members.

Discussion/Questions:

- Karyle: Been on HOPE board since it started, don't see HOPE on commission meetings regarding housing development/work force housing. Need more people and support for housing—middle to affordable housing—do not see it in conversations we have here or at local government meetings. We need people to how up and any kind of housing is going to help. Could involve a land use applications; planning commission; among other development issues. Rebecca: made a note of what Karyle said and see how can we leverage those opportunities and align those efforts.
- Nancy: if Karyle is referring to land use application, may want to talk with county counsel.
- Nancy: hear what you are saying—would be nice for people to show up in support.
- Andrea: Still have not been able to do what the HOPE board was intended to do and that is to provide advisory capacity for city and county government on how to approach issues related to homelessness. It is in our bylaws and in our intention when we formed this group; but we have not figured out how to do it. We can talk about the problems, but not really have any power to change anything. Feels like we are back at the same place we were before HOPE. It can be different: Our group represents wide variety of interests; struggle over policies; but I am not quite sure what our role really is given this new orientation. Don't know if we can get people to show up consistently at meetings if we are just educating and raising awareness about homelessness. Think we need something more to do. I don't think this is the way forward. Should be doing more policies and procedures and making recommendations—so we were supposed to have a built in advocacy role.
- April: for strategic plan we are talking about now such as community engagement, looking forward to where we are going, and the journey this community has been on for a long time has had a lot of growth and new opportunities in last couple of years. I'm jumping ahead a little bit, apologize; but it's time to reexamine those foundational documents and original intent of bylaws, and ensure we can, as a community, build on that wisdom with the HOPE board.
- Andrea: body of reps setting policy and procedures, interesting to see how house bill and CoC effort will come together; but big issues as a community that I feel like we could have role in grappling with that we haven't been able to yet.
- Charles: appreciate your pointing to our policy role and reviewing all policies. Thought we would spend more time doing that. So, hope we don't spend too much time on the

engagement aspect, which I still find value in, and we can focus on evaluating policies so what we are going is the right direction. Maybe HOPE could develop task forces for reviewing policies.

- Andrea: never set metrics around priority areas. Maybe now we can delve into some of those areas. We should have something to measure against in terms of where do we want to be in a few years.
- Matthew: I signed up to do policy recommendations, so it's a little disheartening to see us move away from that, but I'm new so don't want to come off too harshly.
- Rebecca: This is not to say we are moving away from the HOPE's advisory and policy role; Strategic Plan shows priorities and 5 year timeline with template to guide our work.
- Pegge: haven't heard we are moving away from policy advisory; but this is expanding conversations on opportunities to offer policy recommendations input in different areas. Make sure we have people from various backgrounds and especially with lived experience with homelessness.
- Pegge: went to Monroe city council and talked about work in Benton County and Corvallis and in particular about what HOPE is doing regionally, and all council members are grateful to keep informed about HOPE.

VI. Benton County Coordinated Homeless Response Office

- **HOPE Advisory Board Bylaw Amendments**
 - *Integrating HB 4123 Organizational Components.*
 - Formation of a *Coordinated Homeless Response Office (CHRO)* and hiring necessary support staff. Includes: HOPE Program Coordinator; HOPE Project Manager, and Grant Researcher and Writer.
 - An Advisory Board with representation from the governing body from each member government: To date, Benton County has entered a Memorandum of Understanding (HB 4123 MOU) with the Cities of Corvallis and Philomath, and Community Services Consortium (CSC).
 - Support coordinated communications, public engagement and outreach for policy development.
 - *Scope and Purpose of Amendments. (Presented to BOC on 10/24).*
 - Create clear distinction between the operational and policy functions within the *Coordinated Homeless Response System*.
 - Formalize the formation of the Advisory Board as specifically required by HB 4123.
 - Define the role of the HOPE Board within the System.
 - Increase transparency of the System for improved community engagement.
- **Current Structure:** (see graph from slides). HOPE Executive Committee acts as liaison between HOPE Community Engagement Board and local government. And, the intergovernmental Council acts as liaison with the BOC; City Council; CSC, and Government operations, and with the Coordinated Office staff.
- **Proposed Structure:** (see graph). Integrate the HOPE Executive Committee to provide general guidance as provided by HB 4123. (Track version of these changes made and will be sent to group).
- **The HOPE Advisory Board's Role (with the Coordinated Homeless Response System):**
 - **Forum** for community stakeholder engagement, consisting of a wide array of

community expertise and representation of groups working on homelessness, housing, and social determinants of health.

- **Liaison** between the community and the governing boards of each member government of the intergovernmental council in collaboration with the coordinated office for policy improvement.
- **Input** to support the development and ongoing updates of the 5-year Strategic Plan.

VII. Next Steps:

- 10/10: Direction from BOC (completed).
- 10/11: Update to Executive Committee (completed)
- 10/24: Present first draft amendments to BOC. (completed)
- 10/25: Update to HOPE Advisory Board (today)
- 11/06: Informational update to City Council
- 11/13: BOC adoption
- 12/04: City Council Adoption

Discussion/Comments:

- Alice Carter (Comment in Chat): Were HOPE members at the County Commission meeting during which funding for shelters was diminished to the point where the shelters can't function as they did.
- Pegge: For a City of Philomath presentation—are you looking for all partners with coordinated office to be involved in making amendments? Do I need to get something on agenda for my governing board? Rebecca: We are changing bylaws so anyone in 4123 MOU becomes a chartering jurisdiction. I believe we would need to have Philomath as part of that process—we can talk offline more about the logistics and language.
- Andrea: This is good-thank you. Give thought to metrics; reviewing template for house bill.
- Rebecca: Scope of Strategic Plan (SP) beyond operations within the county, city, or CSC. Part of it is guiding roadmap part, but also what can the city and county can set metrics on--this is a collaborative opportunity.
- Rebecca: Look at roadmap over the next 5 years and find out what initiatives our partners are planning; look at action items and review SP and look at what are we prioritizing ad align for collective impact—that is intent of model. Be in a better place to move that work forward. We are exciting about the changes to come and working together with all of you.

Meeting Adjourned at 5:05 pm