



**Home, Opportunity, Planning, and Equity (HOPE)
Executive Committee Meeting
Approved Minutes
November 1, 2023 from 4 pm to 5 pm
Virtual Meeting**



Members Present: Charles Maughan* (Mayor); Briae Lewis* (Corvallis City Councilor); Nancy Wyse* (Benton County Commissioner); Sarah Devine; Cindee Lolik* (Business Community Member); Pegge McGuire;
Excused: Catherine Biscoe* (Co-Chair); Julie Arena, (Benton County Health, HOPE Program Coordinator).
Absent: None
Staff Present: Rebecca Taylor (Benton County Health, HOPE Project Manager); Paula Felipe (Recorder).
Community Members: Mell Keller
*Executive Committee Members.

- I. **Welcome and Introductions.** Meeting overview.
- II. **Public Comment:** none.
- III. **The October 2023 Executive Committee Meeting minutes approval.** Cindee Lolik moves to approve the minutes with one minor correction, Charles Maughan seconds. Pegge McGuire abstains. Approved. Minor Correction: On Page 4, the word committee is misspelled.
- IV. **HOPE Bylaw Draft Amendment Discussion.** HB 4123 requirements to form a coordinated homeless response system, including having an advisory board to act as a liaison to member governments of coordinated system. Last year we had MOU with Benton County, City of Corvallis, City of Philomath, and Community Service Consortium, to collaborate and fulfill the requirements of HB 4123. Formed intergovernmental council to include representation from operational standpoint. Want to make sure community engagement components and expertise of HOPE closely informs strategic plan adoption. Want better continuity in planning process with HOPE advisory board and HOPE Executive Board. Executive Committee needs to make changes moving forward.
 - a. HOPE presented proposed changes to the Board of Commissioners (BOC). Got feedback on formatting and since Bylaws dictate 2-year term, but other advisory boards have 3-year terms, we made that change to the Bylaws, and the BOC was comfortable with the proposed changes.
 - b. City of Corvallis will be providing an update on 6th of November.
 - c. Philomath City Manager provided Corvallis with amendment bylaws along with MOA for HB 4123 – to change as executive committee serving as advisory board. They were comfortable with those changes.
 - d. We will be going back to the BOC on 13th of November for final approval and then the changes will be going out to the rest of MOU members for final approval.

- e. Changes in structure of Executive Committee (to comply with HB 4123). As we implement changes moving forward, the membership on executive committee will change. Likely Sarah's term will be limited. Want more continuity between HOPE advisory board, the executive committee to have close engagement with chartering jurisdictions. Relying heavily on input from this group.

V. Agenda setting for future HOPE Board Meetings:

- a. **November in person and virtual hybrid meeting:** use upstairs room of Kalapuya. Pegge: I want to ask Rebecca and Paula, who convene and facilitate the meeting, do you have a preference? Rebecca: For myself and Sam, the larger room is more complex to operate with virtual options. We are talking about using a smaller room with owls. Will talk with Sam and my supervisor about it. Pegge: For me, travel can be complex; travelling from another part of the county to another part of tri-county region—easier to do it remotely. Rebecca will check; Cindee fine with virtual; Charles likes seeing people. Paula: virtual is easiest to record with sound for minutes, but also enjoy meeting in person maybe at a social potluck. Charles is fine using a smaller room for meetings. Rebecca: Will move forward with the hybrid meeting and evaluate using a smaller space in future.
- b. **Educational Components and Community Update:** Next HOPE Advisory board meeting on 15th of November at 4 pm to 6 pm. (*Note: This meeting was later cancelled)
- c. **Introduction: Mell Keller works for Fair Housing Council of Oregon.** She is the Education and Outreach Coordinator for Willamette Valley (includes Benton, Marion, Polk, Yamhill). Excited to build more connections; share info about fair housing work; how Fair housing Council can help with HOPE's work.
 - Creating inclusive communities training, includes prioritizing fair and accessible housing. Could give HOPE a training by the Fair Housing Council. Pegge: hear about audit testing? Used to have hot topics in fair housing; things on horizon—impacting fair housing. Mell will connect with testing manager to see if she's available to talk about it.
 - Hot topics would be a great way to frame the conversation around issues like neighbor harassment, groups with income discrimination, housing vouchers. Rebecca: Could provide an educational resource like myth busters for landlords. Service providers could benefit from such a presentation. Other topics could be when shelter becomes housing; HUD standards; market to service provider partners; and how to be more strategic.
 - Mell talked about longer term partnerships we could develop, such as setting up contracts for audiences over the course of the year. Pegge: have Mel come back in 2 weeks and provide us a training; then have another broader and deeper dive later in what to present to community. Sarah can check with executive committee. Rebecca: in 2 weeks, you provide training and will send you the meeting details.

d. Public Engagement and Feedback

- Pegge: Regarding the comment Karyle Butcher made about advocacy at hearings. Feel like we should have more conversation about that—maybe the executive committee meeting is a place to have that discussion.
- Rebecca: so we can make sure an informed response on what is appropriate role for HOPE and to define that role and how we can achieve it.
- Pegge: we need to think through where we go to make official statements as a group, which is distinct from an individual board member doing advocacy. Delve in deeper if that is appropriate for us as a group.
- Charles: as a broader discussion; we encourage everyone to advocate.
- Nancy: look at bylaws; seek guidance from local govt; state or fed govt; an issue such as land use might need certain criteria; could be complex.
- Pegge: in past, HOPE wanted to write letter to govt, and we got advice on what we can and cannot do. Karyle was saying there are strategies we are advocating for, so people speak as individual say we encourage this to happen. Could be planning for permits. We can have bigger conversations.
- Nancy: add 5 minutes to agenda, so people can share what is coming up and round robin to share upcoming topics.
- Charles: Mention you are speaking as an individual.
- Rebecca: when opportunities to present; advocacy thru HOPE policy recommendations. Testify as community member, and in the HOPE policy recommendations our community prioritize these and supports these (or not) so not taking on authority of HOPE board but still giving a voice to the priorities. Create a template on how to communicate. Do we still have the advice we received? Pegge: early in the formation of the group; Jim was cochair at the time; letter from cochairs saying whatever is happening is consistent with policy recommendations but we also got a legal opinion. Co-chairs could write letters but not on HOPE board letterhead.
- Rebecca: opportunities for sharing information and education. Raise awareness of what is happening with HOPE advisory board. Pegge: for example, talk about equity issues when audit testing presentation by Fair housing council; look for opportunities to make public comment and include here are concerns we have for equity barriers.
- Rebecca: excited about changes and how to set up strategies on how HOPE Advisory Board can engage with other components in community.

VI. Next Steps:

- For next week: if time on agenda, can talk about advocacy; clarify issue and ways

HOPE could right now provide feedback. Like a 10-minute discussion. Rebecca will try to cue it up.

- Space 5 minutes at the end for someone to share what is happening or instructions on how to speak about it while speaking on behalf of myself. Nancy happy to bring it up and we can discuss it.
- Updates from state (HB 5019) executing contracts. Funding for emergency shelter and for rapid rehousing and how to build that in our community. When to update where we are so far. Do that at a later date.
- Rebecca will get out a draft agenda.
- Thanks to Rebecca for leading the meetings.

Meeting Adjourned at 5pm