



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

May 22, 2024 from 4 pm to 6 pm

Virtual Meeting



Members Present: Jessica Andrade* (Philomath City Councilor); Karyle Butcher; Bryan Cotter; Cade DeLoach; Sarah Devine; Anita Earl; Matt Easdale; Joel Goodwin; Ari Grossman-Naples; Barbara Hanley; Briae Lewis* (Corvallis City Councilor); Ailiah Shafer; Mark Shepard* (Corvallis City Manager); Nancy Wyse* (Benton County Commissioner).

Excused: Bruce Butler; Alice Carter; Sarah Devine (Co-Chair); Rachel McEneny;* (Benton County Administrator); Pegge McGuire* (CSC Director); Andrea Myhre; Chris Workman (Philomath City Manager).

Absent:

Staff Present: Julie Arena (HOPE Coordinator); Paula Felipe (Benton County Public Health, recorder); Rebecca Taylor (Benton County Health Department)

Guests:

*Executive Committee Members.

- I. **Welcome and Introductions.** *Reminder of values* such as inclusivity, curiosity, kindness, open mindedness and respect. *Reminder:* The Coordinated Homeless Response System includes these four entities: Benton County, Corvallis City, CSC; and City of Philomath. And, the HOPE Board and HOPE Executive Committee have representation from elected officials and highest staff members from these four entities. Membership change: Ricardo Contreras is no longer able to serve on the HOPE Board due to other commitments. There is an opening for a HOPE Co-chair to help run the meetings and slides, if any member is interested.

- II. **Public Comments (limited to 2-3 minutes).** None

- III. **Approval of Minutes: MOTION** made by Karyle Butcher to approve the March 2024 minutes. **Seconded** by Bryan Cotter; All in favor; **MOTION** passed. **Abstained:** Joel Goodwin; Briae Lewis; Mark Shepard* (Corvallis City Manager);

- IV. **Legislative Overview from 2024 Session: Zack Reeves – CFM Advocates – www.cfmadvocates.com**
 Timeline and dates: Feb 5, 2024 is Start of Session; March 7, 2024 is “Sine Die” and 2/7 Economic Forecast. Major issues include Housing and Homelessness; M110 Changes; and Campaign Finance Reform.
 - CFM Advocates is a contract lobby firm with offices in Salem and a DC branch. Zack Reeves and Ryan Gleason represent Benton County at the state level. Will provide an overview on recent bills.
 - Overview of Housing/Homelessness bills:
 - SB 1564 – Optional Model Housing Ordinances; bi-partisan bill.

- HB 4063 – House Housing Omnibus Bill; technical changes mainly.
- HB 4134 – Housing Oregon’s Workforce; 7.1 million dollars to four cities for finalizing projects.
- SB 1529 – Emergency Weather Resources Update; technical updates. Work with OHA to distribute air conditioners and air filters in advance of an emergency.
- Deeper Dives
 - **SB 1537**
 - ✓ Housing Accountability and Production Office (HAPO); Governor priority and worked hard to craft this bill; some components problematic for local govt; but can incentivize housing development. Created new state agency; joint effort to mediate disputes between local govt and developers and provide technical assistance to smaller local govts. Supports for increasing housing production.
 - ✓ \$3 Million for access to infrastructure programs
 - ✓ Moderate-income housing revolving loan fund
 - ✓ One-time UGB expansion; heavily negotiated with land use advocates. Affordability requirements.
 - ✓ Requires acceptance of up to 10 adjustments to siting and design standards.
 - **SB 1530**
 - ✓ ~\$280 million allocation to support SB 1537
 - ✓ \$65 million for existing shelters
 - ✓ \$95 million directly to cities
 - ✓ \$36 million to OHA
 - ✓ \$30 Million to DAS
 - ✓ Financial allocations scaled down from original proposal, but still a massive allocation for a short session.
- Benton County-specific issues
 - \$5 million for relocation of Children and Family Services Center
 - \$2.5 million to add 11 units to the County Flexible Housing Subsidy Pool (pared down from original ask of \$4.9 million).
 - Looking ahead: budget challenges (state economist predicts revenues going up but flat revenue forecast in next few years; no increase in funding and revenues flattened, so looking at a cuts budget in future; hard choices to be made – remains to be seen); creating expectation of ongoing funding; leadership changes; City/County priorities.

Questions/Discussion:

- Rebecca: clarity on the 2.5 million: we are actively looking for sites for Flexible Housing Subsidy Pool program; not identified yet; looking throughout Benton County--looking for move-in ready sites. Thank you for your work.
- Karyle: SB1537: are all those proposals for affordable housing? Zack: Yes, for affordable and moderate income housing. I think 120 percent and lower, depending on the bill. Yes, not for market rate. Karyle: The housing accountability office: will it end up being another bureaucracy/barrier that siphons off money? Zack: those are arguments we made with legislators. 5 million dollar portion allocated to assist local

governments; and more money to fund an office with more functions...a lot of challenges with trust to be good stewards; the more we can eliminate administrative costs, the better.

V. Community Progress Update: Benton/Corvallis Situation Table – 6 month update (Captain Joel Goodwin, Corvallis Police Department, and Dan Easdale, Corvallis Housing First)

- **What is the Situation Table?**

- Structured Program
- Collaboration across multiple service sectors
- Addresses individuals or families at Acutely Elevated Risk
- Mobilizes resources tailored to their situation
- Rapid response – 24 to 48 hours
- Originated in Prince Albert, Saskatchewan in 2011
 - Adapted from a Scottish program
- Has become widespread in Canada
 - 14 Tables in Saskatchewan
 - 70 Tables in Ontario
- Started in Chelsea Massachusetts in 2015 (“Hub Model”)
 - Most dangerous city in Massachusetts in 2014, #11 in US
 - Off the “Most Dangerous Cities” list by 2019
- HOPE Advisory Board (Home, Opportunity, Planning and Equity) formed in fall of 2019
- Twelve recommendations in spring of 2021, including a coordinated response
- Three major milestones:
 - Building support among service providers
 - Identifying a hosting agency (CORE Team)
 - Securing funding for training (IHN-CCO)
- Training held October 19 & 20, 2023
- First Situation Table October 29, 2023
- Four filter process:
 - Filter 1: Originating agency screening (frontline staff)
 - Filter 2: De-identified discussion at Situation Table
 - Gender, age range, risk factors, synopsis
 - Group consensus of AER must be achieved to move to Filter 3
 - Filter 3: Identifiable discussion for agency recognition/filter 4 identification at Situation Table
 - Filter 4: Response planning at Situation Table, with intervention within 24-48 hours in the field
- A group meets every Monday. Many partners are involved, such as: Corvallis Daytime Drop-In Center; Pathfinder Clubhouse; CHANCE; Ideal Option; Vina Moses Center; Unity US Shelter; Benton County Harm Reduction; Linn-Benton Housing Authority; The Arc; Faith Hope Charity; Benton County Behavioral Health; Samaritan Health Services; Oxford House; Benton County Health Department; COI (Community Outreach, Inc); Center Against Rape and Domestic Violence; Corvallis Housing First; Benton County Juvenile

Department; Oregon Cascades West Council of Governments; Corvallis Housing First; Corvallis Police Department; Benton County Sheriff's Office; Corvallis Fire & Rescue, Jackson Youth Street Services, Senior Disability Service. (Strong investment from our community who want to help. Focus on acutely elevated risk and to address it—meet with people where they are.)

- In the first six months, the following stats observed:
 - Total number of situations: 33
 - Number of people supported: 48
 - Originating Agenda Referrals: mostly from Corvallis Day Time Drop In Center (14) and Faith Hope Charity (6).
 - Lack of access to housing was highest risk factor; next is basic needs followed by poverty.
 - 20 had overall risk lowered – connected to services
 - 68 percent of closed cases had reduced risk
 - Average number of risk factors is 9; so many other factors—or combination of factors involved; looking closer at systemic issues.

Questions/Discussion:

- Karyle: is population including students, do you see some point we touch everyone and no longer need a situation table? Joel: would be great if that happens; not realistic; but at some point, hopefully, we make enough progress and built enough systems outside of the situation table, we meet less often at the very least. Karyle: It's amazing you meet once a week. Joel: if we engage people at highest risk, we hope to reduce work in the long term; we try to be respectful of people's time; everyone at the table has other work to do as well. They are at the table because they want to help. So, we follow up and stay focus and on task.
- Joel: everyone is there to make a difference; engaging with people at highest risk, can reduce workload potentially too.
- Part of follow up, team goes out and give status update. Ideally, we close the situation with 2 weeks. Report back overview; process; reviewed, typically an hour.
- Karyle: congratulations to you for staying with it, Joel, and good work!
- Anita Earl: fabulous communications tool; we do hit roadblocks all the time; its about the lack of resources available; we don't have enough mental health and substance abuse treatment services. Lack a lot of services in rural areas. Regularly hit a brick wall due to not enough resources.
- Julie: data – when reviewing systemic issues; having data and how to fund system gaps; to learn more; thanks for keeping track of that.
- Dan: aware of gaps; now how to record it; refining process.
- Matt: do you think having connections among agencies has been helpful beyond potential clients and situations; long term cooperation?
- Joel: I think so, yes, we've seen that...better communication; share contact list; aware of who to reach out for help with an issue.
- Dan: situations happen and now we know who to call. Now I know 3-4 people to call and how to create a small team to help.

- Julie: wonderful to see the progress – from original HOPE board recommendation to implementation to success rates... look forward to hearing updates in the future. Thanks Joel and Dan!
- Damien: Great work on the slide—thank you!

VI. HOPE 2024 Work Plan

- May: Flexible Housing Subsidy Pool (FHSP) progress on program implementation – another opportunity for community partner engagement as we move forward with implementation.
- August: Final community engagement session on the FHSP.
- October: Severe weather emergency response plan.
- *We will be seeking HOPE members to volunteer on smaller work groups for specific projects. Example: FHSP and a Notice of Funding Opportunity (NOFO) Review Committee with participation from people with lived experience with homelessness.
- *Special thanks to Ari Grossman-Naples, Cade Deloach, and Barbara Hanley!*

VII. Coordinated Homeless Response Office Updates (Julie Arena, Program Coordinator; Rebecca Taylor, Project Manager)

- HB 5019 (2023) Rapid Rehousing Initiative Update
- NOFO moving into negotiations (Community Capacity/NOFO: Street outreach to connect people experiencing homelessness with the system of care and referrals to the FHSP. And, Case Management to support people on their housing journey and make connections to FHSP resources.
- Flexible Housing Subsidy Pool (FHSP) Staffing Updates:
 - Housing Navigator Hired (for direct client support with housing navigation, care coordination, referrals and housing placement).
 - Program Coordinator recruitment almost complete. (To support FHSP program referrals, data collection, communications, outcomes, etc.)

Questions/Discussion:

- Sarah Devine: Excited at school district on how funds might benefit families.
- Anita Earl: Efforts are welcome and we are desperate for resources-thank you
- Rebecca: we discussed community engagement with funding from state in previous presentation to local government. Part of our plan is to identify 3 subpopulations that are overrepresented in shelters. Policy being clarified with rural continuum of care—policy that works for 26 different counties. We identified alarming overrepresentation in native American and black/African American community. Based on data: two community planning groups and collected data locally with families with children. Large overrepresentation with children. Overrepresentation of people whose needs did not reach threshold for existing programs but needed a high level of care. So want flexible program to address the barriers and we are attempting to accomplish through the FHSP.

VIII. Website Update – now available. Special thanks to Kailee Olson and Sam Bailey for web updates!

- 5-Year Strategic Plan for HB 4123 was approved and submitted to Oregon Housing and Community Services (OHCS).
- HB 4123 Annual Report
 - <https://health.bentoncountyor.gov/coordinated-homeless-response/chro-strategic-plan/>
- Central Points of Communication:
 - **Website:** <https://health.bentoncountyor.gov/coordinated-homeless-response/chro-strategic-plan/>
 - **Projects & Progress:** [Coordinated Homeless Response Office](#)
 - **E-Newsletter:** [Subscribe to HOPE News & Updates](#)
 - **Social Media:** [Amplifying aligned messaging through partner engagement](#)

Closing Remarks:

- Julie: Grant writer (Libbi Loseke-Winter) worked with Corvallis Day Time Drop In Center got funding (Community Based Organization Health Equity grant) and so did Jackson Street Youth. Both getting funds from OHA. Thanks for the great work!
- Barbara: housing data pilot project combining data from community services consortium and Samaritan Health Services. OSU is honest broker; Data finalized; Hope to share at August HOPE advisory board meeting. OSU OPAL will be sharing data with grad students as well. Mark Edwards is director of Oregon Policy Analysis Lab (OPAL).
- Rebecca: thanks to Barbara, Ari, and Cade; thanks Julie!

Meeting Adjourned at 5:32 pm

