



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

August 28, 2024 from 4 pm to 6 pm

Hybrid In-Person/Virtual Meeting



- Total Membership:** Jessica Andrade* (Philomath City Councilor); Karyle Butcher; Bruce Butler; Alice Carter; Bryan Cotter; Cade DeLoach; Sarah Devine (co-chair); Anita Earl; Matt Easdale; Dina Eldridge (CSC Designee); Joel Goodwin; Ari Grossman-Naples; Barbara Hanley; Briae Lewis* (Corvallis City Councilor); Rachel McEneny* (Benton County Administrator); Andrea Myhre; Ailiah Shafer; Mark Shepard* (Corvallis City Manager); Chris Workman* (Philomath City Manager); Nancy Wyse* (Benton County Commissioner).
- Excused:** Alice Carter; Rachel McEneny;* (Benton County Administrator); Pegge McGuire* (CSC Director).
- Absent:** none
- Staff Present:** Julie Arena (HOPE Coordinator); April Holland (Health Department Director); Paula Felipe (Benton County Public Health, recorder); Rebecca Taylor (Benton County Health Department); Brigetta Olson (City)
- Guests:** *Executive Committee Members.

- I. **Welcome and Introductions.** *Reminder of values* such as inclusive, curious, kind, respectful, open-minded. 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.
- II. **Public Comments (limited to 2-3 minutes).** None
- III. **Approval of Minutes:** *Note: Still need to make a **MOTION** to approve the May 22, 2024 minutes. Abstained: Barbara Hanley; Briae Lewis; Andrea Myhre; Ailiah Schafer; Dina Eldridge.*
- IV. **Co-Chair Election**
 - Plan to have election for Matt Easdale – postponed until October.
 - Update on Business Community rep: Julie continues to meet with Chamber of Commerce and Visit Corvallis, and asked how they want to proceed. They will send rep to listen and report back.
- V. **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.

VI. Coordinated Homeless Response Office (CHRO) Community Engagement (Rebecca Taylor)

- HB 5019 (2023) Rapid Rehousing Initiative Update
- Flexible Housing Subsidy Pool (FHSP): Centralized Coordination of Funding and Housing Supports to streamline access to our community’s existing system of care
- Fund, locate, and secure housing with support services for people experiencing homelessness through coordinated system of care. Flexibility to support the person and the provider.
- Staff Capacity at Benton County: Program Coordinator to support FHSP; Housing Navigator for direct client support with housing navigation. Navigator Penny Belyeu (started in June); Program Coordinator Porter Arch (started in August).
- Community Capacity (NOFO): Street Outreach and Case Management.
- Flexible Housing Program Contractors for street outreach (Corvallis Daytime Drop-in Center) and case management (Corvallis Housing First; Faith, Hope, and Charity, Inc.)
- What does it take to build a housing program? Flexible Housing Program Elements:
 - Policies for Privacy, Confidentiality, Conflict of Interest, and a Grievances and Appeals Procedure.
 - Forms to document homelessness status, rent calculation, utilities worksheet, lease agreements.
 - Letters for outreach to property managers, cover letters for individual clients for housing appeals.
 - Procedures for referrals, contracts, funding stream tracking.
 - Internal system building with county contracts, finance, administration, behavioral health, health navigation.
 - Building projects within HMIS to track data and funding streams.
 - Training for new staff.
 - Outcome measures in progress with input from IHN, Community Health Centers, and the ROCC.
 - *Special thanks to CSC, LBHA, ODHS, COG, Unity, CHF, COI, FHC, county BH, and community partners for input in shaping these policies and the program itself.
 - For a Timeline (graph) of Supportive Initiatives, see powerpoint.
- Flexible Housing Program Funding
 - **Funding streams received:** HB 4123 for staffing. HB 5019 for staffing, contractors, rental assistance, move-in costs. HB 5019 for Unity two shelter locations to reopen 50 beds.
 - **Funding streams we have applied for:**
 - IHN-CCO community capacity building funds for waiver benefits like rental assistance.
 - IHN-CCO Delivery System Transformation funding for landlord outreach, engagement, and incentives to access private market housing units.
 - **Funding streams we plan to explore:** Housing 360 to strengthen outreach to unsheltered households. Other opportunities like criminal justice funding, Measure 110, federal sources.

Comments:

Karyle: do you work with NAACP housing committee—they are working on how to work with landlords—encountering some resistance from landlords. Julie, Yes, we have and we will circle back to our

NAACP contacts and we will touch base with them. We are in touch with fair housing. Brigetta Olson will also reach out.

VII. Flexible Housing Program Successes: (Brigetta Olson)

- City of Corvallis purchased property on Van Buren that is planned to add at least 7 supported transitional housing units with other resources onsite.
- Outreach to affordable housing locations has yielded access to units.
- Good news – FHSP first round of lease ups! Special thanks to Corvallis McKinney Vento family advocates, the CDDC, and CHF for supporting housing transitions.
- Within one month of engaging with the FHSP, here is the human impact:
- 5 set aside units at an affordable housing location – and 5 housed families!
- In those 5 households: 6 adults
- 11 children in beds with a roof over their heads
- 10 more households in progress
- *One year from when we heard from our HB 5109 Local Planning Group that we needed to add capacity like this.

Comments:

April: Can you share a little about how we are moving slowly to start this program? And how things might look different in 3 or 4 months from now? People are excited about referrals and we are mindful about capacity. Rebecca: to describe intention of flexible housing subsidy pool: not to create a specific housing assistance program in addition to others; purpose of FHSP is we are making connections with existing provider network in Benton county. So referral does not mean job is done; it is mortar between the bricks to have collective impact with resources in community.

VIII. Educational Component: Point in Time (PIT) Count; Guest speakers: Dina Eldridge, Housing Senior Operations Manager and Cory Hackstedt, HMIS Data Analyst/Agency Administrator from Community Services Consortium

- Cory categorizes data for Benton, Linn, and Lincoln PIT Data 2024.
- Annual census of homeless in community that is mandated by HUD—numbers from official county play into federal and state funding conducted in January—count for 10 days. Emerg shelters; transitional housing and people unsheltered/street county.
- Benton Count numbers: 152 sheltered; 268 unsheltered; total homeless: 420.
- Demographics: age breakdown: (see slide):
- Women 134; Men; 265; (see slide)
- Race and Ethnicity: (see slide)
- Youth
- Veteran
- Chronically Homeless
- Adults with Serious Mental Illness
- Adults with Substance Use Disorder
- Adults with HIV/AIDS
- Adult Survivors of Domestic Violence
- Survey volunteers; families may be more hidden and not findable by street outreach workers. Mostly it is a count for adults.

Comments/Questions:

- **Andrea:** At State level, congregate shelter beds are available across the state and part of it is because some people don't want to go into congregate shelter and then some people would rather be on the street than be there.
So it's not necessarily attributable to like any one thing.
- Capacity of shelters impacts data and counting people not in shelters. Men's shelter was closed but reopened in December, which could make a difference in sheltered numbers data. Also, ice storm could have made an impact at this time.

IX. **Community Progress Update: Homelessness and Health Care Data: "Health Care Services Utilization Among People Struggling with Homelessness"**

Guest Speakers:

Dr. Paulina Kaiser, Director, Research & Evaluation, Samaritan Health Services

Cory Hackstedt, HMIS Data Analyst/Agency Administrator, Community Services Consortium (CSC)

Dr. Mark Edwards, Director OSU Policy Analysis Lab (OPAL), School of Public Policy, Oregon State University

Dr. Barbara Hudson-Hanley, College of Health, OSU (HOPE Board Member)

- HOPE Recommended improved data—gave green light to city and County and OSU staff to make plans and conduct outreach. Three years of data collection and analysis. CSC and Samaritan Health and OSU collaborative; inspired by HOPE.
- Pilot study and plan to keep moving forward.
- Focus on Housing and Health and health care; relationship
- To what extent do housing insecure use health services and what type of services.
- Benton, Linn, and Lincoln counties
- Funded by IHN (Local CCO)
- **The Challenge:** How to link existing, siloed data from different organizations while protecting people's anonymity?
- **The Solution:**
- Privacy-preserving record linkage: use cryptographic 'hashing' algorithm to convert identifiable information (first name, last name, date of birth, sex) to deidentified string of 1s and 0s
- •Algorithms are deterministic but irreversible
- •SHS & CSC ran the hashing algorithms internally, sent deidentified data to OSU for analysis
- **The Data We Assembled:**
- From CSC: adults 18+ served by homeless services programs in 2022 (Linn, Benton, & Lincoln Counties)
- From SHS: patients flagged as homeless* in Epic in 2022 ED visits & hospitalizations (complete coverage in the LBL region)
- *using custom registry – imperfect!
- See slide for breakdown of data
- Census data for the Three Counties:
- Previous Year Emergency Department Visits 2022 (see graph for data).
- Hospitalizations 2022 (see graph)
- Distribution of Emergency Department Visits by SHCSC Cohort (2022) (see graph)

- In future, link data from county health
- Find out how these patterns compare to general public.
- Calculate costs associated with these patterns.
- Consider tradeoffs of investing in housing for those with high health care utilization.

Questions and Comments:

- **Andrea:** Here is a research article that has similar findings.
<https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pmc/articles/PMC1447161/>
- **Andrea:** would be great to know on the local level the impact of not having mental health treatment options for people at the Ed (Emergency Department).
There's not options for them, aside from the state hospital. And of course, you don't get to the state hospital unless you get charged with a crime. So you know, that's just digging into that a little bit more I think would be really useful.
And I just wanted to add one other thing is that housing is a solution to this issue. However, our experience has been that it's not necessarily that people stop going to the Ed if they're housed, it's more that there's somewhere for them to go to recover so that they're not continually going to the Ed for like wound care and things like that. Because usually, if people are chronically homeless, they're pretty sick.
And they're still going to utilize a lot of healthcare services, but at least they have somewhere safe and stable to recuperate.
- **Sarah:** would be good to tease out the reasons for the visit.
- **Anita Earl:** And why are the unhoused folks there (at the Emergency Department)?
They're there because they don't have a primary care provider.
They're there because they don't have an address where they receive mail.
They're there because they can't afford their meds.
They can't transport to the hospital.
They don't know how to decipher information and they are traumatized, right?
So when you're housed some of those questions are answered, but without the emotional support at the visits and the help paying the meds, we're still back to square one, right, because even though we could give somebody a primary care provider, we have to go with them. And encourage and fortify that relationship if you will.
So it could be utilized where the Ed is kind of like the fast food of medicine.
They could just show up and roll the dice and get some help, and then they leave.
So I think we know a lot about the whys, at least anecdotally and I do use some smart phrases with my team that could give us a little more than anecdotal data because every time somebody from homeless outreach sees someone, we get their trauma history, we get their financial history, we get a whole lot of information that we put in epic that could be looked at in greater detail to support my anecdotal experiences.
But I think we've done a great job the last couple years from a Samaritan end of it in responding to the Ed. Our goal was to decrease Ed utilization.
But really, our goal was to help unhoused folks increase access to care; to feel cared for, to make the care last and work.
And so I think that my teams got lots of information.
I look forward to future partnering and I think we have some answers.
I also wanted to mention that question about how will housing affect Ed utilization?
I'm in charge of our medical respite beds and medical respite beds means temporary housing and placement, and everybody in one of my beds practically had Ed access that

repeated Ed visits.

We place them in medical respite.

Those Ed visits erase because we've got not only the housing but the case management support.

So I think medical respite placement also gives us a nice window into how to affect change here. Thanks.

X. Website Update – now available:

- 5-Year Strategic Plan for HB 4123 was approved and submitted to Oregon Housing and Community Services (OHCS)
- HB 4123 Annual Report from 2023
- HB 4123 Annual Report for 2024 in Progress
- <https://health.bentoncountyor.gov/coordinated-homeless-response/chro-strategic-plan/>
- HOPE Website: <https://health.bentoncountyor.gov/advisory-committees/#hope-board>
- Coordinated Homeless Response Office (CHRO) Website:
<https://health.bentoncountyor.gov/coordinated-homeless-response/>
- 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](#)

Meeting Adjourned