



# Home, Opportunity, Planning, and Equity (HOPE) Advisory Board

## Approved Meeting Minutes

### October 23, 2024 from 4 pm to 6 pm

*\*Hybrid In-Person/Virtual Meeting\**

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<b>Total Membership:</b>	Karyle Butcher; 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); Mark Shepard* (Corvallis City Manager); Chris Workman* (Philomath City Manager); Nancy Wyse* (Benton County Commissioner).
<b>Excused:</b>	Jessica Andrade* (Philomath City Councilor); Bruce Butler; Ailiah Shafer; Andrea Myhre; Rachel McEneny;* (Benton County Administrator).
<b>Absent:</b>	none
<b>Staff Present:</b>	Julie Arena (HOPE Coordinator); Paula Felipe (Benton County Public Health, recorder); Rebecca Taylor (Benton County Health Department); Porter Arch (Policy Analyst)
<b>Guests:</b>	

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*\*Executive Committee Members.*

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- 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. The HOPE Board and HOPE Executive Committee have representation from elected officials and staff members from these four entities.
- II. **Public Comments (limited to 2-3 minutes).** Christina Rehkla, Executive Director, Visit Corvallis. Training on trauma informed care took place for business owners. Thanks to Shawn Collins and Allison and two from core. 63 attendees came to the class and there is a lot of interest with front-line workers on learning how to de-escalate. 2<sup>nd</sup> update: The Chamber did a training with Corvallis police department on environmental design and crime prevention. Group of downtown business owners who have been working hard to re-create a downtown association setting up organization and how to be funded. Website and newsletter are in progress. Google 'downtown Corvallis organization' to get updates. The Corvallis Chamber CEO resigned, so looking for new executive director. In other news, building project will add 75 hotel rooms to downtown and 85 market share apartments downtown. Another proposal to put in a Hamptons Suites with 130 rooms and an extended stay at Marriott Hotel to add 130-40 rooms. Good to add for emergencies. Last thing: at City Council meeting, downtown partners trying to organize a district/like an urban renewal district, and several have submitted letters of support.
- III. **Approval of Minutes: MOTION** by Nancy Wyse to approve both the May 22, 2024 and the August 28, 2024 minutes. Seconded by Matt Easdale. **MOTION** passed. Abstained: Alice Carter; Cade DeLoach; Dina Eldridge.
- IV. **Co-Chair Election:** Matt Easdale is from Albany and earned an MA from OSU in Public Policy and works at Majestic Theater and has a passion for addressing the issues of housing and basic

needs and sees HOPE as an opportunity to be helpful.

- **MOTION** made by Nancy Wyse to approve Matt Easdale as HOPE co-chair. Seconded by Briae Lewis. **MOTION** Passed. Congratulations Matt!

**V. Coordinated Homeless Response Office (CHRO) Community Engagement (Julie Arena & Rebecca Taylor)**

- Flexible Housing Subsidy Pool: Centralized coordination of systemwide housing resources: Fund, locate, and secure housing with support services for people experiencing homelessness through a coordinated system of care. Flexibility to support the person and the provider.
- Hired staff at Health Department: Porter Arch on board; will hire housing navigator in next month.
- Street Outreach to connect people experiencing homelessness with the system of care and referrals to the FHSP – Corvallis Daytime Drop-in Center
- Case Management to support people on their housing journey and make connections to FHSP resources. (Corvallis Housing First and Faith, Hope, and Charity, Inc.)
- FHSP participant experience: As of August 2024 (within 1 month of engaging with FHSP):
  - 5 set aside units at an affordable housing location, and 5 housed families. (One year from when we heard from our HB 5109 Local Planning Group that we needed to add capacity like this).
  - In those 5 households: 6 adults; 11 children now in beds with a roof over their heads.
  - 10 more households in progress.
  - As of October 2024, 14 households have been connected to housing and are receiving wrap around supports: 16 adults and 22 children.
  - Very inspiring to hear feedback from providers!
- Flexible Housing Program Funding:
  - In July 2023, the CHRO was awarded \$1.2 million through House Bill 5019 with a goal of achieving long-term housing stability for 31 households by June 30, 2025.
  - An additional \$975,000 was awarded through Oregon Senate Bill 5701 as part of the Oregon Rehousing Initiative (ORI) which increased the goal by twenty (20), for a total of 51 households.
- Additional Funding Awards:
  - CHRO successfully competed for two (2) one-time funding opportunities through InterCommunity Health Network—Coordinated Care Organization (IHN-CCO):
    - \$112,910 in Community Capacity Building Funds to establish pathways to connect FHSP program participants with Medicaid waiver Health-Related Social Needs Benefits, in coordination with the Community Health Centers of Benton and Linn Counties. (Thanks to Libby, our grant writer!)
    - \$123,300 in Delivery System Transformation (DST) funds to support the development and implementation of a landlord engagement and incentive program, an integral components of the FHSP.
- CHRO Progress Update:
  - FHSP website (Thanks Sam Bailey!): <https://health.bentoncountyor.gov/coordinated-homeless-response/fhsp/>
  - FHSP outreach to 2 more affordable housing locations has yielded access to more affordable units.
  - City of Corvallis City Manager, Mark Shephard, appointed to League of Cities Board of Directors for 2025-2024. Congratulations Mark! Mark seeks to represent local issues from Benton County. The League represents all cities in State; legislative

lobbying; 9 legislative priorities and 3 of them tie in with issues of behavioral health and homelessness. Expand access to treatment, beds, fund the needs.

- State Funding for 331 new homes in rural areas: The Oregon Housing Stability Council approved funding to develop or preserve 429 homes. Forty-eight of them will be preserved while 381 are new, and of those, 331 are in rural areas. All projects will range in affordability from 30% - 60% of area median income. Developments include:
  - Corvallis Spruce, Corvallis, 50 new homes
- Affordable housing updates see slide

**Comments:**

- Porter: thanks to all who made it possible for low-income housing; You have helped to change the landscape and it has made such a difference in connecting people to housing.
- Nancy: great to hear this—this demonstrates what we are doing and how to communicate to public that progress is being made.
- Julie: We are working on a press release; working to update the 2024 progress report on FHSP.

**VI. Community Progress Update: Severe Weather Overflow Sheltering; Guest speakers from Faith, Hope, and Charity, Inc. (Sheila Thompson; Fred Edwards; Dr. Johanna Hamilton) \*April Holland created the slides but could not attend tonight.**

- Season in review: Winter 2023 – Summer 2024
- Contract with Faith, Hope, and Charity, Inc. (FHC) – Emergency hotel-based and congregate sheltering for individuals that do not have access to current shelter system.
- Provider triggered by weather and air quality criteria (30 degrees or less overnight and/or one inch of snow in 24-hour period and/or freezing rain lasting overnight; at least 2 days of temperatures above 100 degrees, or at least two days when heat and humidity feel like 105 degrees or more; Air Quality Index reaches 300 (hazardous))
- Process: First come, first served while prioritizing those most at risk.
- Guests sign hotel/congregate sheltering agreement
- Transportation provided to and from participating hotels
- Storage of client's personal items handled case by case
- 24 nights of overflowing sheltering; 6 activation events (winter 2023-summer 2024)
- Oct 27-29 (3 **nights-55 guests**); Nov 24-29 (5 nights-68 guests); Dec 22-23 (2 nights-39 guests); Jan 12-18 (6 nights-58 guests); Mar 5-7 (3 nights-13 guests); July 5-9 (5 nights-12 guests). (see slide for numbers of 'congregate guests').
- Total cost of Winter 2023-Summer 2024: \$120,320.27
- Average cost per night: \$5,009.59 (Similar to 2023 costs (\$5,000/night)).
- Guest demographics: 273 unique individuals served: age range: 4-76 years (average age of 41); 65 percent male.
- Race/Guests: white 85 percent; American Indian/Alaskan Native 11 percent; Black/African American 5 percent; Native Hawaiian/Pacific Islander 4 percent; Asian 2 percent; Ethnicity: Hispanic: 8 percent.
- County of Residence: Benton 94 percent; Other 6 percent.
- Most stayed in tent or outside (79 percent) or in vehicle (17 percent).
- 42 percent of clients self reported as medically fragile.
- Of those who reported "medically fragile": 56 percent of guests ages 50-64 years old.
- 75 percent of guests ages 65 and older.
- 64 percent of clients self-reported mental health diagnoses and concerns.
- 44 percent of clients self-reported substance use disorder
- The 273 community members included 22 children, 20 seniors, and 13 veterans who

- received respite from severe weather.
- Benton County received funding from OHCS to continue overflow severe weather sheltering program for the coming season.
- Numerous guests have been referred to various support services.
- MOU to use library spaces during closure of facilities.
- Mark: on Osborne; closure matter of months as we assess the roof; probably not open again for several months.
- Will work on regular communications on status of Osborn Aquatics Center—as we learn new information.
- Tearful stories of people who were helped during severe weather; thanks to first Christian Church; thanks to Faith, Hope, and Charity, and to Benton County Health and our other partners. One story: An elderly woman saved during ice storm—we picked her up and she survived; many would not have survived in ice storms if not picked up; then after the ice storm we had flooding; had to get people in flooded areas; and county stepped in and helped. Another family had shelter while father could go out and seek employment; people with power out and no electricity no heat and still dangerous.
- Mark Shepard; thanks to Faith, Hope, and Charity and Benton County. Really appreciate you stepping in and the work you are doing.
- Karyle: don't understand weather triggering when shelter is available: The temperatures are already low; below 40 is cold; is that a rule-what is the trigger? Answer: each county has a standard– we start at 30 degrees; some counties start at 25 degrees; the county decides; based on warming center in Eugene; amount of funding and it is a limited resource; and how many people need to be served.
- Good news from Unity Sheltering; funds available for year-round for vulnerable people; FHSP staff worked with Unity. Hotel sheltering helps fill that gap outside of emergency weather.
- Matt: what would be next steps to cover more bases and what are barriers? Availability of hotel rooms; do not return policy; unhoused with pets/damage hotels; extra fees; limited fundings; some don't have identifications.
- Alice: medical respite care? Anita: Samaritan has five new medical respite beds in Albany (in Tri County region) to offset loss of 3 beds with Corvallis housing first. We are steadily growing.
- Hotels are not doctors. We are mindful hotels not designed for everything. Keep them warm when cold outside. Thanks to Anita!

## **VII. Educational Component: Health-Related Social Needs Housing Benefits - Alicia Bublitz (Intercommunity Health Network (IHN CCO))**

- Background: Oregon's 1115 Waiver (new benefits) includes:
- Continuous enrollment 0-6
- 2-year enrollment for ages 6 and up
- More coordinated health services, particularly for youth with special healthcare needs.
- Questions: email: [abublitz@samhealth.org](mailto:abublitz@samhealth.org)
- Health Related Social Needs (HRSN) for transition populations: Climate Devices; Housing Supports; Nutrition Supports.
- HRSN Updated timeline: Nov 24: housing supports for members at risk of homelessness; January 2025: Nutrition Services go live for HRSN covered populations.
- Housing eligibility (HRSN) is a 2-tier eligibility benefit: For Transition Populations and medical need.
- Climate 2024: Air conditioners; Heaters; Air Filtration; Refrigeration; Portable Power Supply.

- Community Capacity Building (CCCBF) Funds: Designated to support community partners in becoming HRSN providers with IHN-CCO. (119 million dollars statewide). Create robust, equitable networks of HRSN providers across the state, and build the necessary capabilities and capacity of community partners.
- CCCBF funds may only be used for: Technology; Workforce Development; Development of business or operational practices; outreach, education, or convening.
- Basic HRSN Info: [Health-related Social Needs - InterCommunity Health Network CCO \(ihntogether.org\)](https://ihntogether.org)
- CCCBF info and application: [Community Capacity Building Funds - InterCommunity Health Network CCO \(ihntogether.org\)](https://ihntogether.org)
- Or reach out by email: [transformation@samhealth.org](mailto:transformation@samhealth.org)

#### Questions:

- Rebecca: are there any conflicts with pooling subsidies and rent payments? Any conflicts of using federal with federal or state with federal? Intention is amount that is payable is fixed amount for person; possible it wont cover all of their rent, but some flexibility; cover as much as we can; don't know of any concerns from OHA on rating funding.
- Phased roll out with community providers; you are not behind
- Time based service; capped at 30 hours per person per year. Tracking system and able to authorize more time for providers.
- Julie: what is eligible but make sure get housing; double billing for same person? No, comes thru IHN, ongoing tracking.
- Julie: if moving into hotel, can pay for hotel for a few months.

#### VIII. 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](#)

#### IX. HOPE Meetings going into 2025: Likely quarterly meetings starting 1/29/25.

Meeting Adjourned at 6 pm