



**Home, Opportunity, Planning, and Equity (HOPE)  
Executive Committee Meeting  
Approved Minutes  
September 11, 2024 from 4 pm to 5 pm  
Virtual Meeting**

**Members Present:** Dina Eldridge (Community Action Agency Director Designee); Nancy Wyse (Benton County Commissioner); Mark Shepard (Corvallis City Manager); Rachel McEneny (County Administrator); Jessica Andrade (Philomath City Councilor); Chris Workman (Philomath City Manager);

**Excused:** Briae Lewis (Corvallis City Councilor);

**Absent:**

**Staff Present:** April Holland (Interim County Health Department Director); Julie Arena, (Benton County Health, HOPE Program Coordinator); Rebecca Taylor (Benton County Health, HOPE Project Manager); Brigetta Olson (Housing and Neighborhood Services Manager, City of Corvallis); Paul Bilotta (Community Development Director, City of Corvallis)

**Community**

**Members:** None

- I. Welcome and Introductions. Meeting overview.
- II. Public Comment: none.
- III. Approval of prior meeting minutes and other business.
  - a. Jessica moves to approve July 10, 2024 HOPE Executive Committee meeting minutes, Nancy seconds. Approved. Paul and Dina abstain, meeting notes pass.
  - b. Co-Chair: Matt Easdale has requested to be a Co-Chair. Other existing Co-Chair is Sarah Devine; she wishes to end serving in this role. Election for Matt at August meeting. Elevating role the Co-Chairs to run the HOPE meetings with staff support to facilitate or present. Provide bio from Matt ahead of time.
- IV. HOPE Board 2024 agenda setting – October
  - a. First 15 mins meeting business, public comment, and Co-Chair election for Matt Easdale.
  - b. Severe weather emergency response, including motel and congregate overflow sheltering plan – April – time needed? 20 minutes plus 10 for Q&A.
  - c. IHN new waiver benefits including rental assistance. This can wait until January 2025 if this agenda is too full. Benefit starts being available in November (planned). Ask IHN how much time they would like. 15 minutes sufficient? Julie to connect with Alicia Bublitz at IHN.

- d. CHRO Update including Flexible Housing Subsidy Pool (FHSP) program update – contracted partners, internal capacity building, flexible funding, progress on program development with behavioral health and external partners. 10 minutes for presentation with updates about progress and how the FHSP functions.
  - i. Service provider spotlight: partner sharing about what they do and their contracted role: CDDC, CHF, FHC, Unity. 5 mins each = 20 minutes. Short recap of who we are, do this and this, and now our role in this other project. Focus on the role in the FHSP – how what they do intersects with the FHSP.
  - ii. 10-15 for questions. Approximately 45-60 minutes.

**V. Coordinated Homeless Response Round Table Updates**

- a. Severe weather response: all cold weather except July 5-9<sup>th</sup> 2024.
  - i. 24 nights of activation in 2023-2024 winter and 2024 summer. (20 in previous year)
  - ii. 3-6 night range for activations. Faith Hope and Charity operates motel overflow and congregate overflow sheltering at a downtown church.
  - iii. Ranged from 10 rooms to 34 hotel rooms utilized during an activation – 392 hotel room nights total needed.
  - iv. Total number of people served based on data collected at intake: 274 individuals served.
  - v. Cost info: \$120k, average cost per night \$5k, similar to 2023 costs which were \$5k per night. Cost of rooms remaining stable over past 2 years.
  - vi. Demographics: age range 4 years to 76 yrs. 65% male. 22 minors (0-17 age). 20 who were 65+ years. 35-49 age range most common 74 guests. American Indian/Alaskan Native 30 individuals or 11% of the individuals (around 1% of Benton county, so 11 times overrepresented). Residents: 94% Benton County residents, 6% listed a different county (Linn Marion Polk Lane and Multnomah).
  - vii. Current housing status: 80% outside/tent, 17% vehicle, 4 people spent last night in hospital. Location of most recent housing: 70% Corvallis, less than 10% in Linn county, 10% different state, others elsewhere in OR.
  - viii. Self-reporting medical fragile, diagnosed MH need, self-identified substance use disorder need, connected with services currently:
    - 1. Medically fragile: 42% yes (out of 273 people). Ages 50-64 jumps to 56%, 65+ it's 75% (15 out of 20).
    - 2. Mental health and substance use: data very similar to last year. 64% MH concerns, 44% SUD, 40% both concerns MH and SUD. Among those who said they had one of those concerns, 60% say they're connected with some kind of MH or SUD support.

- ix. Highlights: 273 people received respite from severe weather. Recent sheltering award from OHCS we received funding to continue overflow weather sheltering support. Many guests referred to support services that are hopeful.
  - x. Opportunities: increased coordination with sheltering would help fill available sheltering first. Opportunity to strengthen that connection. So many changes and funding opportunities happening at quick paces this year – possibilities for change.
  - xi. Questions: Nancy – having some individual success stories would be helpful. Jessica – overall context of how this works would be helpful. Response – April: we have criteria from national weather forecast that triggers an activation of emergency weather response that allows for motel sheltering and congregate sheltering. Check in at First Christian Church starting in afternoon, people prioritized based on need an availability for existing sheltering. Agreement signed and data filled in at check in. Food provided.
- b. Philomath City Council had a May work session with innovative development for affordable rural housing in a city owned spot. Chris Workman interested in connecting with resources for affordable development. CSC has new staff role for this topic, Rebecka Weinstein. Brigetta will connect with Chris and include Rebecka to discuss any support or sharing of ideas.

**Meeting Adjourned at 5pm**