

HOPE Advisory Board

April 8, 2026 Public Meeting

Meeting Facilitated by the
Coordinated Homeless Response Office



Virtual Meeting Housekeeping

- This meeting is being recorded.
- Please mute your microphone until it is your turn to share.
- All attendees can unmute themselves and choose to be seen visually by clicking “Mic” or “Camera” at the top right of the screen.
- **Public comment:**
 - Type your name into the “Chat” area, say you want to make a public comment, and on what topic. Example: “Julie – public comment – crisis response.”
 - For those on the phone, there will be an opportunity to comment, too.
- **Questions during the meeting:**
 - Type into the “Chat” area.

HOPE Board Agreements for Culture & Conduct

Agreements for our culture + conduct:

Fun

Inclusive ✓✓

humor

Food ✓

Action/roll up sleeves

Change the face of Homelessness

honesty

Respect ✓

consensus

Think before you speak

Curiosity ✓

transparency

Recognize personal bias

Kindness ✓

time management

Concise communication

Open minded ✓

opinions matter

data driven

Do your homework!

patient

authentic

Valuing personal experience

dedication/work ethic
honor the expectations of
the work

Meeting Agenda

- I. Welcome, Virtual Meeting Housekeeping, Overview of Agenda.....4:00pm
- II. Public Comment* (up to 10 minutes).....4:05pm
- III. Meeting Minutes Approval.....4:15pm
- IV. Co-Chairs Election.....4:20pm
- V. CHRO Staff Progress Update and Discussion.....4:30pm
- VI. Coordinated Homeless Response Round Table Updates4:50pm

Public Comment

10 Minutes

Comment limited to 2-3 minutes based on number of people wanting to comment

Type into the “Chat” and say you want to make a public comment and on what topic.

For those on the phone, there will be an opportunity for public comments.

Can also submit written comments to the Board via email to Julie.Arena@bentoncountyor.gov

1/14/2026 HOPE Meeting Minutes Approval

- Jessica Andrade (Philomath City Councilor)
- Bruce Butler (IHN-CCO)
- Rick Crager (Benton County Administrator)
- Jim Moorefield (Corvallis City Councilor)
- Jennifer Sanders (LBHA)
- Mark Shepard (Corvallis City Manager)
- Ryan Vogt (Cascades West and CSC)
- Chris Workman (Philomath City Manager)
- Nancy Wyse (County Commissioner)

Abstain from minutes vote: Mark Shephard – Paul Bilotta was proxy for 1/14/26 meeting

HOPE Bylaws: Chair and Vice Chair

VI. OFFICERS

- A. The following officers shall be elected from the HOPE Board membership annually at the first regular meeting of each year:
1. Chair: the Chair shall have the responsibility of conducting all meetings and hearings in an orderly manner. The Chair may not initiate a motion, but may second, and shall vote on each issue after the question is called. The Chair, in consultation with CHRO staff and with input from HOPE Board members shall set the agenda for each meeting.
 2. Vice Chair: the Vice Chair shall be responsible for conducting the meetings and hearings in the absence of the Chair.

Chair and Vice Chair Election

- Name, organization (full name, not acronym)
- Why are you interested in serving as Chair/Vice Chair?

Motion to approve & vote

Refresher: What does our coordinated system need from HOPE in 2026?

- Coordination between operational decision makers who have authority to include other departments to collaborate with CHRO in work groups for system improvements.
- Liaising back to member governments and organizations for awareness, buy-in, and policy change when relevant.
- Focus on where we have local and regional control to make change.

Overarching Goal 4/8: HOPE Board Feedback

- Recommendations to assist us in approaching these topics?
- Feedback or guidance to CHRO as we continue in this work?

HOPE 2026 Priorities and Work Group Topic Alignment

- I. CHRO Progress Update
- II. Two main CHRO areas of interest that would be supported by a HOPE Work Group
 1. Improved Referral Pathways and Accurate Data Collection
 2. Street Outreach/Encampment response
- III. Organization Specific Updates/Asks

Coordinated Homeless Response Office (CHRO) System Update

Staff:

Rebecca Taylor, Program
Manager

Julie Arena, Program
Coordinator

- **Regional Coordinator Role**
- **Statewide Sheltering Program (SSP)**
- **Shelter bed survey**
- **PIT Count 1/28-2/6**
- **City and County coordination on two properties for transitional housing.**
- **Property Manager outreach**

CHRO Progress Updates

- CHRO has been selected to serve as Regional Coordinator for Benton County.
- CHRO is supporting a Local Planning Group process to create a Regional Assessment of gaps and needs.
- CHRO is utilizing prior local plans from HB 5019 and our Strategic Plan which aligns with the HOPE Recommendations.
- CHRO is engaging our Local Planning Group which includes homeless service providers, health care, behavioral health, supported housing, school district, day use and hygiene providers, etc.
- This outreach and engagement will be a heavy lift throughout the spring to meet our state requirements and ensure our local community partners remain involved at every step.

CHRO Progress Updates

- Informing the Statewide Sheltering Program (SSP) with ongoing feedback to the state about the structure and funding.
- CHRO staff are directly informing and impacting state guidelines and program structure with our attendance and involvement in a variety of meetings and work groups. CHRO staff communicate local community feedback in these state forums.
- We elevate issues to the county Board of Commissioners (BOC) where elected leadership is necessary for advocacy.

CHRO Progress Updates

- The CHRO conducted a shelter bed survey to identify all funding sources, scope of services, and available beds to provide the state with accurate data and information.
- CHRO staff engaged shelter providers (Unity, COI, Jackson Street Youth Services, and Faith Hope & Charity) to ensure accurate information is being provided to our state partners.

CHRO Progress Updates

- The annual Point in Time (PIT) count for unsheltered and sheltered homelessness occurred during January 28-February 6, 2026.
- During December and January, CHRO staff provided leadership, coordination, outreach and training for volunteers, communication with all PIT counting site leads, and assignment of over 40 volunteers to sites throughout Benton County.
- The CHRO provided funding for incentives to engage over 300 unsheltered individuals to take the PIT survey.
- CHRO staff will be giving an update to the Benton County Board of Commissioners (BOC) in May 2026 and will share more accurate data counts from the PIT.

CHRO Progress Updates

- CHRO continues to engage property managers with coordination from City partners.
- CHRO coordination with the City of Corvallis includes ongoing coordination around key properties, such as Van Buren and Harrison, to ensure local infrastructure planning complements our regional obligations.
- CHRO staff are working closely with the City of Corvallis to align the scope of services supported by city and county homelessness funding with the expectations of the Statewide Shelter Program (SSP).
- This collaboration is focused on creating consistent, integrated service standards that strengthen our regional system and ensure local investments directly support our shared state-mandated shelter and rehousing objectives.

Two main CHRO areas of interest that would be supported by a HOPE Work Group in 2026

1. Improved Referral Pathways and Accurate Data Collection

2. Street Outreach and Encampment Response

1. Improved Referral Pathways and Accurate Data Collection

- Updating our documentation to create a Universal Intake Form for housing and supports for all providers.
- Adopting and training on our new coordinated entry (CE) assessment tool and consistent CE data entry into HMIS.
- CHRO has engaged providers and has support to move forward with these improvements.

2. Street Outreach and Encampment Response

- Increased staff capacity with funding from Housing 360 grant for the street outreach and response team (SORT) side of encampment response. (Corvallis Daytime Drop-in Center)
- Connectivity to sheltering. CHRO working to make sure there is shelter capacity at Unity.
- Coordination and collaboration with Corvallis Parks & Rec and CPD.
- City working on rehabilitation of two properties for next step housing transition capacity.
- Neighborhood focus areas – multijurisdictional response team included discussions with Parks & Rec, CPD, CDDC, and county BH.
- Discussed the structure and possibilities for shared agreements between service provision and enforcement.

The Ask for HOPE Members:

1. Buy-in and understanding from leadership about the complexity of these two topics, how they are interrelated across multiple agencies, and the staff capacity at the CHRO necessary to move forward these system improvements to solve homelessness.
2. Funding Opportunities: collaboration to plan around other local funds so we fill gaps instead of duplicate. Partnership for any collaborative grant opportunities.
3. We need continued leadership support for areas beyond CHRO's purview.

Overarching Goal 4/8: HOPE Board Feedback

- Recommendations to assist us in approaching these topics?
- Feedback or guidance to CHRO as we continue in this work?

City of Corvallis Leadership:

- Coordination with Parks & Rec and Corvallis Police Department. We are seeking leadership support to enable coordination and collaboration with Parks and Recreation staff on tools and practices that would strengthen shared understanding of encampment locations, service needs, and outreach activity.
- CHRO staff are prepared to work directly with Parks staff on technical and operational components.
- Leadership-level endorsement to open and sustain this collaborative conversation.

Benton County Leadership:

- Support to enable county staff to work with the CHRO on standard operating procedures regarding connecting justice involved individuals and the health and housing systems.
- Specifically, this includes county staff who interact with justice involved households (drug court, deflection, diversion) and behavioral health (BH).
- CHRO is already in communication at the staff level with these programs.

CSC & Cascades West COG Leadership:

- CE HMIS support – the CHRO is transitioning into the lead facilitator role for CE case conferencing. CHRO will continue to rely on the expertise and technical skill of CSC during this transition. We may need to evaluate what ongoing technical assistance looks like from CSC.
- Referral pathways: ADRC COG support for housing transitions for older/disabled individuals. Timeline for assessments for activities of daily living (ADLs) and personal care attendants (PCAs) – can we explore ways to improve access to assessments to minimize delays in care for vulnerable households transitioning out of homelessness?

Philomath Leadership:

- Continuing to inform how the CHRO can expand this work to address rural needs. Continued dialogue as the affordable development moves forward.
- The CHRO is working on a universal intake and referral pathway. We are already working with Harriet's Housing for households and with Philomath Community Services (PCS).
- Crossroads is adding some support services onsite in Philomath.

IHN-CCO Leadership:

- Benton County still remains without a contract for HRSN per member per month tenancy supports.
- Leadership support to elevate the importance of coordinated and sustainable funding for this work would be greatly appreciated.
- OHCS continues to encourage leveraging HRSN rent and tenancy support for funding.

LBHA Leadership:

- Continue to be a CHRO partner to advocate to the state to ensure state funded housing assistance fits effectively within existing housing programs and fills service gaps.
- Formal partnerships and referral pathways to improve transitions between limited duration rental assistance programs and the housing choice voucher.
- CHRO will follow up regarding state funding for supportive services and the HCLGP.

CHRO's commitment to HOPE:

May 12: BOC update from CHRO

At 7/8/26 meeting:

- CHRO returns with updates about the statewide sheltering plan and regional assessment of needs.
- CHRO plans to have progress with both work group topics and may need further guidance from leadership.

Central Point of Communications

The screenshot shows the Oregon Health Department website. The top navigation bar includes: OREGON, LAND & HOUSING, PUBLIC SAFETY, HEALTH & FAMILY, OUR GOVERNMENT, and I WANT. The main heading is "Health Department" and "HOPE Recommendations & Community Progress". Below this is a sidebar with navigation options: Overview, HIPAA, Advisory Committees, Alerts and Notifications, Behavioral Health, Developmental Diversity (Disabilities), Environmental Health, Forms, Health Management Services, Housing and Homelessness, HOPE Recommendations & Progress, HOPE News, and HOPE Stories. The main content area includes a "Return to the main HOPE webpage" link, a paragraph about the HOPE Advisory Board, a list of bullet points regarding the HOPE Policy Recommendations document, and two sections for "HOPE Foundational Recommendation A - Organizational Capacity" and "HOPE Foundational Recommendation B - Funding Recommendations".

CHRO Website

- Central point of communication

The screenshot shows a report titled "HOPE in Action From Policy to Progress" with logos for Benton County and Corvallis. The main heading is "Community Progress Report, June 2022". The text describes the HOPE Advisory Board's role in facilitating a comprehensive response to homelessness. It mentions that in June 2021, Benton County and the City of Corvallis accepted "3 Foundational & 12 Policy Recommendations". A link is provided to learn more: co.benton.or.us/health/page/housing-and-homelessness. Below this, three categories of recommendations are listed: 1. Organizational Capacity (City hired staff with affordable housing &...), 2. Funding Recommendations (Project Turnkey funding turned former motel into...), and 3. Legislative Advocacy (New state law allowing/requiring "middle...").

Graphics & Visuals

- Storytelling

The screenshot shows an e-newsletter titled "HOPE News & Updates" with logos for Benton County and Corvallis. The text states: "Benton County and the City of Corvallis, along with our network of local housing and homeless services providers, continue to work together towards implementation of HOPE recommendations and supporting a coordinated homelessness response system. One of the HOPE Recommendations includes communicating regular updates to the community. We will use this email list to share news, updates and progress with you as information becomes available. If you no longer wish to receive these communications, you may use the unsubscribe button at the bottom of this email to update your preferences." A button says "Visit the HOPE web page". Below the text is a photo of Sheena and Sam with the caption: "Meet Sheena & Sam: A story from Corvallis Housing First. *There's so much. Just breathe and keep your head up. Because even though it feels like you're going to drown, there's always people to help you. As long as you're willing to put your hand up and say 'I need help.'"

e-Newsletter

- Subscribe to News & Updates

The screenshot shows a collage of social media posts and graphics. It includes various HOPE logos, informational graphics about COVID-19, and community updates. The posts are arranged in a grid-like fashion, showcasing different types of content used for communication.

Social Media

- Amplifying aligned messaging through partner engagement



At your service,
every day.



/BentonCoGov



@BentonCoGov



@BentonCoGov



/BentonCountyGov



Benton County