

Home, Opportunity, Planning, and Engagement (HOPE) Advisory Board

Staff Report for April 8, 2026 HOPE Meeting

Since we last met, the CHRO has been selected as the Regional Coordinator for the HB 3644 Statewide Shelter Program (SSP). In addition to this new responsibility, CHRO continues to serve as the lead entity for the state's rapid rehousing initiatives. Together, these roles position the CHRO at the center of regional planning for both shelter and housing transition, ensuring that Benton County has a unified approach to addressing homelessness across the entire continuum.

The foundational work described in this update is designed to integrate these two key functions—coordinating shelter capacity and improving access to rapid rehousing—into one streamlined, accountable regional system. This work includes building shared processes, supporting partner alignment, and strengthening the infrastructure needed for coordinated assessment, referrals, outreach, and data collection.

- Local Planning Group process to create a Regional Assessment of gaps and needs. The CHRO is utilizing prior local plans from HB 5019 and our Strategic Plan which aligns with the HOPE Recommendations. We are 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.
- 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.
- 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.
- 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) at a date to be determined in May 2026 and will share more accurate data counts from the PIT.
- 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. This includes ongoing coordination around key properties, such as Van Buren and Harrison, to ensure local infrastructure planning complements our regional obligations.

At our last meeting with the HOPE Board, we committed to returning in April to discuss how the HOPE Board could support the CHRO in establishing two focused workgroups to advance priority areas within our homeless response system. Over the past three months, CHRO staff have been laying the groundwork for these workgroups by building shared understanding, aligning partners, and assessing current practices in two key areas:

1. Improved Referral Pathways and Accurate Data Collection

Improving our referral pathways and data requires updating our documentation to create a universal assessment and intake form that can be used by all providers in the coordinated homeless response system. Improvements in data and coordinated referrals also require adoption of the new coordinated entry (CE) assessment tool and consistent input of the CE data into our homelessness management information system (HMIS) so all providers can see these updates. The CHRO continues to work on capacity building, training, and consistency in using these documents and processes.

The CHRO has done outreach and engagement on this topic area with all homeless service providers, as well as staff from Adult Treatment Court, Deflection, and Forensic Diversion. The CHRO has worked to communicate the importance of our mutual accountability to each other.

2. Street Outreach/Encampment response

CHRO staff have met with key partners involved in street outreach, camping enforcement, parks management, and service referrals. A lot of these conversations have occurred organically at staff meetings and not in a targeted meeting solely on this topic.

Discussion on this topic has revolved around the following components:

- a. 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)
- b. Connectivity to sheltering. CHRO working to make sure there is shelter capacity at Unity.
- c. Coordination and collaboration with Corvallis Parks & Rec and CPD.
- d. City working on rehabilitation of two properties for next step housing transition capacity.
- e. Neighborhood focus areas – multijurisdictional response team included discussions with Parks & Rec, CPD, CDDC, and county BH.
- f. Discussed the structure and possibilities for shared agreements between service provision and enforcement. Accountability to each other with transparent understanding that housing transition is the goal for this street outreach.

HOPE Leadership – what do we need from you?

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** – the CHRO is applying for and administering millions to address homelessness. The CHRO still sees funding gaps for shelter capacity and state restrictions on long term rental assistance or safety net funds for risk mitigation for housing locations.

This motivates two requests:

- a. The CHRO would like to intentionally plan around any local funds already dedicated to homelessness or related services to make sure we address the highest needs in our community.
 - b. The CHRO currently administers many time-intensive grants. We would like to work in partnership with any organizations that could serve as lead to administer the grants where the CHRO can serve in a collaborative capacity. Specifically, the CHRO would like to partner on funding opportunities that include allocations to sustain the housing or supportive services provided by the CHRO's FHSP program.
3. **We need continued leadership support for areas outside of CHRO control.** Many components are within CHRO's purview. Other critical components require partnership with the agency that oversees that component.
 - a. City of Corvallis: coordination with Parks & Rec and Corvallis Police Department. We are seeking leadership support to enable increased 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.
 - b. Benton County Leadership: 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.
 - c. CSC/COG:
 - i. 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.
 - ii. Referral pathways: ADRC COG support (contact: Randi Moore) for housing transitions for older/disabled individuals. Timeline for assessments for ADLs and PCAs – can we explore rapid response for those assessments for households transitioning out of homelessness with acute needs given the limited duration of some of our housing assistance programs?

- d. Philomath: continuing to inform how the CHRO can expand this work to address rural needs. 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. Continued dialogue as the affordable development moves forward.
- e. IHN-CCO: Benton County still remains without a contract for HRSN per member per month tenancy supports. We have worked for over a year to try to implement this. Leadership support to elevate the importance of coordinated and sustainable funding for this work would be greatly appreciated.
- f. LBHA:
 - i. 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. CHRO will follow up regarding state funding for supportive services and the HCLGP.
 - ii. Formal partnerships and referral pathways to improve transitions between limited duration rental assistance programs and the housing choice voucher.