HOPE Advisory Board

November 10, 2026 Public Meeting

Meeting Led by HOPE Chair Jessica Andrade (or Co-Chair Jim Moorefield)

Updates Facilitated by the Coordinated Homeless Response Office

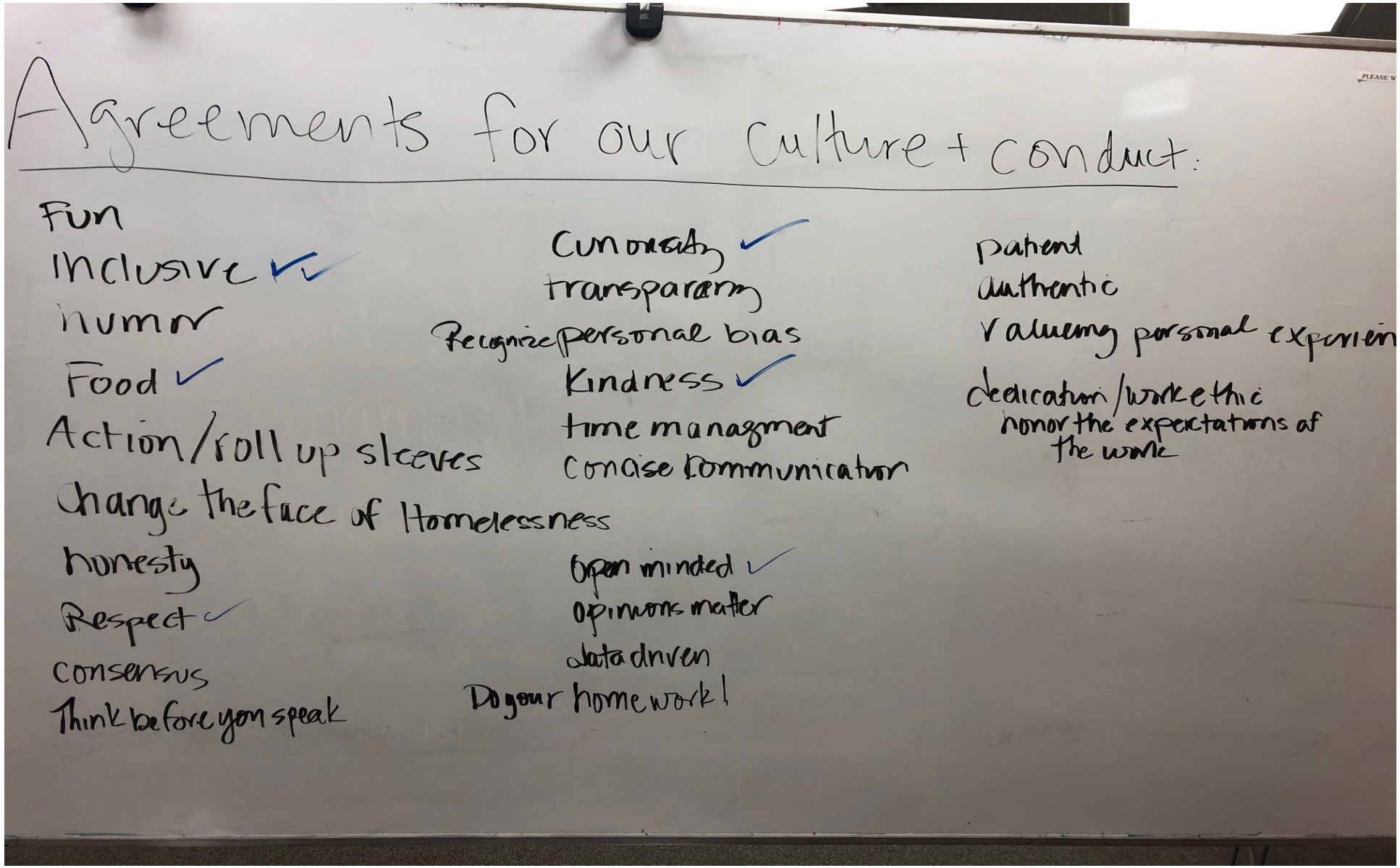
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Virtual Meeting Housekeeping

- 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.

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Meeting Agenda

I. Welcome, Virtual Meeting Housekeeping, Overview of Agenda.....4:00pm

II. Public Comment* (up to 10 minutes).....4:05pm

III. July Meeting Minutes Approval.....4:15pm

IV. What does the HOPE Board do & how does it function in our local system?.....4:20pm

Key Highlights Include:

a. How does HOPE fit into our local, regional, and state systems?

b. How does HOPE function as a forum to provide feedback to key local leaders?

c. What are the forums where different issues are being discussed?

d. How can our community plug in on this topic?

V. Shelter Funding Shortfall Update: coordinated policy advocacy with talking points and consistent messaging 4:40pm

VI. Coordinated Homeless Response Round Table Updates 4:50pm

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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

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7/8/2026 HOPE Meeting Minutes Approval

- Jessica Andrade, HOPE Chair (Philomath City Councilor)
- Bruce Butler (IHN-CCO)
- Rick Crager (Benton County Administrator)
- Jim Moorefield, HOPE Co-Chair (Corvallis City Councilor)
- Jennifer Sanders (LBHA)
- Mark Shepard (Corvallis City Manager)
- Ryan Vogt (Cascades West and CSC) – absent from July meeting (abstain)
- Chris Workman (Philomath City Manager) – Chelsea Starner was proxy on 7/8 (abstain from vote).
- Nancy Wyse (County Commissioner)

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Coordinated Homeless Response Office (CHRO) System Update – Recap from Summer

Staff:

Rebecca Taylor, Program Manager

Julie Arena, Program Coordinator

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Recap Update on Topics covered at Summer Meeting:

- **Shelter Funding Gap** – touch on at end of meeting with advocacy guidance.
- **Universal Referral for Housing and Supports System** – finished first round of training, launching URF first draft with cohort of enrollees for FHSP. More in depth training as we learn what works best with partners.
- **Street Outreach and Encampment Response Coordination** – update on neighborhood focus area, added county outreach staff capacity housing and service referral, coordination across agencies.
- **Regional Assessment and Plan for the Statewide Shelter Program** – still awaiting final approval.

Coordinated Homeless Response Office (CHRO) System Fall Update

Staff:

Rebecca Taylor, Program Manager

Julie Arena, Program Coordinator

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- **What does the HOPE Board do and how does it function in our local system?**
  - a. How does HOPE fit into our local, regional, and state systems?
  - b. How does HOPE function as a forum to provide feedback to key local leaders?
  - c. What are the forums where different issues are being discussed?
  - d. How can our community plug in on this topic?
- **Shelter and Housing System Funding Update: coordinated policy advocacy with talking points and consistent messaging.**

HOPE Bylaws: The HOPE Board

No Single Organization Oversees Benton County's entire homelessness response system

"...the HOPE Board provides representation from policy makers and funders working on homelessness, housing, and social determinants of health, including the County, cities, health system, and other public entities that serve as a funder or policy maker for components of the System. HOPE members serve as a liaison between the HOPE Board, their member organization, and the CHRO. The operational coordination from leadership on the HOPE Board will support participation in appropriate work groups by necessary parties from each organization."

HOPE Bylaws Version 9.4 11/12/25 Page 2 Section III. B. 2.

https://health.bentoncountyor.gov/wp-content/uploads/2023/12/HOPE-Bylaws-2025-1117.pdf

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HOPE Bylaws: The CHRO

"The Coordinated Homeless Response Office (CHRO) provides staff liaison support to the HOPE Board and associated HOPE work groups defined below.

The CHRO is responsible for:

a) Coordination and establishment of community partnerships to provide an integrated approach to service delivery for people experiencing homelessness.

b) Research, education, coordination, and capacity building of community partners and the System in relation to strategic planning, best practices, performance metrics, and state/federal funding opportunities." HOPE Bylaws Version 9.4 11/12/25 Page 2 Section III. B. 1.

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The role of the HOPE Board

- *See the system, not just the symptoms*
  - HOPE can help identify system-wide challenges that affect multiple organizations
- *Get the right leaders at the same table*
  - HOPE can coordinate leadership across funders, policy makers, and systems partners.
- *Bring community experience into decision making*
  - HOPE can receive feedback from providers, community members, and partner organizations.
- *Some barriers cross organizational boundaries.*
  - HOPE can help identify barriers that require action by multiple agencies and jurisdictions.
- *Issues don't have to start HOPE, but they shouldn't stop there*
  - Connect regional coordination with local decision-making through two-way communication and action.

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The role of a HOPE Board Member

As a Representative of Your Organization

- Bring community concerns, organizational priorities, and emerging issues to HOPE.
- Share what is being discussed within your governing body, agency, or organization.
- Help identify issues that may require broader coordination

As a HOPE Board Member

- Stay informed about ongoing work across the homelessness response system
- Understand where efforts are already underway.
- Connect your organization to existing coordination structures, workgroups, and partners
- Help avoid duplicative efforts and fragmented responses

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The role of the Community

- Attend meetings to learn
- Volunteer with agencies you want to support: https://uwlbl.galaxydigital.com/
- Donate to causes you want to support
- Advocate in forums at the state levels where funding decisions are being made
- Utilize talking points for coordinated advocacy

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How to Join the Conversation

- **HOPE Meetings (quarterly) – publicly noticed, details on HOPE website one week prior to meeting. 10 minute public comment at the start of each meeting.** https://health.bentoncountyor.gov/advisory-committees/#hope-board
  - Elected Official and highest operational decision maker from Benton County, City of Corvallis, and City of Philomath; Linn Benton Housing Authority; highest operational decision maker from IHN-CCO, CSC and CWCOG.
- **Sign up for newsletter:** Sign up to receive CHRO news
- **Monthly homeless service provider meeting – meeting purpose is for service providers to communicate, coordinate, collaborate, bring up issues and needs.**
  - CHRO staff supports meeting with hosting, facilitation, note taking, and communicating all updates to broader community partners. Providers can bring up any issues for discussion. City and county staff attend for 2-way communication.

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CHRO Operational Priorities to implement HOPE Policy Recommendations:

CHRO is supporting the development of infrastructure that benefits the entire system:

- Universal Referral Process
- Shared shelter and rehousing investments
- Provider capacity building and accountability
- Housing partnerships with developers and property managers

These efforts are designed to strengthen outcomes across healthcare, housing, behavioral health, employment, and social services.

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What does our coordinated system need from HOPE Members?

CHRO can support coordination, but it cannot provide the leadership, authority, investments, partnerships, and expertise represented at this table.

We need HOPE members to:

- Connect your organization's goals to CHRO operational priorities.
- Bring opportunities, barriers, and resources forward.
- Help identify where these priorities intersect with your organization's mission.
- Champion coordinated investments and solutions within your own organization.
- Build on existing efforts before creating new ones.

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Housing and Homelessness Funding Update: Why Our Message is Shifting

What We Knew Earlier This Year

- Benton County is facing a shelter funding gap for FY27 that will result in reduction in shelter capacity.
- Continued local, regional and state advocacy remains necessary to maintain shelter capacity.

What we Know Now

Additional funding risks have emerged that extend beyond the FY27 shelter funding gap:

- SSP funding levels remain uncertain with a potential 50% reduction from FY27 levels.
- Long Term Rental Assistance (LTRA) programs may be significantly reduced or eliminated.
- Oregon Rehousing Initiative (ORI) funding levels remain uncertain with a potential of a 50% reduction from FY27 levels
- Communities statewide are facing the same uncertainty.

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Housing and Homelessness Funding Update: Why Our Message is Shifting

The question is no longer whether we can close a shelter funding gap. The question is whether we can maintain the partnerships, programs, and infrastructure needed to achieve lasting outcomes.

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Housing and Homelessness Funding Update: Why This Matters

Over the past several years, Benton County has done more than implement these individual funding programs.

Through CHRO leadership, community partnerships, shared accountability structures, coordinated service delivery expectations, ongoing development of tools such as the Universal Referral Process, we are working to integrate shelter, rehousing, housing stabilization, healthcare, and supportive services into a more coordinated regional system.

This work remains in the early stages of implementation.

Significant reductions to programs such as SSP, ORI, or LTRA would not simply reduce funding. They would jeopardize the partnerships, infrastructure, and coordinated systems our community has spent years building and that are only beginning to demonstrate their full potential.

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Housing and Homelessness Funding Update: Our Message – Talking Points

Oregon has made significant investments in shelter, rehousing, housing stabilization, and coordinated homelessness response.

In Benton County, we have used those investments to build partnerships, align programs, development of a Universal Referral Process, strengthen provider accountability, and connect housing, healthcare, and human services into a more coordinated system that has resulted in successful and durable outcomes for people.

This work is still in the early stages of implementation.

Reducing investments in shelter, rapid rehousing, or long-term rental assistance now risks:

- Returning households to homelessness before stability can be achieved.
- Undermining partnerships and systems that communities have spent years building.
- Losing the value of previous public investments before outcomes can fully be realized.
- Shifting costs to emergency departments, behavioral health systems, public safety, courts, jails, infrastructure, and local governments.

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Housing and Homelessness Funding Update: What We Are Asking For – Talking Points

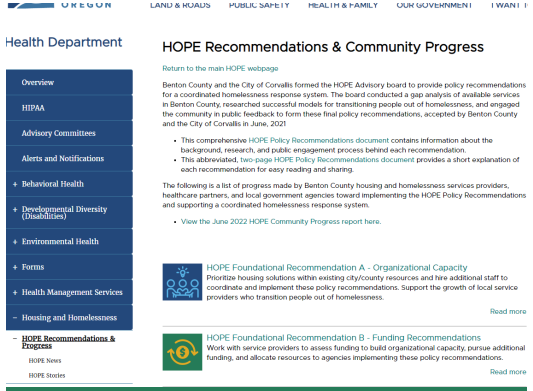
Give communities and the people they serve stability and time.

- Maintain investments in shelter, rehousing, and housing stabilization.
- Reduction in any one component of the system will have systemwide impact.
- Allow communities to fully implement, evaluate, and improve.
- Protect the progress that has already been made.
- Recognize that housing stability is foundational to health, safety, economic mobility, and well-being.

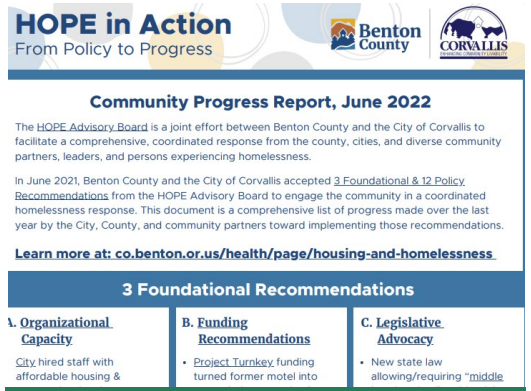
The question is not whether we can afford these investments. The questions is whether we can afford to abandon them.

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Central Point of Communications



CHRO Website



Graphics & Visuals



e-Newsletter



Social Media

- Central point of communication
- Storytelling
- Subscribe to News & Updates
- Amplifying aligned messaging through partner engagement

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