



Home, Opportunity, Planning, and Equity (HOPE) Advisory Board Meeting Approved Minutes July 22, 2020 from 4 pm to 6 pm Zoom Meeting



Members Present: Florence Anderson; Xan Augerot* (Commissioner, Benton County); Bruce Butler; Anita Earl; Joel Goodwin; George Grosch; Barbara Hanley; Aleita Hass-Holcombe; Nicole Hobbs; Christina Jancila* (Business Associate); Charles Maughan* (Corvallis City Council); Pegge McGuire* (CSC); Jim Moorefield* (Co-Chair); Andrea Myhre; Jan Napack* (Corvallis City Council); Reece Stotsenberg* (Co-Chair); Linda Tucker

Members Excused: Bryan Cotter; Catherine Biscoe; Karyle Butcher; Deborah Stevens

Staff Present: Julie Arena (Benton County Health, HOPE Program Coordinator); Paula Felipe (Benton County Public Health, recorder).

*Executive Committee Members.

- I. **Welcome and Introductions:** Welcome to the first Zoom meeting for the HOPE Advisory Board. Data workgroup will give presentation today. Reminder on culture and conduct: we all agreed to be respectful, open minded, and kind. Review of HOPE timeline: we are in fifth meeting and glad to be back to work. At future meetings, there will be opportunities for public to provide input. Bylaws will drive the work, and data is available on the HOPE website. Also, due to COVID-19, safety takes on new meaning and now includes hygiene and vulnerability to infection and risk of transmission to community.

- II. **Public Comments (limited to 2-3 minutes).**
 - Erica Koenig: I work with West Hills Neighborhood Association. HOPE was suggested by the Safe Camp Steering Committee as a solution for creating a community advisory committee. Conditional use Planning commission meeting last night and we want open neighborhood communication and hope you can help us. (Julie Arena responded she has spoken with Neighborhood rep and there will be opportunities to give feedback on specific topics in the future.)

- III. **Approval of Minutes: MOTION** was made by Jan Napack to approve the June 25, 2020 minutes, as amended with corrections. Pegge McGuire Seconded the **MOTION**, which passed. *The corrections: Aleita Hass-Holcombe has an 'e' at the end of her last name, and Jan Napack emailed a few minor grammatical edits to Paula Felipe.*

- IV. **Presentation from Data Workgroup (Pegge McGuire).** Collected data from different sources but likely do not have much duplicate data. Also, pulled from census and health improvement plan.
 - Looked at racial and ethnicity disparities in homeless population. Disparities especially found in African American, Native American, and Hispanic populations. Data from Linn Benton Housing Authority Voucher Records.
 - In Men and Women's shelters, people asked to self-identify their ethnic identities: Native

- American overrepresented in homeless population and impacted by housing discrimination.
- Vulnerability factors: LBGTO not tracked as well as other populations. Looked at disability, veterans, domestic violence.
- Samaritan data on Behavioral Health disparities; unhoused has higher proportion overall.

V. Data from Local Providers (Nicole Hobbs): Highlights include: Data from the Point In Time Count; Shelter Data, CDDC, CSC, LBHA, Monroe and Philomath Gleaners.

- Corvallis Daytime Drop-in Center: only daytime resource center in Benton County. From July 2019 to June 2020: 852 unique individuals and 3,997 client interactions.
- Homeless population has extreme racial and ethnic disparities, particularly for Native American and Black populations.
- Homeless population has extremely vulnerable populations (includes behavioral health diagnosis; veterans, LGBT, disability).
- Homeless population experiences most safety concerns: fleeing domestic violence; no locking door; no toilet, sink or shower; no heating/cooling.
- League of Women voters did a great report on homelessness: Estimated unsheltered in Benton County is 1,266. Discussion on point in time count. Daytime drop in collects data all year. We are looking at snapshot in time, not entire year.

VI. Food Pantry and Gleaners: Info provided from Janeece Cook (Monroe) and Catherine Biscoe (Philomath). Monroe Food Pantry: 37 known families living with other families; 9 considered homeless; 46 families have most caring for either elderly family members or are disabled and many have comorbidities. Philomath Gleaners: Before COVID-19, 85 families served, and now serving about 143 families; serving 124 families once a week. *Alsea Food bank has data—our data group will be reaching out to them.

VII. Transitional Housing Data (Julie Arena): Data from Community Outreach Inc (COI) March 2019 to March 2020; Corvallis Housing First (CHF) 2017-2020; and Unity Shelter – Microshelters Spring/Summer 2020. Data compared to general population Benton County data from 2019 U.S. Census.

- Overrepresentation at COI for Hispanic, Latino, and African American and a slight overrepresentation shown for Asian Americans as well.
- COI higher rates of individuals who are disabled.
- COI Higher rates of LGBTQ.
- COI Higher rates of children.
- COI higher rates Veterans.
- COI: Over half are medically fragile.
- About half fleeing domestic violence at COI.
- Microshelters data: veterans and disabled and those with serious health and mental health conditions overrepresented.

VIII. Data – First Responders (Lieutenant Joel Goodwin, Corvallis Police Department). In 2018, CPD posted 305 campsites for illegal camping in public and issued 30 citations. In 2019 CPD posted 400 campsites for illegal camping in public and issued 23 citations.

- Corvallis Police does not track data based on housing status, income level, marital status, medical status, sexual orientation status, or student status. Very limited to what police can ask because it needs to relate to investigation they are conducting.
- Name, date of birth, physical descriptions, if issuing citation, and address are often obtained by police. If don't have address, make note of it. Might have mailing address or ID card which could have old address.
- Not able to track housing status.
- Data police can share is on posting illegal camp sites and citations. Police activity is complaint driven; if someone calls to complain, police respond.
- Don't always issue citations—generally considered a social issue.
- Trying to find solutions; citation not best solution but in some cases needed.
- Fire department: Data from six locations where homeless have congregated for extended periods of time: In 2019, 39 fire calls; 98 EMS calls; for a total of 137 calls.
- Police: not possible to show data on impact of homelessness because don't track housing status.
- Fire department is limited on data. Medical calls protected by HIPPA.
- Questions about calls for service (Pegge McGuire). If calls to a particular location, can we draw conclusions about certain addresses? In a broad sense, greatest impacts of small group not tied to specific address with homeless. How to select an address? Not all misbehavior downtown is due to homelessness—could also be students or others. Could track type of offenses and share that info. Areas near campus and downtown have livability issues. Police don't track student status either.
- Illegal camping is specific offence but not tied to location/address. Trespassing data outside of city limits not included in this data.
- Pegge: If there is a behavioral health crisis related to drugs and/or alcohol, it would be helpful data for providing services. Small but chronic group impacts the community. Law enforcement cannot expand scope of questioning not related to the investigation. Jan Napack: In Daily police log: if not fixed address, is that homeless? Public police log on police webpage: these are highlights from the shift and supervisors review and it provides transparency but is not a complete accounting of all citations and actions taken. Example, if a citation is issued for a container of alcohol, the citation may have an old address or address for community outreach.
- Future trainings planned by Lt. Joel Goodwin on process and procedures regarding illegal camping.
- Illegal camping is complaint driven: A notice of violation is posted and a citation is issued if not resolved in time—the posting itself is not a fine or fee—it is just a notice. If the people move the camp there is no follow up.
- Pegge: appreciates police cooperation and support in not moving certain camps if near hygiene sanitation services to prevent the spread of COVID-19.
- Xan: HIPAA can be a barrier to sharing data—unless there is a clear intergovernmental agreement with CPD and Samaritan hospital and behavioral health to share specific data for special purposes for services. Would need to identify and prioritize small group of people to address their needs and help minimize issues in community. This is something this group could help with making recommendations to BOC to address problems. Julie Arena: This will be discussed at the next meeting—on types of collaboration, such as Hub and Spoke model—that Lt. Joel Goodwin will discuss next month.

IX. Vulnerable Population – Children. (Nicole Hobbs) Highlights:

- 2019 Data Jackson Street Youth Shelter: 78 homeless clients; 49 unstably housed clients.
- 2018-2019 Benton County School District Data: disparities found among certain populations (Hispanic, Black, Native Americans; Disabled). Philomath: half of homeless have disability; homelessness for rural students is increasing.
- School Data: Linn Benton Community College: 2019 survey: 558 participants: 53 percent of students experienced housing insecurity in previous year; 19 percent of students experienced homelessness in previous year.
- Population in transitional housing has extreme racial and ethnic disparities among highly vulnerable populations and safety concerns.
- Children in grade school and youth at community college have extreme racial and ethnic disparities and highly vulnerable populations.
- Comment: Veterans might stay with family when return but due to health issues could end up homeless but takes a while to access services.
- Andrea: Philomath is making efforts to house homeless students.
- Jan Napack: unstably housed or homelessness are risk factors for children to become homeless as an adult.

X. Housed Population Data. (Julie Arena). Racial and Ethnicity Disparities found among Rent-Burdened Households, especially among African American and Hispanic. Data from City of Corvallis report to HUD of entire population of Corvallis. Updated annually. 17,840 cost burdened households. 9,305 renters cost burdened; racial and ethnic disparities noted. Xan said County also has data available from Community Health Improvement Plan.

XI. Discussion on Data. (Jan Napack): Would like to see standardization in data sets with definitions and categories. This would be helpful with reporting data. Julie: definitions defined by funders, like the federal government; some categories are locked in and different based on funding stream.

- Next presentation on data systems will include discussion on coordinated entry with standardized data points.
- George: nothing in this data is surprising: Corvallis/Benton County are not exempt from social and racial injustice that is happening across the country. We can talk about data sources and where money comes from; but we know about how many people they are and where they come from; so how can we allocate our resources and how can we house and care for the most vulnerable as quickly and as efficiently as we can? Where do we go from here?
- Next month's presentation on services and gaps and what a model system looks like. Help shape how to prioritize data to move forward.
- Pegge: Concerning areas on the thermometer in red: There is no support or work being done—I would focus on these areas. For example, daytime drop in centers don't provide overnight shelter but are providing other services to so many people who need help but they don't get funding.
- Question: How to prioritize data, and don't allow lack of funding to drive vision? How can we get the most services available as quickly as we can?
- It would be nice to have summary of themes.

- Linda: Shocked to see how many disabled in wheelchairs in shelters. It is heartbreaking and expensive to address these issues.
- Nicole: Could have training on anti-racism and moving forward now that we've seen such racial and ethnic disparities, how to understand barriers and challenges so we can make recommendations to address these issues.
- Look into bringing instruction from OSU: Julie looking to get speaker on equity.
- Community services consortium in shelter world talk about fair housing and homelessness and do a lot of work in this area.
- Nicole: Training from PBS on anti-racism and education. A free webinar series from PBS about anti-racism in education. I attended the first session and I would highly recommend. https://www.pbs.org/education/blog/tools-for-anti-racist-teaching?fbclid=IwAR0K_5hwZKbAZUGWtohge-hm2totHPseL37BIT4LAm-Txz1n06jsvfnxNA
- Corvallis school district and county staff attended a training: Julie attended.
- Aleita: Corvallis sustainability coalition provides training: Aleita will provide a contact.
- Barbara Hanley: Megan McDonald, professor at OSU, has worked focusing on children with disabilities and could provide awareness. Her research focus is primarily children, but she could be a resource for consultation. Megan.MacDonald@oregonstate.edu
- Xan: Council of Governments has training resources—federally recognized aging resource center to provide services to respond to elder abuse and aging with disabilities. Pegge suggests their new director join HOPE.
- Linda: another obvious thing is how many of our homeless women are older; shocking to see 80 year olds homeless. More on fixed income and vulnerable.
- Pegge: Oregon housing and community services—moving to more non-congregate care, which will be very expensive.
- The Fair Housing Council of Oregon does this work.
- National Alliance on Homelessness and other groups. HUD pointed this out at a national conference on PSH last year.
- Andrea: Senior disability services encounter barriers and restrictions—need to overcome them. Check out this resource: <https://nhchc.org/clinical-practice/homeless-services/special-populations/older-adults/>
- Linda: Does homelessness lead to disability like being in wheelchair? Aging quicker article Andrea will share; healthcare is about prevention too.
- Other topics: Model housing; 10 year plan review (Jan); look at percentages and scale for impacts.
- Prioritizing based on the data regarding race or ethnic disparities? Xan: can support education for landlords; fair housing act; specific discrimination is illegal; outreach and education, such as informing realtors and associations and organizations. Equity is more component of mandate.
- George: Need about 4000-5000 units to house everyone who needs housing: how to deal with affordability issues? Make targeted investments in emergency services; housing options. Solving the affordability issue better for everyone.
- Email Julie if you have any questions.

XII. Meeting was adjourned at 6:08 pm.