



Home, Opportunity, Planning, and Equity (HOPE)

Advisory Board Meeting

Approved Minutes

May 26, 2021 from 4 pm to 6 pm

ZOOM Meeting



Members Present: Florence Anderson; Lennox Archer; *Xan Augerot (Commissioner, Benton County); Catherine Biscoe; Karyle Butcher; 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); Janie Tebeau; Linda Tucker.

Excused: Bryan Cotter

Absent:

Staff Present: Julie Arena (Benton County Health, HOPE Program Coordinator); Paula Felipe (Benton County Public Health, recorder); Suzanne Hoffman, Health Department Director; Joe Hahn, Equity, Diversity, and Inclusion Coordinator.

Guests:

*Executive Committee Members.

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- I. **Welcome and Introductions.** Overview of agenda and reminder of agreements of culture, such as inclusive, respectful, transparency, and kindness.
 - II. **Public Comments (limited to 2-3 minutes).**
 - No Comment
 - III. **Approval of Minutes:** **MOTION** made by Karyle Butcher to approve the April minutes; Seconded by Pegge McGuire. **MOTION PASSED** with one abstention.
 - IV. **Membership update:**
 - Janie Tebeau has joined the HOPE Board and serves with NAACP where she formed a new policy committee focused on affordable housing and homelessness.
 - Niki Hobbs remains on the board while transitioning to grad school.
 - Julie Arena is working with Diversity Coordinator Joe Hahn and Rocio Munoz to make updates to the original HOPE application to make sure it is inclusive.
 - V. **Overview and Community Updates:**
 - Project Turnkey – Corvallis Housing First has acquired the Budget Inn for emergency sheltering and then permanent supportive housing. Nine people in so far; one more to move in; repairs on south building.
 - How people access shelter at the Budget Inn:
 - Placement is determined by referring individuals on the local Coordinated Entry list, or the list of people who have been entered into the homelessness management information

system (HMIS) and have participated in an assessment, as the intention is to prioritize those who are homeless and qualify for Permanent Supported Housing (or those who have a disability, have a history of chronic homelessness, and are vulnerable), as well as those who are BIPOC or from the LGBTQ community.

- Individuals being served through the Corvallis Daytime Drop-In Center, Community Services Consortium, and Unity Shelter are asked for their information to be inputted into HMIS because of program funding requirements. However, service providers working with a client in need of shelter and support, or are an individual looking for shelter and support, can contact Dan Easdale at 541-224-1170 for more information.
- Community Court will be launching at the end of June and will be held the last Thursday of the month.
 - The purpose of adopting Community Court is to divert some people with misdemeanor offenses from entering jail and instead connect them with the supportive services they need.
 - This effort is in partnership with the following local providers:
 - ARC of Benton County
 - Benton County Behavioral Health
 - CHANCE
 - Community Outreach
 - Corvallis Drop-In Center
 - Corvallis Housing First
 - Jackson Street Youth Shelter
 - Unity Shelter
- The Corvallis City Council has removed the moratorium on enforcement of illegal camping as of May 15th. The City has provided guidelines to help houseless community members know where they can legally sleep at City Hall and the city parks system in accordance with the Boise decision.
- Funding opportunity: InterCommunity Health Network Coordinated Care Organization (IHN-CCO) invites interested parties in Benton, Lincoln and Linn counties who can positively impact the health outcomes of IHN-CCO members to submit proposals. The selected proposals will be Delivery System Transformation (DST) pilots that help transform the health care delivery system and projects that impact housing through the SHARE (Supporting Health for All through Reinvestment) Initiative. Due 8am on June 2, 2021.
 - The Request for Proposal Guidelines and required Letter of Intent Form can be found on the IHN-CCO website: [IHNtogether.org/RFP](https://ihntogether.org/RFP).
- Temporary increase in federally funded housing vouchers, just received by Linn Benton Housing Authority.
 - HOPE Board member interest in a work group to discuss housing voucher increase and strategies? Pegge, Andrea, Jim, Janie, and Xan

VI. Debrief from Joint Elected Officials Meeting 5/20/21 (Xan, Jan, Charles)

- City and County elected officials met to review the HOPE recommendations and discuss the process of formally accepting them.
 - Link to the meeting video: <https://vimeo.com/553411384>
 - Link to final recommendations: https://www.co.benton.or.us/sites/default/files/fileattachments/health_department

[t/page/7506/hope_policy_recommendations_4-28-21_approved.pdf](https://www.corvallisoregon.gov/page/7506/hope_policy_recommendations_4-28-21_approved.pdf)

- Both bodies shared gratitude for the work the HOPE Board has done and the process of data collection, research, prioritizing, and community engagement as outlined by the Bylaws.
- Accepting the HOPE recommendations:
 - 6/7/21: Corvallis City Council will review and vote to accept the recommendations.
 - 6/8/21: County Commissioners will review the City's thoughts on lead roles and responsibilities for the recommendations.
 - 6/15/21: County Commissioners will vote to accept the recommendations.
 - 7/1/21: Joint City and County Elected Officials meeting to discuss lead and joint roles and responsibilities to implement the recommendations.

DISCUSSION:

- Want to make sure there is movement on these recommendations.
- Prioritization; we can't do it all with limited people and resources.
- Charles: Everyone is excited about the recommendations to move forward.
- George: it was positive. Adequate supply of housing will change the community. We need to promote the value of having that spectrum of housing; need advocacy.
- Charles: Submit to city recorder and BOC to receive message and will share it. Definition of accept--like accepting a treasurer's report instead of adopting it; moving forward to flush out further.
- Jan: understand things need to be detailed and city will help us actualize the plan.
- Charles: I do plan on moving to adopt as policy once more finalized; these are goals we will work on as a city.
- Jim: word of caution: accept does not mean any of this is a priority; also next steps on who takes the lead role; clearly a process for deciding what is important and what happens next; don't think our elected officials decided this as list of priorities. Look forward to regular updates as the details get worked out.
- Pegge: Additionally, if the recommendations are adopted, the city and county lobbyists can make the legislation a priority.
- Karyle: a lot can happen in city council; with 2 city council people in HOPE, this could be faster than advisory board discussion.
- Julie: The City Council expressed gratitude to you all to make it easier to accept these recommendations; of the process to be data driven; research; engage the community; unpaid time. Thank you for deliberate and thoughtful process; outlined by the bylaws.
- George: It is important to adopt this plan; going in right direction; we will give support they need when time comes.

VII. 12 Policy Recommendations:

1. Facilitate and coordinate data improvement efforts with community partners.
2. Work with providers to create metrics for successful program goals.
3. Convene providers at routine meetings for improved care coordination facilitated by a full-time staff member.
4. Collaborate with social service and health care partners to increase the number of paid, full-time case managers to support people transitioning out of homelessness.
5. Pursue implementation of a crisis response team and collect data on scope and scale of need for crisis response.

6. Provide organizational capacity to facilitate and coordinate providers in establishing a 24/7/365 Sheltering System for all populations with onsite resources at shelter locations to transition people out of homelessness
7. Facilitate and support the creation of a Resource Center.
8. Explore and investigate the need and the barriers to accessing housing for individuals and their families in our community whose past history has impacted their ability to secure housing.
9. Provide routine communication, notice, and opportunities for community involvement on the topic of homelessness services.
10. Increase development or acquisition of affordable housing units for permanent supportive housing (PSH) by 20 new units per year for the next eight years to add at a minimum 160 new units of PSH in Benton County.
11. Increase available rental/income assistance options.
12. Increase supportive services and stable funding streams to provide services to residents at more affordable housing locations.

VIII. Legislation Advocacy: Investigating resource development and legislative advocacy for recommendations:

- County and City elected officials must continue to advocate for statewide leadership on local requirements for shelter beds in each county with accompanying state funding to support those required beds. This state requirement and funding is needed to address worries about migration of people to areas with services from other areas.
- State and federal funding for all of these topics must continue to be advocated for by city and county elected officials and by the League of Cities and Association of Counties once these recommendations are adopted.
- City and County explore partnership with OSU and counterparts in Lane County (Lane, Eugene, Springfield, and University of Oregon) to lobby for a state law allowing local tax revenue from Pac-12 events and on-campus sales to address the affordable housing impacts from the university population. The tax revenue would be split between the universities and the local municipalities to fund subsidized housing for low-income students and affordable housing for the surrounding community.
- The recommendation for legislative advocacy has been given to the city and county elected officials.
- Other avenues for advocacy and resource investment at the state level could be pursued once the HOPE recommendations are officially accepted. (Housing Alliance, Community Action Partnership Organization, etc.)
- Discussion of coordinated strategies to advocate for state/federal funds to implement the recommendations.

DISCUSSION:

- Pegge McGuire: things a little disjointed in funding; looking at earmarks from senators and current legislation. More advocacy needed with 10 community for navigation centers; until we are clear about funding and work hard on legislators' priorities, I don't think we will see those kind of earmarks. Other opportunities like project turnkey to put together proposals; foundation funds; types of funding. Julie: getting feedback from board members for next steps.
- Pegge: Julie is one person; there are so many components that need additional shepherding as we move forward; some level of resource commitment.

- Jim: On legislative process, point out effective advocacy; one on one with elected officials; 2 coalitions of organizations that have ongoing presence in Salem and talk to legislators every day. Oregon Housing Alliance has effective presence; local government can be a member and has in the past with city council; we can be involved and effect the legislative agenda. Consider becoming members of lobbying organization that are effective on housing and homelessness.
- Julie: On legislative advocacy: Are there HOPE members who want a workgroup to come up with possible strategies--joining housing alliance a good place to start.
- Xan: I engage with legislators regularly. Move HOPE plan to adoption and have real projects in the pipeline with specific plans; let's address obstacles and address funding; need a level of solution established.
- Jim: Priorities need to be adopted so we can say we have decided this is a priority and what we need.
- Catherine: Excited we are having this conversation on how to put action under recommendations like lobbying and what does this ideally look like, such as hire someone to take on this project or collaboration between elected officials and service providers and HOPE board.
- Xan: City Council and BOC will be discussing.
- Jim: part of being member of Oregon Housing Alliance is you help determine legislative agenda. Agenda for session determined before session starts; agenda for next year is determined this summer and fall for short session.
- Julie: executive committee can talk about priorities moving forward and work groups and be agenda item for next month.

IX. Educational Presentation by Captain Joel Goodwin of the Corvallis Police Department

- Data related to the behavior-based intersection of Corvallis Public Safety and high-impact Homeless. Data not based on housing status; this is from Corvallis public safety and fire records.
- Recognize there is a spectrum from temporary homelessness to more of chronic longer-term impact nexus with public safety.
- Fire: Data from last 3 years (2018 to 2020): about 200 fires per year. We don't track data on homeless. Look at categories of fires such as burning brush pile leaves unattended, campfires in parks. Category rubbish fires: specific exclusively for camping situations; there has been a significant increase. Total number in 2020: 35 rubbish fires.
- In last 9 months, 80 percent of intentionally set unattended fires in red circles on map. (mostly in downtown Corvallis and Willamette Park.)
- Video from fire in Pioneer Park in July; and a few weeks ago a fire near BMX track. Parks and Recreation photographed the damage. Propane tanks exploded. Fires can spread quickly and pose danger to the area creating a lot of hazards.
- Calls for service about behavior. Officer responds and depending on crime, could remain in jail. If found guilty, sentence given. Typically in Corvallis; unlawful behavior results in issuing a citation in lieu of custody--about 90 percent are citations in lieu of custody. Only serious offenders go to jail. So, most do not reach the adjudication stage of criminal process. Why don't they get sentenced to community service or drug treatment? They need to be adjudicated first; instead they get repeated citations. With those repeat offenders, from Jan 1 2020 thru May 18, 2021 64 people arrested more than 10 times. In that same time

frame: 16 people have been arrested more than 20 times. Cycle of issuing citations; failure to appear and behavior not corrected.

- To illustrate that point; top 16 offenders; not most serious but most frequently arrested: one was arrested 71 times.
- Law enforcement are problem solvers; citation may solve that problem; but with repeated behavior, the citation is not solving problems.
- Our officers look for other solutions to help that person connect with others. If substance abuse issues, we can make referrals but person needs to want the treatment. Only under certain circumstances get immediate treatment, such as imminent danger to others. If there is a mental health issue, we legally cannot force them to get help unless they are willing to do it or immediate danger to others.
- Arrest warrants: each arrest does not capture charges or warrants; They might have several warrants for their arrests. A person since Jan 1, 2020 has 131 warrants in less than a year and a half.
- More than 20 warrants result in citation due to no capacity to do other than that. Writing tickets is not changing behaviors.
- Unlawful behavior and Repeat offenders: not a box to check on housed or unhoused or other status. Specific nexus to offense; people arrested 10 or more times, officers asked about their housing status: Results: 73 percent homeless; 8 percent likely homeless; 13 percent don't know; 6 percent housed. Most were unhoused repeat offenders—it is an educated guess--when ask for address for the citation, they may give us a shelter address where they receive mail or an ID card out of state address. 65 people arrested 10 or more times; about 8 showed an address as transient and the rest had some sort of address but might not be valid.
- List of people arrested 20 or more times; 15 homeless; mostly solid nexus between issues.
- Unlawful behavior: Call for service downtown: 2019; 24 percent Corvallis police officers were in downtown area.
- In 2020 up to 25 percent; 2021 up to 28 percent; at least 1 in 4 calls for service in downtown area.
- Three current microshelter sites permitted by the City of Corvallis.
- Two have been in place long enough to review data.
- Calls do not appear related to microshelters. Parking lot in middle of night; vandalism; stealing.
- Parks are often used as tent camping locations.
- Pioneer Park, BMX Park, and Skate Park have long been favorite areas for tent camping.
- Looked at geographic area: 2019: Corvallis PD had 526 calls for service at those parks; not necessarily related to tent camping though can be related.
- In 2020, 1,012 calls for service in those park areas.
- In 2021 YTD 374 calls for service, could be a welfare check; follow-up; disorderly conduct; alcohol related; stabbing; assaults; discharging a firearm; some other serious calls as well.
- Officer safety: Dispatched to park; woman hit by boyfriend who left the area. Officer later came back to park looking for him to investigate. They were camping in park as officer was flagged down and realized a fight was brewing. The officer tried to prevent physical violence; one had a walking stick and tried to separate them. One grabbed the officer so he could assault the other man; a third man shouting at officer and grabbed a hatchet as officer tried to prevent this fight. There are concerns in these camping areas for officer

safety; we usually send two officers when we have calls for service in the parks. We are problem solvers trying to find solutions and trying to deescalate without taking enforcement action.

- Regarding the man with 131 warrants: we recognize everyone is unique and we care about the people we serve. He was homeless and was connected with services; but he cannot maintain sobriety so the cycle continues.

DISCUSSION:

- Karyle: With these arrests and fires, what is the overarching message you are trying to give us? Showing us the bad side of homelessness? Joel: we recognize homelessness is a spectrum and I'm comfortable saying in my opinion most of the homeless we don't interact with, but we do have some with high impact in our community who we deal with routinely.
- Karyle: Would CAHOOTS help? Joel: Pre-covid, Anita Earl and mental health services and I made a project to engage folks where they are. Anita had some great success with some and some don't change. Don't think CAHOOTS could solve all of these problems.
- Karyle: On microshelters, there was concern by church about thefts and trespassing. Do you have concerns? Joel: With permitted RV camping in Pioneer Park, we are address based. There was high workload for community development staff; We are fact based; don't assume; there is a parking lot adjacent to the park.
- Catherine: This is alarming looking at some of the worst offenses. Do you feel the Chelsea hub model will impact this arrest or case load? Do you feel if these individuals had safety and stability of housing that would make a big different in top arrest cases? Joel: situation table would have positive impact like the person with 131 warrants—when in substance abuse—situational table could provide better access and resources to help. Some people could benefit from stable housing and some are not interested. Extreme end of spectrum often times most antisocial behavior.
- Jim: appreciate presentation and data. Concerning expanding the Benton county Jail; I think too many people are in prisons but it is not same as the local jail. My eyes were opened on lack of options law enforcement has trying to problem solve and get someone into situation where behavioral problems can be addressed more effectively.
- Jim: What is relationship between options and ability to solve problems as it relates to the jail? Joel: Some think arrest is the end and it's just the beginning. Most never get to adjudication. Circuit court has drug court looking for alternatives; courts trying to solve problems as well. 90 percent of arrests last years were citations--we wrote them a ticket.
- Xan: Couple of steps taken at county in last year to address this issue: failure to appear and social turbulence. Jail commander added more space in jail and then covid hit and we can't use it. Setting up pretrial services program; not novel; support offenders to make it to court. Program gives reminders of court dates--strategy to have short term use cell phones to receive reminder if no phone available. Also working with probation to introduce services that intersect earlier in criminal justice system before go around resolving door--just starting to roll out that pretrial services program.
- George: appreciate Corvallis PD as first responders. We don't have the infrastructure in place. This is a solid foundation to encourage elected officials because this system is not working and this shows what is missing. Caution about making assumptions about specific problems like unlawful behavior and calls for service--when I look at downtown hotspots, could relate to other areas with the university and pandemic or other issues so do not make

broad assumptions.

- Andrea: There is a lack of jail capacity; makes for unsafe conditions for homeless in our community. People behave illegally; no situation to stop them; mix of people on streets that would do well in housing to stabilize and others not even present with us. Unless receive serious treatment they won't listen to tickets. Sometimes jail is a tool to help people stabilize.
- Need a jail and crisis services.
- Flip: see housing as huge player. I know the police department cares and trying to solve problems; we don't witness the crazy stuff at night but police do...homeless are nocturnal like Michael's boating landing; whole different world; people in tents are vulnerable and don't want to be there. When less people camping, less fights so housing big issue to help this.
- Barbara: live near tree farm and our neighborhood trying to approach homelessness in compassionate way. Thinking about the data and people arrested multiple times. How much time do officers spend on the call? How much budget is spent on 64 people? Also, about the unlawful behavior: is it just camping or public urination or drunkenness? There is a percentage of people who will never seek help and some may need institutional settings for care. Joel: in terms of microshelters; safecamp permitting to county not city. Others more centrally located in Corvallis. About the amount of time spent on warrant: each circumstance is different, and my perception is bulk is related to other behavior--maybe drinking in public; disturbance; disorderly conduct; fighting; but we don't issue citations for illegal camping. Even in typical years maybe 5 or 10 percent of time repeated offenders; given warnings that is not working.
- Jan: if we took data set for Corvallis PD as base and five years from now; HOPE recommendations may have helped or not; we can look at data. Joel: There are a lot of moving pieces and parts.
- Ben Danley: It would be interesting to analyze data on victims of crime in Corvallis and see if there is a similar over-representation of people without homes. (Although those victims may be much less likely to report.)
- Joel: homeless are victimized by other homeless; spoken or unspoken don't report it to the police, which is frustrating to us; we want to hold them accountable; we need people to tell us about it.
- Pegge: Friends, when the eviction moratorium ends in June, homelessness will spike and we will see households on the street.

X. Next steps:

- Board recruitment in June and July for two openings.
- Accepting the HOPE recommendations:
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XI Meeting was adjourned at 5:57 pm