



Home, Opportunity, Planning, and Equity (HOPE)

Advisory Board Meeting

Approved Minutes

February 23, 2022 from 4 pm to 6 pm

ZOOM Meeting



Members Present: Catherine Biscoe; Karyle Butcher; Bruce Butler; Bryan Cotter; Caden DeLoach; Anita Earl; Joel Goodwin; George Grosch; Ari Grossman-Naples; Barbara Hanley; Melissa Isavoran; Briae Lewis; Ci ndee Lolik* (Business Associate); Charles Maughan* (Corvallis City Council); Jim Moorefield* (Co-Chair); Andrea Myhre; Jan Napack* (Corvallis City Council); Chanale Propst; Reece Stotsenberg* (Co-Chair); Nancy Wyse* (Chair of Board of Commissioners).

Excused: Pegge McGuire* (CSC Director)

Absent:

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

Guests: *Executive Committee Members.

- I. **Welcome and Introductions.** Reminder of culture of agreements, such as respect, curiosity, kindness, inclusivity. Co-chair election postponed to March for new board member inclusion
- II. **Public Comments (limited to 2-3 minutes).** No Comments.
- III. **Approval of Minutes: MOTION** made by George Grosch to approve the January 2022 minutes. Seconded by Bryan Cotter. All in favor; **MOTION** passed. Roll Call: Abstained due to not being in attendance at the January meeting: Caden DeLoach; Anita Earl; Ari Grossman-Naples; Melissa Isavoran; Briae Lewis; Chanale Propst.
- IV. **New Board Members Intros and Updates: Five New Board Members:**
 - Caden DeLoach (they/them): Peer Support Specialist at Benton County Health Dept, LGBTQ+ Health Equity Educator, OSU Public Health Grad, OSU Pride Center Advisory Board member, current rural Benton County resident, lived experience with homelessness.
 - Ari Grossman-Naples: Corvallis Sister Cities Association (CSCA) Board Member, CSCA Gondar Council Social Media coordinator. Lived experience with homelessness, past volunteer at the Corvallis Mens Cold Weather Shelter. B.S Management, M.S. Graphic Arts Publishing-Marketing and Public Relations focus. Small family farm owner in Philomath.
 - Melissa Isavoran: Chief Operating Officer for IHN-CCO.
 - Briae Lewis: Corvallis resident for over two years, residential support professional, lived experience with housing insecurity and homelessness.
 - Chanale Propst: staff counselor and one of the Coordinators of Black/African American Student Mental Health and wellness at Oregon State University.

- V. Co-Chairs Roles and Responsibilities: Serve on the Executive Committee which meets the 2nd Wednesday of the month from 4-5pm to:**
- Determine meeting agendas and scheduling.
 - Appoint Advisory Board members when vacancies arise.
 - Review and assist the full Advisory Board to align its work with the bylaws.
 - Establish any associated committees or ad hoc work groups, define their membership, and provide direction regarding their work.
 - Run the HOPE Advisory Board meetings in line with the vision that everyone should have the opportunity to live in decent, safe, and affordable housing. Run the meetings in line with the values articulated in the bylaws:
 - Use data to drive assessments, prioritization, and accountability.
 - Take a comprehensive systems and multi-sector approach.
 - Engage and involve the community.
 - Prioritize vulnerable populations.
 - Promote community safety for all.
 - Promote racial and ethnic justice.
- VI. Educational Component: Point in Time Count for Homelessness Data: Guest Presenters: Melissa Egan and Cory Hackstedt from Community Services Consortium (CSC), and Dr. Mark Edwards from Oregon State University Policy Analysis Laboratory (OPAL)**

- Contact Info: Melissa Egan, egan@communityservices.us
- Mark Edwards, medwards@oregonstate.edu
- Melissa Egan is Coordinator for PIT County for CSC in three counties.
- Melissa works with Dr. Mark Edwards with Oregon State University Policy Analysis Laboratory (OPAL), which includes graduate students who use social science methods and work with partners off campus on projects.
- Point in Time: annual effort to count number of sheltered and unsheltered.
- Tool for local planning to understand homeless population.
- Do not yet have HUD reporting numbers—they are due by end of April 2022.
- Video on PIT Count Methodology.
- OPAL will help with PIT County—new staffers: quality of PIT county will improve.

DISCUSSION/QUESTIONS:

- Karyle: any data supporting idea Corvallis services attract more homeless to area? Melissa: not really and we will address that question and gather more data.
- Barbara: How many in permanent supportive housing group who need assisted living? What is criteria? Melissa: IHN working with counties and hospitals on regional health assessments done every 3-5 years. Gathering data from many sources.
- Catherine Biscoe: Resource in Marion county with outreach dinner event for entire day during PIT count to encourage folks to participate; not required; central location; offered basic services like haircuts, breakfast and dinner; clothing; supported PIT count. Melissa: hope to move on from pandemic and plan more events.

VII. Incorporating the Board’s Equity Lens in decision-making

- Previously had Dr. Jade Aguilar do equity trainings over the course of six months on many

topics including:

- Racial history of Oregon
- Authentic community engagement workshop
- Self-assessments
- Policy making
- Equity lens – questions to ask and a process to engage in
- An Equity Lens is a tool that allows us to look at our work from different perspectives by prompting us to ask mindful, reflective questions. It is a way to think more deeply about inequities, barriers to access, or differential outcomes. Applying an equity lens means paying disciplined attention to race, ethnicity, and other markers of identity when collecting and analyzing data and making recommendations.
- Basic Assumptions that we work from:
- Historical and structural racism has resulted in an overrepresentation of Black and Native American people who experience homelessness in our county.
- Homelessness has many “upstream” factors such as persistent racial discrimination in housing access, employment opportunities, physical and mental healthcare access, education access, and over criminalization of communities of color.
- To address homelessness, we must both assist those in need immediately, as well as work to address underlying causes. We do this by advocating for funding that supports crises and prevention strategies - particularly for Black and Native American residents of our county.
- Equity Questions to ask ourselves as we approach the work:
- Are we engaging in long-term personal and organizational growth and education around equity issues?
- Are we meaningfully engaging Black, Native, and the voices of other marginalized people with lived expertise of homelessness in our efforts to make recommendations on developing programs, public policy, conducting research, and redesigning how the crisis response system works?
- Are we conducting formal or informal equity assessments to minimize any potential unintended harm on historically disinvested communities for every proposed project or program?
- How can we best set up our recommendations to be achievable and sustainable? What mechanisms need to be in place ensure successful implementation?

DISCUSSION/QUESTIONS:

- Organizational capacity: Great news to report: recruiting for a project manager and for grant researcher and writer. Introducing new Communications Coordinator Kailee Olson, who will help with HOPE work and facilitate communications with city and county. Julie will bring recommendations to Kailee to promote.
- Karyle: Paul Billotta sent out what city is doing and it is powerful to see what HOPE is doing; would be helpful to remind people we are hiring. With Kailee’s expertise in news design and social media posts, could promote this info event better. Julie will forward Paul’s email.
- George: excited to see Kailee here. She can promote the narrative about why people are homeless. Kailee offers us the opportunity to change the narrative; what is the real story?

VIII. The role of the HOPE Board to support implementation of recommendations

- Communication Role:

- Welcome Kailee Olson, New Communications Coordinator at Benton County Health Department, who will assist with HOPE. Her contact info:
Kailee.Olson@co.benton.or.us
- Research on evidence-based practices
- Work group(s) needed
- Evaluation and communication role: interpreting the system assessment/gaps in the system in the context of HOPE's recommendations; communicating progress and remaining gaps.
- Researching best practices on successful systems that correspond to the 12 recommendations and are relevant to the implementation being done by city, county, and provider partners.
- Do we want or need a work group on these topics?

DISCUSSION/QUESTIONS:

- Evaluation and communication: should we set aside time at each board meeting?
- Jan: systematic problem solving; as opposed to shotgun approach; clearly communicate to taxpayers that we are looking at this systematically for problem solving; it is broad but this is how you solve problems; how the money is spent; the projects; results and so forth with data.
- Charles: Brief updates at each meeting on what needs to be communicated.
- George: lots of stories to tell; how is this tool available to us? Agenda item: what is it we want to communicate and how? Elected officials; have opportunity to communicate positive work. We have a good story to tell that will help.
- Kailee: appreciate feedback and sharing of ideas. Filter thru best practices; in health department, have options like newsletter, social media; Facebook page; press releases; will keep working with Julie on what options are available.
- Julie: maybe a work group is needed to bring back to full board as agenda item.
- Catherine Biscoe: this is a long time coming to have a communications person. It is exciting time and glad to have you on-board. Support idea of workgroup. Important to illustrate it is a group effort with community partners to make this work happen; to tell those stories; to help facilitate that effort.
- Ari: have smaller group to focus and keep at forefront; to have stories out there...get to see more of the faces of those not housed; brainstorm ideas of what they would look like--- ways to get out the face/stories of homelessness. Look forward to working with Kailee and the board.
- Chanale: How are we communicating with those who are homeless? As therapists, jargon language is important; to make it accessible to everyone.
- Kailee: can use a health literacy lens; level most can understand. Alternative methods of communication beyond standard methods of communications. Shared by trusted source thru community to spread info.
- George: good discussion; who is the audience?
- Who is interested to meet in workgroup? Ari; George; Nancy Wyse; Jan; Catherine.
- Melissa: send invite to board for brainstorm meeting; bring recommendations to board; does not depend on everyone to be available.
- Barbara: other part is evaluation that needs data. Pegge sent email with regard to how data is managed and where it is going; brainstorming idea thinking about short and long term where to communicate and why we have to move data to different places. And

- opportunity to streamline process. Could free up Pegge FTEs in part of system.
- Kailee: Data driven analytics tools to assess investment, so we won't waste time with communications that are not successful; most engaging; visited; shared, etc.
 - Melissa Isavoran: Evidence based research; what solutions have been tried and what are outcomes? Get evidence based evaluations to see what to throw money and resources at; what data exists or does not thru that Health Institute; OSU academic vigor; statisticians' epi data.
 - Researching best practices that align with HOPE recommendations; coordinated data entry.
 - Jim: housing in short supply, expensive; costs increase more than income; see results every day; does not have to be that way. It can be solved; communities are doing it...essential, ambitious, align resources to end homelessness. Vision statement is important; but describing what it looks like; that we will end homeless and have a plan to do it
 - Jim: System change requires whole system to change. Decide we establish another workgroup and explore what other communities are doing to end homelessness; identify key strategies. Look at solutions from systems point of view that goes beyond efforts by local government. It is a commitment we need to make.
 - George: Agree with Jim; our goal is to end homelessness. We are in unique place; approach this big problem in systematic way.
 - Jim: permanent stable place to live is the goal. There are emergency and temporary shelters; needs beyond shelter; national organization community solutions. They have package of recommendations that tries to help communities reach functional zero rate of homelessness—means it continuously rare and brief. Stabilize in shelter but should not end there....best practice how a system is designed and how it functions includes how money is spent.
 - Workgroup: Jim, Briae; Andrea; Ask Opal/OSU to get involved; would be incredible; communicate with IHN with Melissa Isavoran.
 - Barbara: interested in synergy with data after March 7th. Will have more time then. Help be a bridge for data between two groups.
 - Andrea: speaking to Jim's idea: Our community is in unique position on how to build for zero homelessness; we could get there; some systems broken and need to be addressed; ready to take on greater challenges; resources available in our community.
 - George: never seen the opportunity that exists today; influx of money; how to make best use of resources; we can make a dent.
 - Julie will schedule workgroup meetings in next few weeks; and bring back to March meeting.
 - Julie: one update; talk about city and county folks moving ahead with situation table; another tool in box--one of your recommendations: Joel Goodwin: meetings with key stakeholders to move situation table forward; met with training aspects; would be great benefit to our community; hope to have more info at next meeting.
 - Karyle: Remember other groups of homelessness like children, families, 509J kids; OSU kids homeless; and others.
 - Jan: Much of community hear sees indigent in the park; unsheltered; whereas friends and family who are homeless are sometimes invisible--in a car or staying somewhere else; all kinds of homelessness; looking at success rate for different demographics. Be aware of whole spectrum when looking at solutions. Also speaks to communications piece.
 - Ari: built for zero homelessness—need safety net to prevent homelessness; in that model;

people on edge of losing their homes need assistance too.

- Julie: two workgroups will meet before next meeting and report back.

IX. Next Steps. Electing Co-chairs.

X. Meeting was adjourned at 6 pm.