



Home, Opportunity, Planning, and Equity (HOPE) Advisory Board Meeting Approved Minutes March 23, 2022 from 4 pm to 6 pm ZOOM Meeting



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- Members Present:** Catherine Biscoe; Bryan Cotter; Caden DeLoach; Anita Earl; Joel Goodwin; George Grosch; Ari Grossman-Naples; Cindee Lolik* (Business Associate); Charles Maughan* (Corvallis City Council); Pegge McGuire* (CSC Director); Jim Moorefield* (Co-Chair); Andrea Myhre; Jan Napack* (Corvallis City Council); Reece Stotsenberg* (Co-Chair).
- Excused:** Karyle Butcher; Barbara Hanley; Melissa Isavoran; Nancy Wyse* (Chair of Board of Commissioners).
- Absent:** Briae Lewis; Chanale Propst;
- Staff Present:** Julie Arena (Benton County Health, HOPE Program Coordinator); Paula Felipe (Benton County Public Health, recorder); Joe Hahn, Diversity Coordinator; Kailee Olson, Health Department Communications Coordinator.
- Guests:** *Executive Committee Members.
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- I. **Welcome and Introductions.** Reminder of culture of agreements. Welcome to Benton County Sheriff Jef Van Arsdall.
- II. **Public Comments (limited to 2-3 minutes).** No Comments.
- III. **Approval of Minutes:** **MOTION** made by Bryan Cotter to approve the February 23, 2022 Minutes; **Seconded** by George Grosch; All in favor; **MOTION** passed. Roll Call: Abstained due to not being in attendance at February meeting: Anita Earl; Pegge McGuire.
- IV. **Update on Adding Staffing Capacity, Legislative Updates:**
 - County recruited for a Project Manager to support implementation efforts and manage the portfolio of projects involved in the HOPE recommendations, prioritizing sheltering. Rebecca Taylor has accepted the job of HOPE Implementation Project Manager effective April 11, 2022.
 - County recruited for a Grant Research and Writer to research and apply for funding that aligns with various HOPE recommendations. No applications. Pursuing contracting out for this work.
 - In 2021, the Legislature passed HB 2006, which created temporary flexibility for local governments to allow the siting of shelters for people experiencing homelessness. HB 4051 extends this for one year to July 1, 2023.
 - In 2021, the Legislature created the Task Force on Homelessness and Racial Disparities. HB 4051 extends the Task Force through 2025, and requires two additional reports.
 - In HB 5202, the Legislature included \$100 million for behavioral health housing. This investment will support people experiencing mental health issues through new residential treatment beds, short or long term rent assistance, and more. In addition, HB 4004 would increase wages for the workers at mental health providers.

HB 5202:

- \$400 million package that addresses homelessness, building and maintaining existing affordable housing, and access to homeownership
- <https://www.oregonhousingalliance.org/2022-legislative-recap-400-million-housing-package/>
- **Prevention, Services, Coordination:**
- Homeless Prevention - \$30 million: Investments in the Oregon Eviction Diversion and Prevention Program, additional funds for EHA, and other programs to provide flexible funds for homelessness prevention.
- Homeless Services - \$50 million: Including investments in the Out of the Cold program, grants to extend Emergency Solutions Grants – Coronavirus Relief programming, and other shelter support, including operating funds to properties developed through Project Turnkey, extending funds to navigation centers, to youth homelessness providers, shelter medical respite models, and more.
- Interagency Council on Homelessness & Built for Zero - \$500,000: Investments will fund the development, and staffing, of an Interagency Council on Homelessness and support Built for Zero, a collaborative service to help communities establish and implement action plans to reduce and eliminate homelessness.

Locally: Corvallis/Benton County

- City and County Homeless Services Pilots ([HB 4123](#)): This proposal creates and funds 8 pilot sites across Oregon to support cities and a county to work together to address homelessness.
- \$13 million for trash and sanitation services for folks experiencing homelessness. These funds are to be used for voluntary trash collection and mitigation, but not with camp site removal or sweeps. *\$10 million will go to Metro, and the remaining \$3 million will go to Eugene, Salem, Bend, Medford, Springfield, Corvallis, and Albany.*

Benton County Crisis Center Update:

- The Crisis Center is moving forward with a downtown location. A variety of funding sources will support the building of this center. Funding includes:
- \$1.25 mil – Allotted from Representative Rayfield from his ARPA allocation
- \$1.00 mil – Allotted from Congressman DeFazio in federal funds
- \$5.45 mil – Allotted during the short session from the Oregon Legislature in the Christmas Tree bill (still to be signed by the Governor)

Corvallis Update

- The Housing Operational Committee has made a recommendation to Council to help fund the development of 60 units of affordable housing on Rivergreen and Midevale with CET funds ~\$400,000. Council will vote on the recommendation at their April 4th meeting.
- Corvallis Housing First just opened 4 units of permanent supportive housing opening up shelter capacity (1 from women’s shelter, 2 from microshelters, 1 unsheltered) by building downstream capacity to provide upward mobility for our unsheltered community members.

V. Role of the HOPE Board to support implementation of recommendations

- 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.

VI. Communications: Work Group Update and Feedback from Full Board. (Ari, George, Nancy, Catherine); Kailee Olson, Communications Coordinator, Benton County Health Department.

Two main topics:

- Where or how should a HOPE Update be communicated? Where do people get information?
- What content should be communicated?
- ***Where do you get information?***
(Including rural areas - Kings Valley, Philomath, Monroe, Alsea, Adair)
- Press Releases – to share community updates and where there are more resources (web page, social media)
- Gazette Times (Cody Mann)
- The Advocate
- Social Media (Facebook, Instagram, Twitter, etc.):
- County and city
- CPD FB Page
- Benton Co. Sheriff's FB Page
- Albany PD *HUGE following* FB Page
- Rural-Specific Ideas
- Philomath News (online only)
- Philomath Community FB Page (maybe more? Private group)
- Kings Valley Community Trust (website)
- Kings Valley Happenings FB page
- Kings Valley Buy/Sell FB Page
- City of Monroe FB Page
- Our Town Monroe FB Page
- Mayor of Monroe FB Page
- Private Alsea Facebook group
- Email Lists for Organizations or Community Groups:
- County/City elected officials, including Alsea unincorporated area leaders
- Corvallis Sustainability Coalition
- Neighborhood Associations
- Linn Benton Health Equity Alliance (LBHEA)
- Linn Benton Hispanic Advisory Council (LBHAC)
- Casa Latinos Unidos and Amigos de Monroe
- School Districts
- NAACP
- Churches, Faith Community
- Rotary and Elks
- Businesses: Chamber of Commerce and Visit Corvallis, Economic Development Office
- Corvallis Multi-cultural Literacy Center (CMLC)
- Other Hubs for Communication
- Next Door
- Community Services Consortium (CSC)

- OSU
- Linn Benton Community College (LBCC)
- In-Person printed materials (flyers, postcards) with QR code that links to online resource:
- Events:
- CitySpeak (homelessness group)
- **Locations:**
- Community partner organizations physical locations where people access services/food (For example, shelters, Drop-In Center, CMLC, DHS, CSC, Milestones, Stone Soup, etc.)
- Farmers' Market
- Library

What content should be communicated?

- Progress on Implementation of HOPE's 12 Recs in the community
- Communicate with reciprocity with our partners, coordinate with them, we can get their message out, they can get ours
- Updates from adjacent counties
- Legislative updates from state laws, show good governance – this is how your government serves you
- Reality v. Myth
- Myth: word is that everyone is going to come to Corvallis since we have the good services
- Myth: that government is bad and impedes good things happening
- Myth: misinformation about government spending and waste
- Use data to debunk myths
- Storytelling:
- Putting spotlight on individuals to humanize and help people understand real people represented in the data
- Demystifying homelessness with success stories
- Share Corvallis Housing First's already made videos and personal stories with a wider audience
- Board Bios
- Use interns/journalists to help with videos or articles?

DISCUSSION/COMMENTS:

- Cade: Bulletin Boards at Post Offices, especially in rural areas.
- Catherine: elected officials including county, city, and state level.
- Jim: Research and practice in last 15 years; affordable housing messages still apply; will forward materials I gathered to Julie; enterprise communities produced a report "You don't have to live here; why housing messages are backfiring: Share Messaging that doesn't backfire. Julie: Nimby training; health equity alliance.
- Jan: everyone in county is a stakeholder
- Anita: Samaritan has heart to heart magazine; medical respite beds for unhoused; be liaison person.
- Library system.
- Andrea: Food banks newsletter; Linn Benton food share; food networks. Gleaners, Strengthening Rural Families.
- Pegge: There are quite a few gleaner groups around the county

- Jan: Corvallis City Councilors should be informed. Ward 7 (Paul Shaffer) puts out a regular newsletter, Ward 1 (Jan Napack) sends out targeted information to over 400 subscribers. Also, we have a public information officer who sends out info to Google Groups.

VII. Research: Work Group Update and Feedback from full Board. (Melissa, Briae, Andrea, Barbara, Jan, Jim).

- What research can the HOPE Board do to inform existing implementation efforts? Research topics that inform city/county and provider implementation of HOPE's 12 recommendations, starting with elected officials' priority topic: #6 recommendation of a 24/7/365 sheltering system for all populations to transition people out of homeless.
- This research could include sheltering and data systems that aim to end homelessness, like Built for Zero.
- Inextricably linked to recommendation #6 are data improvements like coordinated entry (#1), care coordination with adopting a situation table meeting (#3), and sustainable funding models for case managers/outreach workers/peer support (#4).
- Building organizational capacity for local providers to expand programming/capacity to transition people out of homelessness. How can the city and county support providers in growing capacity, if they want to, in ways that align with their mission? (Foundational rec. A: capacity)
- What financial support system do we need to get to net zero? (Foundational recommendation B: funding)
- Coordinated Entry (CE) successes: timeline for implementation, staff needed, strategies, training. (#1 data)
- Research "Built for Zero"—foundation of data (#1)
- Research successful models of funding more supportive services with blended funding streams (Medicaid, block grants, general funds, state funds like Measure 110). (#4)
- Models or sources for rent support for gap between homelessness and a spot in PSH or voucher availability. For example, rental assistance pilot. (#11)
- Housing First as a policy across all funding decisions.
- InterCommunity Health Research Institute is planning to collaborate with OSU's Policy Analysis Lab on research about solutions to homelessness.
- Would it make sense to plug into that effort and help inform it based on the community's priorities and HOPE Recommendations?

DISCUSSION:

- Cindee Lolik, First Alternative Co-op: The Co-op would also be willing to share with our email list and on our social media apps.
- George: what messages work in this community and how to present those messages?
- Jan: base in technology with OSU and OPAL—they have capability using their skill set. Translate to boots on the ground. Make sure approachable. OPAL/IHN make sure (from provider and city/county perspective)
- Jim: lots of opportunity there with IHN/OPAL collaboration. Some have tendencies to think not a lot of research done yet; not true; there's a lot of info out there. Julie helps pull things together to look in a coherent fashion; don't need to recreate the wheel. Consult with experts in the field. Focus on not duplication but building on work that already has happened. Julie: opportunity to shape questions and guide efforts. Jim: hope we have

opportunity to chime in while its getting formed.

- Pegge: thinking of OPAL work; giving actual measurements of homelessness; hope they will keep this in mind and feed this info to us as you develop it.
- Andrea: sometimes attempting a small project to see how things work a good idea; like coordinated entry serving a population; research and make a recommendation to providers. Second, might be useful to talk about how to implement Built for Zero; from community similar size to ours so we understand what that looks like.
- Julie: reached out to others on coordinated entry in other counties; Lane county is working as Built for Zero cohort. Lane County Coordinated Entry contact is willing to present to HOPE board on what is coordinated entry and staff to set it up. Research workgroup can dig down further on.
- George: anything from research piece from providers; have info to inform what they do.
- Andrea is key provider on board
- Jim: understanding scale of problem better; hope one of products is how many help transition out of homelessness. Setting goals; some relationship to resources we devote and how many homeless people there are. League of Women Voters did study ; families; nature of homelessness; design and fund a system capable of helping 350 household to transition out of homelessness; need to know how it's working and scale of the problem. Julie: pilot legislations from state requires standing up a Coordinated Homeless Response Office and creating a 5 year strategic plan that includes goals and what is needed to fund this.
- Ben Danley: some people need more acute level of services; still think coordinated entry system is important; how to expand how to help vulnerable whom we do not see; who are invisible; living in substandard situations. Interested in learning more and being a part of the hub model of care coordination called the situation table; continue to learn about and valuable to implement it.
- Andrea: Can we also get a presentation on the pilot proposal if things are approved?

VIII. Co-Chairs Election. 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.

George Grosch is engaged and cares what happens and has the time and interest, and he is willing to serve.

- **MOTION** made by Jim Moorefield to nominate George Grosch as Co-Chair. Cindee Lolik Seconded the **MOTION**, which passed unanimously.
- Jim: I've known George for 30 years; everything he said about himself is true.
- George interested in in-person meetings; and streaming at same time.
- Julie: polled membership and some excited to meet virtually and some in person. Kailee and Julie will investigate sunset main meeting room. Kailee: New health depart administrative specialist Samantha Bailey can assist with meeting rooms.

IX. Next Steps.

- Research work group will continue to meet.
- Communications group will meet when it is timely to provide feedback to Julie and Kailee.
- Julie pursuing educational topics for upcoming meetings:
 - Coordinated entry for data collection and as a process to prioritize
 - Street Outreach and Response Team experiences and practices
 - Housing First: definition and policy examples in practice
 - IHN-CCO: what work or investments target homelessness or population health community wide?

X. Meeting was Adjourned at 5:40 pm.