



**Home, Opportunity, Planning, and Equity (HOPE)
Advisory Board Meeting
Approved Minutes
June 22, 2022 from 4 pm to 6 pm
ZOOM Meeting**



- Members Present:** Catherine Biscoe; Karyle Butcher; Ricardo Contreras; Bryan Cotter; Caden DeLoach; Anita Earl; Joel Goodwin; Ari Grossman-Naples; Barbara Hanley; Melissa Isavoran; Briae Lewis* (Co-Chair); Cindee Lolik* (Business Associate); Charles Maughan* (Corvallis City Council); Pegge McGuire* (CSC Director); Andrea Myhre; Jan Napack* (Corvallis Mayor’s Assignee); Chanale Propst; Reece Stotsenberg; Nancy Wyse* (Chair of Board of Commissioners).
- Excused:** George Grosch* (Co-Chair)
- 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 kindness, inclusion, curiosity, open mindedness, and respect.

- II. **Public Comments (limited to 2-3 minutes).** No Comments.

- III. **Approval of Minutes: MOTION** made by Jan Napack to approve the May 25, 2022 Minutes; **Seconded** by Joel Goodwin; All in favor; **MOTION** passed. Abstained due to not being in attendance at the May meeting: Charles Maughan, Briae Lewis. *Comment made about the May 2022 minutes: Jan Napack said the minutes were very well done, and she appreciates the skill and talent involved—thank you Paula.*

- IV. **Community Updates.**
 - **Benton County is contracting with a Grant Researcher and Writer** to research and apply for funding that aligns with various HOPE recommendations. County has hired a Project Manager to support the portfolio of projects in the HOPE recommendations, including prioritizing a sheltering system.
 - **Samaritan Care Respite Hub (Anita Earl):** Began with one person (Anita Earl) four years ago to provide services to patients post discharge who are extremely ill or acutely injured. Today it has grown to four social workers. The care hub includes nurses, social workers and community health workers (about 16 people now) who visit homeless shelters, campsites, homes, hospitals, and other locations to increase access to medical care. Services include going to patients’ appointments with them, pick up and pay for medication. Care Hub oversees 12 respite beds in whole system; hope to grow to 20 beds. Examples of services include providing chemo to unhoused; help with support for late pregnancies; treatment for severe burns; lots of oncology and support for acute injuries; stroke rehabilitation support. Some cases take from 2 weeks to 4 months to get folks up to

speed. Work with partners to find transitional housing or long-term housing; like Housing First, COI, and Albany Helping Hands; Second Chance Shelter and Northwest Coastal in Lincoln city. Efforts growing: last year 137 people were helped with 35 having respite care. Provide services to the most marginalized from Sweet Home to Toledo. Team includes stroke specialists; OBGYN specialists; cardiac certified nurse; licensed health and social workers—a very nice resume of clinicians who go to where the patients are located, and they are all trauma informed specialists with lots of heart, love, and expertise. Melissa Isavoran commented in the Chat: “Love that this is trauma informed for individuals receiving assistance and for those providing the assistance!”

- **Data Research Workgroup:** Looking into FUSE model and meeting with community partners. Melissa Isavoran: IHN CCO is very interested in FUSE Model and aligning with partners and leveraging lessons learned.
- **Data Improvement Workgroup with City and County collaboration:** IHN created Intercommunity Health Network Research Institute (IHRI) and their director, Paulina, reached out to OSU (Dr. Mark Edwards who helps run OPU’s policy analysis lab, or OPAL). They are interested in how to improve and analyze data on homelessness. Working on proposal after a Letter of Intent by Paulina has been approved. Partners who will work on this project include IHRI, OSU, Samaritan, and CSC who has data on homelessness. Data can provide tangible efforts on what the needs are of homeless. Barbara: we met today and another meeting scheduled in a couple of weeks.
- **Other Community Updates:**
- Karyle: County awarded Unity Shelter (\$300,000) funding. Julie: Those funds were from American Rescue Plan Act funds for services at micro shelter sites under Safe Place Program and services at Third Street commons formerly Budget Inn. Julie: thanks Andrea and Shawn Collins and Joe Kerby and Rick Crager, the financial director, to make sure process was transparent and equitable. Karyle: Andrea is doing great! Andrea: We accessed \$200,000 and matched with the County funds so Unity Shelter can use funds for operations at Safe Place. For 3rd Street Commons, an architecture firm MWA (Michael Williams Associates) out of Portland has been selected--super excited to work with them. Model of permanent supportive housing includes employment and behavioral health support; substance use services; we need partnership, if you want to be proactive and work with us, reach out to Andrea.
- Karyle: The work that Anita, Shawn, Andrea, and Julie among others should get honored by the Board. Does not seem to be getting noticed by the public how significant the changes have been—even since 2 years ago so much has happened. Thanks to all the people doing this work; I live in this community and it’s thrilling to see your work!
- Julie: Kailee Olson, our new HOPE communications coordinator, will be providing a progress update to show HOPE recommendations in actions. So, you can share progress that has been made with community.
- Andrea: Corvallis Housing First serves populations overrepresented and underserved in our community (African Americans; Latinx; Native Americans)--we will be inclusive and reach out to include cultural perspectives. Andrea work email: **director@corvallishousingfirst.org**
- Julie: HOPE worked with Equity Consultant and local BIPOC community members, who educated us about long history in Oregon of racism and discrimination when people were not able to own property and were removed, so we want to make sure people understand

systemic history that contributes to those issues and that overrepresentation.

V. Educational Component: Corvallis Street Outreach Response Team (SORT) – Corvallis Daytime Drop-In Center. Maddison Bean (SORT Coordinator).

- **SORT Overview:** Outreach Wed and Friday 9-11 am. Visit encampments in community.
- **Main goals of SORT:**
 - Build relationships (level of trust, respect—cornerstone).
 - Learn about people’s needs & goals, and barriers to these
 - Service connections
 - Basic needs provision (like coffee, hot water, soups, food like oatmeal)
 - Education and harm reduction support (work with Chris Gray); overdose prevention; education on fentanyl and testing strips; Narcan education and distribution. Education about COVID-19 and vaccine clinics.
 - Communication around camp postings
 - Coordinated entry. Connect with needs navigator.
- **Metrics** (see slide): 50 fire extinguishers distributed; Harm Reduction education and interactions.
- **Service Connections:**
 - **Housing:** Approx. 40 people added to housing wait list since Oct. 2021. Support with letter writing and Section 8 application. 1-2 appointments/week made with CHF case manager
 - **CDDC Needs Navigation & Coordinated Entry:** Approx. 4 needs navigation appointments made per month - 5 VI-SPDAT appointments made in the past month
 - **Other:** 3 phone applications in the past month
 - 2 Ride Line appts made in last 2 months
 - Signed 30 people up for holiday food cards
 - **Point in Time (PIT) Count.** SORT is integral player in PIT count. This year: Seven locations visited; about 50 surveys conducted over two SORT days; 3-4 teams per SORT day. Most people fine with doing the survey.
 - 220 total interactions per month
 - **Basic needs** supplies include coffee; food (and pet food) socks; hygiene supplies; warm clothes like gloves and scarves; first aid; trash bags (work with parks and rec); stay informed about camp postings and discampments.
 - **Onboarding and Training:** volunteer orientation manual; volunteer job descriptions; training checklist; additional procedures (see PowerPoint slide online for more details).
 - **Policies:** Not a transportation service; no promises; hold space for others; go out in pairs at the minimum; safety first for all; announce ourselves.
 - **Team: SORT Crew:** 24 volunteers and service providers (100 volunteer hours/month)
 - Collaboration across many organizations: Corvallis Housing first; CHANCE; Unity Shelter; had people from Easter seals before—might be back again; County staff and others at drop in center. Diverse group of volunteers; 1 part time staff member.
 - **Future directions and Goals:** Needs navigator to join SORT at Drop In Center to help with coordinated entry.
 - **Training opportunities—on going:** CPR certification; De-escalation; Harm Reduction (fire safety & extinguisher training; Narcan training; Awareness around camp

- postings/clearings; Advocacy efforts.
- Increased coordinator entry
- Growth in team leads
- SORT wisdom panel (annually)
- For questions, email Sortoutreachcorvallis@gmail.com

DISCUSSION:

- SORT/CDDC is making an effort to do more HMIS Coordinated Entries with their clients.
- Plans to invite law enforcement to wisdom panel? Maddison: that is a great suggestion—she will reach out to them.
- Karyle: This info should be shared to educate community on the impact you are making. This is terrific and people need to know about this! (Julie will follow up with Maddison on ways to make this info more public.)
- Barbara: You are doing amazing work! In outreach opportunity with PR now, do you think one or two people would be willing to be interviewed as part of a story as experiencing homelessness in community? Maddison: In the past, OSU did a documentary on camps and were welcomed by people willing to share. Some might share story but kept anonymous. Have done some life story pieces through Drop-in center.
- Jan: Thank you, Maddie. By "Increased coordinated entry" does that mean HMIS or broad coordination between other data systems?
- Maddison: we use the HMIS coordinated entry and we collaborate across the board but not through data systems—through conversations.
- Cade: comment on showcase through art at OSU with community partnership—to display art downtown to highlight these issues to community. Maddison: yes, had Book Bin display. We have used art to display in ways people wanted. Cade shared link:
- <https://www.corvallisadvocate.com/2021/book-bin-displays-art-stories-of-people-displaced-by-sweeps/>

VI. City of Corvallis Social Services Funding Policy Discussion: Timeline and process.

- Purpose: the feedback from this discussion can be relayed by Charles and Jan to City Council to help inform their process and/or timeline on making a decision on this topic. Can also inform IHN's coordination efforts on sustainable strategic funding.
- Charles: On May 19 we discussed the topic of social service funding (00-6.05) that is to be reviewed every 3 years. Corvallis is among the fastest growing cities. HOPE can review the work session online. Have a planned proposal on levy to provided services. Another work session tomorrow (6/23). Should social services be tied to housing? How to better align services with funding? Seek HOPE Advisory Board opinions. Need additional shelter beds—what is your opinion on moving forward?
- Julie: HOPE board provides advice and does not make policy; Jan and Charles can take opinions back to City Council tomorrow.
- Julie: HB 4123: the city and county are working to improve coordination and communication on homeless response with state funding over the next two years.
- One of the requirements of this pilot is to create a 5-year strategic plan in the next fiscal year. The strategic plan must include a plan for sustainable funding for homeless response and services.
- **Intercommunity Health Network Coordinated Care Organization (IHN-CCO) Role (Melissa**

Isavoran) IHN has upcoming capacity to coordinate strategic financial investments on social determinants of health (SDOH).

- This role would be to convene all our community's funders to map the funding streams in the area for SDOH and coordinate how we strategically invest for shared priorities/goals.
- This work can help funders strategically coordinate their funding on housing and social services to best leverage restricted and flexible funding streams in a transparent way.
- Purpose of discussion for IHN: identify who to include and the trajectory of this work.

DISCUSSION:

- Melissa: IHN-CCO is coordinated care organization---commitment to population health and health equity and support social determinants of health initiatives in several ways: funding streams; limited funds for brick and mortar; small percentage as nonprofit; but we do have funds for health related services for transformative pilot projects and urgent projects throughout the year. We work across the region (Linn, Benton, and Lincoln counties), engaging with numerous partners. Help with sustainability and funding for services. IHN's goal is to be convener. Community engagement manager helps provide funding and technical assistance. We desire to connect with community partners. We are building capacity that is multi-faceted. Who is best to be at the table? Three types: organizations/persons that receive funding; that provide services; and can inform the conversations. Start with list of people and make sure we are inclusive. I can start mapping the list out, so start thinking about it and email myself or Julie and we can build list.
- Andrea (in Chat): This city money is a DROP IN THE BUCKET for homelessness. So many small and volunteer-oriented groups rely on smaller grants to keep their programs going, these funds are matched over and over. The city will have to think of other ways to help support the implementation of the HOPE goals. Over the past several years, millions of dollars have been invested in a system of homeless services, to expect that the city social services fund will be the only source of funding these services the city will dedicate (aside from smaller amounts of CDBG funds) is unrealistic.
- Also, the levy dictates what these funds should be spent on, as far as I know. To use it for other purposes would be disingenuous to the intent of the levy.
- From Holly Shuta: The Council could decide to incorporate the levy Social Service funding into the City's other annual funding processes, then the Social Service Policy would need to be updated
- Karyle Butcher: How to fit these ideas with the view that many have that the City's primary job is funding essential service which are often defined a police, fire, public works. In my experience on the City Budget Commission is it can be difficult to get general fund dollars for parks and libraries. I would ask Jan and Charles if they no longer see this attitude as a barrier.
- Charles: General view is keep city functions and necessary services. Discussion always shifting, ebbs and flows while thinking of long-term solutions. Hard to say without a budget discussion; express desire to address housing and shelter needs.
- Jan: City always looking for funding; had to create fees for police and fire outside of general fund. Street fees; Safety fee; 911 fee/bond, so we do charge extra fees for public safety--had livability bond in past for funding Osborne Aquatics, library, Majestic Theater; and others--has social services component. We get HUD money for block grants--10 percent to direct homeless social services. Ways to promote affordable housing is our strength. City does a lot of things--we can leverage state and federal funds. Funnel level

and bond funds to social services--that is our strength and it is limited.

- Charles: City could have role in social services. It owns property and leases out to affordable housing; not unheard of city to own property. For housing, we love to see more public participation; we could hear motion and things could change.
- Cindee Lolik: IHN-CCO are pulling together information and City need to look at basic needs and large impact on those services and money spent because of impacts of homelessness. Area needs to be looked at as a whole.
- Pegge: Samaritan doing mapping is great; City and County staffers work important and HOPE's work too. Frankly disheartening if recommendations and public input we gathered is not utilized in formulating decisions, feels like back to where we started. Use our info to drive decision making for social services spending. Public infrastructure impacted by homelessness. If investing up front to prevent issues, see that as a well thought-out approach and hope city will take into account.
- Catherine: be responsive to HOPE work; look at 5 year strategic planning--need to include partners in this conversation; don't operate independently. Look at pilot program: is there a way City Council make an approach in strategic process? Benton County looks at homeless in region not just Corvallis. Look at rural areas like Philomath and Monroe and other areas—how can we extend services? Can we do both? Immediate response and long range planning?
- Ari Grossman-Naples: Catherine makes a great point about the other areas of Benton County and how they are included in this.
- Charles: This is brought forward so if Council sees as priority with new info, the Council could review policy and make changes.
- Jan: City Council is defacto governing body and if want spending priority, they can do that, but look at competing priorities. Due to CARES funding, social services did receive few million in distributed funds. City Community Development staff working together on strategic aspects of how to fund these social service organizations. We have made some strides. Would like to speak with you one on one.
- Melissa Isavoran: IHN CCO is regional and works with all communities. Not just Benton County or one city. We make effort to track all funding streams related to housing and social services and what they can be used for and timeline to spend them. Look at goals like HOPE board recommendations. Lots of input and we do need to think of community as a whole.
- Nancy Wyse: I would be concerned as a city council to come back in a year or two--current city manager came in with goals to get policies updated...very slow process. Big workload and heavy lift. Many competing priorities. Yes, hypothetically could happen if all can make it priority.
- Charles: work session tomorrow is not final vote. You can email council with input; encourage public participation.
- Melissa Isavoran email: misavoran@samhealth.org
- From Pegge McGuire: Charissa is an amazing human!!
- From Anita Earl: We appreciate your hard work Charles and Jan, grappling with the myriad of needs our community has while holding the needs of the houseless.

VII. Next Steps.

- Research and Data work groups continue to meet.

- July HOPE meeting educational component will be about IHN's structure, services, and the work they do on population health that goes beyond their covered members and includes the social determinants of health, like housing and sustainable funding.
- August: Julie is working on Housing First: definition and policy examples in practice. Including Corvallis Housing First and Unity Shelter to provide an update on 3rd Street Commons progress.
- September: County Community Health Centers – who they serve, how it overlaps with population experiencing homelessness.

VIII. Meeting was adjourned at 5:58 pm.