



**Home, Opportunity, Planning, and Equity (HOPE)
Advisory Board Meeting
Approved Minutes
October 26, 2022 from 4 pm to 6 pm
ZOOM Meeting**



- Members Present:** Catherine Biscoe; Karyle Butcher; Alice Carter; Anita Earl; Joel Goodwin; George Grosch* (co-Chair); Ari Grossman-Naples; Barbara Hanley; Briae Lewis* (Co-Chair); Cindee Lolik* (Business Associate); Charles Maughan* (Mayor’s designee); Jan Napack* (Corvallis City Councilor); Nancy Wyse* (Chair of Board of Commissioners)
- Excused:** Ricardo Contreras; Melissa Iavoran; Pegge McGuire * (CSC Director); Chanale Propst
- Absent:** Bryan Cotter; Caden DeLoach; Andrea Myhre
- Staff Present:** Julie Arena (Benton County Health, HOPE Program Coordinator); Paula Felipe (Benton County Public Health, recorder); Suzanne Hoffman (Director, Benton County Health Department); Loren Emang (Emergency Preparedness Coordinator)
- Guests:** *Executive Committee Members.

- I. **Welcome and Introductions.** New board member Alice Carter, who has a background working on housing issues, including providing transitional care for single moms in Boston. She worked helping people with addictions for 10 years and supported a food pantry. She has a wealth of experience and feels Corvallis has a big heart. She is working with her priest and church board on helping with respite care for people in need. She looks forward to serving on and collaborating with the HOPE board.

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

- III. **Approval of Minutes: MOTION** was made by Karyle Butcher to approve the September Minutes; **Seconded** by Charles Maughan; All in favor; **MOTION** passed. Abstained due to not being in attendance at the September meeting: Alice Carter; Karyle Butcher; Anita Earl; Briae Lewis

- IV. **Educational Component and Community Engagement – Resource Centers in Benton County: Allison Hobgood, Executive Director, Corvallis Daytime Drop-in Center (CDDC)**
 - Allison shared some thoughtful quotes, such as: “People need to be more human. There are wolves out here. If you see someone struggle, help them out. It could be you”
 - “When people are tired and worn down, it’s hard to move on and see the next steps”
 - “I’m changing my life, I’m starting to love myself again”
 - CDDC is “where needs are met”
 - 3 Primary Missions: 1) community center and safe gathering space; 2) supporting people’s most basic welfare; and 3) healing-centered, lowest barrier resource and navigation hub
 - Human Dignity, Empowerment, Transformative Justice
 - Trauma informed approach (prevents further trauma)
 - Impact of Systemic Oppression on Marginalized Community Members:

- Homeless Indigenous and Black individuals are exceptionally overrepresented at CDDC
- A significant number of guests identify as LGBTQ+ people
- 76% of CDDC guests self-identify as having disabilities
- Racially and ethnically, our CDDC community is disproportionately (compared to Benton County Census, 2020) comprised of folks who are:
 - Indian or Alaskan Native 13.2% (0.9%)
 - Black or African American 7.7% (1.2%)
 - Hispanic or Latinx 8.7% (7.8%)
 - Multiracial 15.4%.
- Resource and Wellness supports offered at CDDC.
 - mental health counseling
 - physical health support like wound care, HIV testing, and OHP enrollment
 - assistance with prescription copays
 - lost document replacement—IDs, birth certificates, etc
 - access to employment
 - accessing phones and technology
 - pet advocacy and support
 - access to transportation to loved ones and appointments
 - direct street outreach
 - referrals to other social service organizations
- CDDC Service Impact Snapshot July-September 2022:
 - Reached 135 unduplicated individuals through SORT street outreach
 - Served 403 unduplicated individuals at CDDC
 - Total of 2929 visits and 2693 meals
 - Individuals received mail 456 times
 - People had some kind of basic need met 776 times—tech charging, use of house phone, clothing
 - 81 people were able to obtain IDs; 55 people got help with transportation, and 35 people received medication support though RX co-pays
 - 245 direct connections with partner agencies
 - Stabilization and Diversion-what we do and how Navigation Centers can help!
 - July-September 2022, we offered direct wellness supports 172 times
 - This means people meet at CDDC with case workers, basic needs navigators, counselors, health navigators, and/or Samaritan care coordinators to get direct supports and take next steps
- Navigation Center to increase & maximize intervention impact
- Modelled after Centers around OR via House Bill 2006; addresses HOPE Board recommendations 1, 3, 6, and 7
 - 1: Facilitate and coordinate data improvement efforts
 - 3: Adopt the Hub Model of care coordination as a framework for doing business
 - 6: 24/7/365 Emergency Sheltering System
 - 7: Facilitate and support the creation of a Resource Center
- Navigation Center Supports (10-12,000 sq foot building) includes:
 - Drop-in Center for day respite and social services
 - Low-barrier, emergency respite & non-congregate sleeping spaces: 6-10 rooms for seniors, people with disabilities, veterans, LGBTQ+ people, and BIPOC community members

- Amplified, more comprehensive basic needs navigation and wrap around mental and physical health services
- Access to co-located agencies/providers that offer services to Center guests as well as the greater community: a one-stop shop!
- Story of how they helped stabilize a patient who was on the street and needed help.
- On-site Nav Center Community Partnerships:
 - CDDC Guests: peer-to-peer supports and grassroots visionaries
 - Benton County Health Department's Community Harm Reduction Team: health and safety
 - Samaritan Health Services' Medical Social Workers & Care Coordinators: physical health
 - Corvallis Housing First and Unity Shelter Caseworkers: housing
 - Benton County Health Navigators: mental and physical health, OHP enrollment
 - Community Services Consortium (CSC): Coordinated Entry, housing, veteran supports, employment
 - ODHS: food security and employment
 - Benton County Assertive Community Team presence: mental health
 - OR Cascades West Council of Governments: disability and senior services; eligibility
- Navigation Center Development Planning and Support – Thanks to CIDA
 - CIDA is a woman-owned (WBE #10209) multidisciplinary architecture and engineering design firm located in Portland that was established to provide clients with a value driven alternative to the traditional architectural firm. Their design philosophy is founded in the belief that architecture is best when it is a true expression of the people and institutions it serves.
 - <https://cidainc.com/project-category/non-profit/>
 - Union Gospel Mission – Women's LifeChange Center
- Budget Points of Reference from the Mid-Columbia Community Action Council (MCCAC) Navigation Center in the Dalles (see slide).
- CDDC Points of contact: Allison.Hobgood@gmail.com; 541-224-7578; direct number for support and resources: 458-233-5327; website: <https://corvallisddc.org/en/>

Discussion/Questions:

- Julie: United Way Director of Community Impact, Chris Sherrod, has been convening all the partners Allison listed saying how do we share space and serve to get needs met. They want to be supportive of day time drop in center taking the lead and they want to support CDDC. Thank you Allison for stepping forward.
- Karyle: how are neighbors handling people coming and going? Allison: great neighbors; in communication on regular basis.
- Karyle: where are you expanding? Number of people served and number of beds? If community work to make happen, why not go bigger?
- Allison: Question of where still up in the air. Have great neighbors now with potential to expand. On bus line; easy to get to. On number of beds: short answer is don't want to create something that feels corporate, govt or scary...have larger footprint that does not do that. Lane county has 18000 sq ft and 75 beds; much larger population. Focus on healing centered; looking at funding streams and having talks.
- Karyle: good architect can make attractive.
- George: shelter not enough; need more support to reintroduce into society. Takes more,

need to lead people by the hand; this is amazing and truly worth our support. This is about people and show them how and support them.

Janece Cook, Executive Director of the Kepi Nak-Nak Resource Center in Monroe (formerly the South Benton Food Pantry):

- Current program manager for South Benton Food Pantry (now known as Kepi Nak-Nak)
- Formed over last few years; not just food but secure place where people feel safe.
- Monroe Congregation church approached Janece what to do with property if sold to her. So, put together a plan.
- Introducing the Kepi Nak-Nak Resource Center.
- Church started feeding people in 1990s. Humble beginnings
- Many who qualified for food stamps still did not have enough for family
- See slide for current uses; organizations and program/use
- Clients served over last year 2021 – close to 5000 people served. About 650 volunteer hours.
- Needing more space and identified needs of the community (see slide)
- Worked with community health assessment and improvement that helped identify the needs (see slide)
- Value to the Community and Additional Values (see slide)
- Kepi Nak-Nak Resource Center –
 - Open house Nov 16 at 6:30 pm introduction
 - Open to community; local funders; service providers welcome
- History of name: board members from church wanted building to be known with roots in community; one board member suggested indigenous names; looked up names; ask Dr. Lewis, professor of anthropology and ethnic studies; want to name food pantry for family resources and he wrote back about tribes in the area, such as the beaver people and duck people; beaver is kepi; duck is nak-nak; Monroe is between the two; so it's Kepi Nak-Nak (beaver/duck) resource center; and they contacted the tribe and they approved.
- In December will convert into commercial kitchen—church is funding it.
- Good deal on flooring; got funding for it.
- Kitchen and dining will be gutted; open space for needs of community.
- Feeding unhoused; seniors; disabled; could be daily meals.
- Still need \$200,000 toward rebuild of pantry; rain comes into walls and roof.
- Would like services available in this building; and expand those services.
- Questions: Catherine: I have worked with Monroe food programs with Gleaners here and not enough words to convey the heart and commitment. So glad we see this--You are a life-saver—thank you!
- Alice: Friend moved here from George and has farm and big heart—I want to connect her with you. Julie will email them.
- Karyle: are you connected with Oregon Food bank and Linn Benton food share—yes.
- Karyle: librarian at heart—will check on funding source and try to connect; really appreciate the work you are doing. Would be a great story for the newspaper. Julie will connect Karyle with Janece.
- Charles: thank you for the amazing work!
- Jan: very touched at work you have done.
- Janece: can I improve on anything to meet needs of HOPE board. George: keep doing what you are doing--with your love and enthusiasm. Continue building resilient families and

communities.

- Briae: thank you – I wish we had these kind of resources. Amazing what you are doing—keep it up.
- Nancy: thanks to Janeece with encouragement; Monroe part of Benton county and there is a need; thanks for acknowledging that and doing something about it.
- Allison: impossible without volunteers; stunned by folks who show up at resource center to help and not getting paid; they are there because they understand what it means to support other humans. Meeting people where they are.
- Janeece: getting the help we need is sometimes above and beyond what I can do. When covid hit, felt alone when trying to provide; some needed propane to cook with; filled 30 propane jugs; just one example; aloneness to meet the needs of people in harm's way; set of families on property homeless living in camper or tent ; no electricity no running water and no sewer; treacherous; but we give them food boxes; they need help. Instead of shut them down; they need transportation, food, medical, mental health, some city ordinances don't allow for certain things; struggle to get help to help people. Worked with medical teams international—over 7 to 8 years, one young man needed teeth pulled; went to dental vans; he got his false teeth; and he could finally put in his new smile—thank you for bringing the dental van here; he was so happy; collaborative efforts touching lives.
- Julie: want to coordinate more; Janeece met the new project coordinator; new ideas of who to connect Janeece with; Anita Earl will connect too.
- Catherine: To address needs in rural areas; Lane county mobile food and other resources in rural area—could look at that model. Will send to Janeece the info.
- George: some people on HOPE board are elected officials and can make introductions; important; your plate is full and you need more people to help; a number of organizations provide volunteers. Getting more volunteers to help could go a long ways. You are making connections by being here. Julie: OSU extension folks have paid internships hours as well. George: Rural organizing project and Ford Foundation are other resources. Karyle is looking into the foundation funding sources. Julie: We also have a grant writer and can ask for funding sources.
- Julie: Pegge McGuire has invite to team management meetings.
- Julie: Aleita connected with rural organizing project.

V. Progress update on the HOPE Recommendations implementation

- Data improvement #1: ROCKit facilitation to improve our coordinated entry system. <https://www.communityrockit.org/>
- Mission: to connect Benton County's most vulnerable individuals to housing opportunities by inspiring participation in an effective coordinated entry process.
- Communications #9:
- Community Progress Update for Fall 2022 coming soon.
- Rural outreach and engagement with city managers in Benton County to invite participation and hear feedback about communication needs and other rural perspectives.
- **Social services task force update:**
- For more information on the Task Force: <https://www.corvallisoregon.gov/bc-sscptf>
- To sign up for updates on this process, go to this page: <https://www.corvallisoregon.gov/stay-connected>

- Check the box for “Social Services Council Policy Task Force”
- Then put their email in towards the bottom.
- Due to lack of time, a written update of the City of Corvallis Social Services Task Force was forwarded to the full HOPE Board.

VI. Next Steps.

- Upcoming HOPE Meetings: Date changes for Nov and Dec.
- November 9th 4-6pm – Justice System Improvement Project is the educational topic and will have an engagement component with feedback from the Board.
- December 14th 4-6pm
- HOPE Implementation team working on:
- HB 4123 Pilot, structure, and roles for a coordinated response to homelessness solutions. Rural outreach and engagement.
- Improving data by working toward coordinated entry with provider input. Facilitated by ROCKit to create action items to move forward implementation.

VII. Meeting was Adjourned at 6 pm.