



# Poverty and Homelessness Board

## 2020 ANNUAL REPORT

### Enabling Legislation and/or Bylaws

The Poverty and Homelessness Board (PHB) meets both the requirements of the HUD Continuum of Care Board and the Community Action Agency. The PHB Governance Charter and organizational structure is required for all funds governed by the Continuum of Care title IV McKinney-Vento Homeless Assistance Act 42 U.S.C. 11301 and the Continuum of Care Program Interim Rule. The PHB Governance Charter and organizational structure is also required for all funds governed by Community Action Agencies, Chapter 319yy, Section 17b-885 and Sec. 17b-887.

Through a public process and Continuum of Care member participation, it was determined that Lane County be designated as the Continuum of Care (CoC) to serve as the Collaborative Applicant to operate the Continuum of Care. Lane County was also designated an Administrator of the Homeless Management Information System (HMIS) to review and approve privacy, security, and data quality plans, policies and procedures, and performance measures for HMIS.

### Scope and Function

The function of the Committee/Task Force is to provide recommendations to the Board of County Commissioners in the following areas:

- Recommend approval of proposed candidates for committee
- Governance changes
- Submission of Continuum of Care grant, including reporting requirements
- Request for Proposal (RFP) awards
- Community Services Block Grant (CSBG) report submission

### Membership

The PHB meetings are open to any county employee or member of the public. The PHB is officially comprised of the following members:

	Voting Board Positions	Board Members and Agency Affiliation
1.	Elected Official or Designee Lane County	Pat Farr Commissioner, Lane County
2.	Elected Official or Designee City of Springfield	Sean VanGordon City Councilor, City of Springfield
3.	Elected Official or Designee City of Eugene	Lucy Vinis Mayor, City of Eugene
4.	Elected Official or Designee Rural Lane County	John Fox City Councilor, City of Coburg
5.	At Large Elected Official	Cliff Harrold Sheriff, Lane County

	Voting Board Positions	Board Members and Agency Affiliation
6.	Business	Brittany Quick-Warner Eugene Chamber of Commerce
7.	Direct Services Provider	Paul Solomon Sponsors
8.	Education/ McKinney-Vento Homeless Students Liaison	Deborah Dailey Homeless School Liaison, Eugene 4J School District
9.	Faith Based Organization	Pastor Aaron Box North Park Community Church
10.	Homeless/ Formerly Homeless Consumer	Kris McAlister Community Member
11.	Healthcare Representative	Dr. Richard Kincade Community Health Centers of Lane County
12.	Mental Health	Shawn Murphy Laurel Hill Center
13.	Philanthropic	Noreen Dunnells United Way of Lane County
14.	Homeless Youth Representative	<i>Vacant</i>
15.	Victim Services (Children's Services)	Susan Lopez Oregon Department of Human Services
16.	Victim Services (Adult Services)	Julie Weismann Womenspace
	Non-Voting Board Positions	Board Members and Agency Affiliation
17.	Public Housing Authority Co-Applicant CoC grant	Jacob Fox Homes for Good
18.	Veterans	Dave Heavirland Department of Veterans Affairs
19.	Training & Employment	Ashley Espinoza Lane Workforce Partnership
20.	Mainstream Resource Provider State Department of Human Services	<i>Interim: John Radich</i> Oregon Department of Human Services
21.	Housing Co-Applicant CoC grant, ESG recipient	Foster Martinez St. Vincent de Paul Vet LIFT Program
22.	Emergency Shelter Services	Sheryl Balthrop Eugene Mission
23.	Lane County Coordinated Care Organization	Amanda Cobb Medicaid Services, Trillium
24.	Lane County Coordinated Care Organization	Brian Laing PacificSource

## Staff Contacts

Steve Manela Human Services Manager (541) 682-3797  
 Alex Dreher Program Services Coordinator (541) 682-4629  
 Diana Alldredge Recorder (541) 682-3798

[Steve.Manela@lanecountyor.gov](mailto:Steve.Manela@lanecountyor.gov)  
[Alexandria.Dreher@lanecountyor.gov](mailto:Alexandria.Dreher@lanecountyor.gov)  
[Diana.Alldredge@lanecountyor.gov](mailto:Diana.Alldredge@lanecountyor.gov)

## Meeting Frequency

The PHB met on the following dates:

- January 16, 2020 ..... Executive Committee
- February 20, 2020..... All Member
- April 16, 2020..... All Member
- May 21, 2020 ..... Executive Committee
- June 18, 2020 ..... All Member
- July 16, 2020 ..... Executive Committee
- August 20, 2020..... All Member
- September 24, 2020.... Executive Committee
- October 15, 2020..... All Member
- November 19, 2020.... Executive Committee
- December 17, 2020 .... All Member

# Committee Topics of Note/Accomplishments

Starting in April 2020, all PHB meetings met virtually due to the COVID pandemic. The PHB served as an important communication avenue for COVID assistance resources and information.

The PHB heard and discussed the following topics in their 2016-2021 strategic plan:

- Create 600 additional housing opportunities for chronically homeless persons and people with special needs.
- Construction continued on the Commons on MLK, a project of Lane County and Homes for Good. The Commons on MLK is a 51 unit Permanent Supportive Housing development that will accept tenants in 2021.
- Lane County and Homes for Good continued to purchase property and plan for additional Supportive Housing unit development.
- Create additional emergency shelter and respite care for homeless individuals, youth and families with children.
- The PHB continues to strategize regarding implementation of the TAC recommendations.
- The Healthcare Workgroup identified four priority areas to focus on: 1) Increase safe areas for medically fragile unsheltered individuals; 2) Improve care coordination and discharge planning from health organizations; 3) Increase capacity for respite options; 4) Increase direct care and access in sheltered environments.
- Continued the Frequent User Systems Engagement (FUSE) to break the cycle of incarceration and homelessness among individuals with complex behavioral health challenges. Lane County was awarded a 5 year SAMHSA grant for a supportive outreach team to engage single adults experiencing homelessness and serious mental illness and/or substance use disorders, including frequent users of systems, in services and housing solutions.
- Reduce Homelessness among low income families with children and school age youth
- The Youth Homeless Solutions Workgroup continued to meet and assess the resources available to youth. Potential federal grant opportunities were identified but due to COVID-19 they were not released by the federal government.
- Increase Employment Opportunities, education and employment and training activities for participants who are in poverty, and/or homeless.
- The PHB Employment Workgroup created a matrix to identify gaps in services specific to employment services for individuals experiencing homelessness. Collaboration continued with community partners.
- Collaboration with the Lane Workforce Partnership (LWP) and Oregon Employment Department
- Continued STEP Housing and Employment Program
- Advocated for state, local, and federal support to reduce poverty and homelessness
- Aligned legislative work with the statewide Housing Alliance
- Lane County, City of Eugene and City of Springfield staff have met to align agendas.

## Topics and Reports

- COVID-19 Recovery Plan, Response, Resources, and Activities
  - Community Service Block Grant (CSBG) COVID-19 Funding
  - CSBG CARES Act Needs Assessment
  - Emergency Solutions Grant (ESG) COVID-19 Funding
  - Community Development Block Grant Coronavirus Funding
- 2020-24 Community Health Plan (CHP)
- Inclement Weather Strategies
- The Homeless By Name List
- Public Shelter Feasibility Study and TAC Implementation
- Annual Point in Time (PIT) and Homeless Street Count and Housing Inventory Count (HIC)
- Continuum of Care Grant Application and Scores
- Lane County Budget Updates
- Built for Zero: Data Visualizations and Data Tracking
- Continuum of Care and Emergency Operations for Homeless Populations
- Federal, State, and Local resources for those impacted by COVID-19
- System Performance Measures Report
- Lane County Human Services Division Financial Reports
- Governance Changes, Membership, communication plan, homeless representation, youth representation, and strategic planning
- Housing First and supportive housing projects
- Jurisdiction partnerships and collaboration

- Racial Disparities in Homeless Service Provision
- Data Analytics and the Homeless Management Information System
- Census 2020

## **Focus Areas**

The PHB will focus on the following objectives in the upcoming year:

- Assistance to those affected by the COVID pandemic
- Implementation of changes to Lane County's Supportive Housing and Homeless Service System as recommended in the TAC report
- Apply for a Youth Homelessness Demonstration Program grant opportunity, should one become available
- Continue to develop ACT team and multidisciplinary services for shelter and supportive housing
- Inform and enhance public awareness and advocacy efforts regarding poverty and homelessness
- Expand low or no barrier emergency shelter opportunities in Lane County
- Develop a new 5-year strategic plan

## **Challenges and Strategies**

The following are the greatest challenges before the PHB and the strategies planned to overcome them:

- The economic impacts of COVID-19 have affected all Lane County residents, and most acutely those living in poverty and those experiencing homelessness. The PHB will continue to advocate for and assist in the administration of Federal, State, and Local resources to address the needs of the community.
- Insufficient affordable housing in the community and the extremely low vacancy rate present significant barriers to fully addressing the crisis of homelessness. The PHB will continue to seek resources, advocate for, and build partnerships to increase the supply of affordable and supportive housing in Lane County.
- Upstream strategies including workforce development, homeless prevention, and rapid resolution.