



# Poverty and Homelessness Board

## 2018 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	<i>Vacant</i>
5.	At Large Elected Official	Byron Trapp Sheriff, Lane County

	Voting Board Positions	Board Members and Agency Affiliation
6.	Business	Patrick Walsh Vox Public Relations Public Affairs
7.	Direct Services Provider	Paul Solomon Sponsors
8.	Education/ McKinney-Vento Homeless Students Liaison	Deborah Dailey Homeless School Liaison, 4J School District
9.	Faith Based Organization	Dan Bryant First Christian Church
10.	Homeless/ Formerly Homeless Consumer	Kris McAlister Community Member
11.	Healthcare Representative	Rick 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	Lacey Henry Community Member
15.	Victim Services	Susan Lopez
	Non-Voting Board Positions	Board Members and Agency Affiliation
16.	Public Housing Authority Co-Applicant CoC grant	Jacob Fox Homes for Good
17.	Veterans	Dave Heavirland Department of Veterans Affairs
18.	Training & Employment	Jessica McCormick Lane Workforce Partnership
19.	Mainstream Resource Provider State Department of Human Services	John Radich Oregon DHS
20.	Housing Co-Applicant CoC grant	Anne Williams St. Vincent de Paul
21.	Emergency Shelter Services	Sheryl Balthrop Eugene Mission
22.	Lane County Coordinated Care Organization	Amanda Cobb Medicaid Services, Trillium

## 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@co.lane.or.us](mailto:Steve.Manela@co.lane.or.us)  
[Alexandria.Dreher@co.lane.or.us](mailto:Alexandria.Dreher@co.lane.or.us)  
[Diana.Alldredge@co.lane.or.us](mailto:Diana.Alldredge@co.lane.or.us)

## Meeting Frequency

The PHB met on the following dates:

- January 18, 2018 ..... Executive Committee
- February 15, 2018 ..... All Member
- March 15, 2018..... Executive Committee
- April 19, 2018 ..... All Member
- May 17, 2017 ..... Executive Committee
- June 21, 2018 ..... All Member
- August 16, 2018 ..... Executive Committee
- September 20, 2018.... All Member
- October 18, 2018..... Executive Committee
- November 15, 2018.... All Member

## Committee Topics of Note/Accomplishments

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

### **Create 600 units of Supportive Housing for chronically homeless persons with special needs.**

- Lane County Commissioners voted unanimously on January 15, 2018 to award a total of \$2 million in Housing Improvement Program (HIP) grant funding to five projects that will increase the stock of permanent, supportive and affordable housing in Lane County. Five projects were awarded funding with HIP grant funds, including: Sponsors Tiny House Project (10 units for vulnerable individuals with criminal histories); Polk Apartments Expansion by NEDCO (10 units for former foster youth); Legion Cottages Project by Homes for Good (4 tiny homes for veterans in Cottage Grove); Cottage Village by Square One Villages (13 tiny homes for people with very low incomes in Cottage Grove); The Commons on MLK (51 units of permanent supportive housing).
- Lane County Homes for Good continues working with Lane County on the development of 100+ units of supportive housing. Homes for Good is currently securing final financing and investors for the Commons on MLK, 51 units of Housing First Permanent Supportive Housing, to be built on property donated by Lane County which is adjacent to the Lane County Behavioral Health Center. Homes for Good has agreed to Project Base Section 8 certificates for the Commons on MLK. Lane County contributed \$500,000 from Housing Improvement Funds towards this project. A second 50 unit Families in Transition Project is in the beginning planning stages.
- Through the Lane County Continuum of Care, Homes for Good was awarded a grant for 33 units of Scattered Site Permanent Supportive Housing. Lane County was awarded funding for 13 scattered site units dedicated for FUSE project participants. Additional Trillium funding supports reimbursement for Intensive Case Management Services for OHP members in FUSE Supportive Housing. Homes for Good was also awarded 33 additional Mainstream Housing Vouchers.
- Sponsors project with Homes for Good – “The Oaks” is 55 units of supportive housing. The discussion of additional supportive housing production continues under the Operation 600 initiative.
- Lane County implemented landlord partnership strategies through the development of a landlord risk mitigation fund which incentivizes private landlords to rent to individuals referred to housing from the coordinated entry system by reducing the private landlord risk. Lane County also approved funding partial FTE position at Homes for Good to provide educational opportunities and manage a help desk for landlords and CoC housing Case Managers.
- Veteran’s services – Lane County was awarded technical assistance support and joined Operation Welcome Home with 10 statewide partners to support the efforts that began with Operation 365 to house homeless veterans. In 2017: 191 Homeless Veterans exited projects to permanent housing (rentals, ownership, Permanent Supportive Housing and staying permanently with friends or relatives), 362 homeless veterans were added to the Veteran By-Name List (VBNL), 173 veterans were reported as homeless in the Sheltered/Unsheltered Point-In-Time count Jan 31, 2018. Lane County’s goals for the campaign include achieving 100% utilization of PSH and HUD-VASH and increasing utilization and turnover for PSH and HUD-VASH from 2% to 5% with Move-On strategies.
- Expanded Rapid Rehousing funding with State of Oregon Emergency Housing Account (EHA)

### **Create additional emergency shelter and respite care for homeless individuals, youth and families with children.**

- Created a total of 215 units of seasonal emergency shelter (195 Dusk to Dawn shelters and 20 unit micro-campsite that allows pets).
- In March 2018, Lane County, with the participation and additional funding support of the City of Eugene, selected the Technical Assistance Collaborative (TAC) to conduct a shelter feasibility study for Lane County. The PHB received monthly updates on progress of the study, as well as presentations from TAC consultants in October 2018 and January 2019. PHB members participated in focus groups and interviews regarding the current homeless service system and need for a public shelter. The PHB continues to strategize regarding implementation of the TAC recommendations.
- SVdP acquired a temporary housing for homeless families’ facility in South Eugene which upon completion will provide 18 single family apartment units. Lane County secured capacity building funding through Oregon Housing and Community Services to assist with rehabilitation of the site and first year operations.
- Created 20 Safe Parking spaces at Lane County Behavioral Health.
- Bridge Housing temporary shelter for those referred from the Coordinated Entry system to CoC programs and Diversion from Shelter projects Youth and Adults with Children

### **Increase opportunities to enhance services for frequent users**

- Continued the Frequent User Systems Engagement (FUSE) to break the cycle of incarceration and homelessness among individuals with complex behavioral health challenges. The pilot program is complete and is currently in the evaluation process. Continued funding at current capacity. Meyer Memorial Trust and Trillium grants supported FUSE project in 2018. Lane County was awarded a 5 year SAMHSA grant for 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**

- Implemented the Homeless Diversion project coordinating with school based McKinney-Vento liaisons
- Youth Homelessness Solutions Work Group incorporated 15<sup>th</sup> Night's Youth Action Council into its subcommittee structure.
- CoC applied for Youth Homelessness Demonstration Program Grant (YHDP) but was not awarded.
- Lane County received additional Housing Stabilization Program funds to expand services for at-risk households and enhanced coordination with DHS for programming.

### **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 is planned with community partners.
- Collaboration with the Lane Workforce Partnership (LWP) and Oregon Employment Department
- Implemented STEP Housing and Employment Program
- Receipt of award to fund a job developer for State Training and Employment Program (STEP).

### **Advocate for support to reduce poverty and homelessness**

- Aligned legislative work with the statewide Housing Alliance
- Successfully coordinated with Statewide Housing Alliance to advocate for increased EHA and SHAP funding.
- Advocated for Document Recording Fee
- Lane County, City of Eugene and City of Springfield staff have met to align agendas.

### **Topics and Reports**

- Public Shelter Feasibility Study
- Governor's Emergency Board Request
- Annual Point in Time (PIT) Homeless Street Count
- City of Eugene Construction Excise Tax
- CoC 2018 HUD Homeless Assistance grant
- Lane County Budget Updates
- Lane County Housing Improvement Plan (HIP) grant
- System Performance Measures Report
- Community Services Block Grant (CSBG) annual report
- Lane County Human Services Division Financial Reports
- Continuum of Care (CoC) project prioritization and ranking
- Coordinated Entry annual report
- Governance Changes, Membership, communication plan, homeless representation
- Housing First and supportive housing projects
- Jurisdiction partnerships and collaboration
- Racial Disparities in Homeless Service Provision
- Community Needs Assessment

## **Focus Areas**

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

- Implement the TAC Recommendations for Lane County's Homeless Service System
- Develop ACT team and multidisciplinary services for shelter and supportive housing
- Inform and enhance public awareness and advocacy efforts
- Expand low or no barrier emergency shelter
- Alternate legal places to shelter
- Expand Rapid Re-Housing funding and services to more quickly move people into housing

## **Challenges and Strategies**

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

- Insufficient affordable housing in the community and the extremely low vacancy rate
- The Lane County poverty rate is 21.5 percent, higher than the Oregon statewide average of 16.6 percent
- Decriminalization of homelessness
- Upstream strategies including homeless prevention and diversion.