



# Poverty and Homelessness Board

## 2019 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	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, Eugene 4J School District
9.	Faith Based Organization	Brent Was Episcopal Church of the Resurrection
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	Makayla Elliott 15 <sup>th</sup> Night and Continuum of Care Youth Action Council
15.	Victim Services	Susan Lopez Oregon Department of Human Services
	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	Ashley Espinoza Lane Workforce Partnership
19.	Mainstream Resource Provider State Department of Human Services	John Radich Oregon Department of Human Services
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@lanecountyor.gov](mailto:Steve.Manela@lanecountyor.gov)  
[Alexandria.Dreher@lanecountyor.gov](mailto:Alexandria.Dreher@lanecountyor.gov)  
[Diana.Allredge@lanecountyor.gov](mailto:Diana.Allredge@lanecountyor.gov)

## Meeting Frequency

The PHB met on the following dates:

- January 17, 2019 ..... Executive Committee
- February 21, 2019 ..... All Member
- March 21, 2019..... Executive Committee
- April 18, 2019 ..... All Member
- May 16, 2019 ..... Executive Committee
- June 20, 2019 ..... All Member
- July 18, 2019.... ..... Executive Committee
- August 15, 2019 ..... All Member
- September 19, 2019.... All Member
- October 17, 2019 ..... Executive Committee
- November 21, 2019 .... All Member

## **Committee Topics of Note/Accomplishments**

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.**

- Lane County Commissioners awarded 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 by 90. The grant funds were set in the 2018-2019 budget and are one-time Secure Rural Schools funding (\$1.5 million) and Health & Human Services LaneCare funding (\$500,000). 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); and the Commons on MLK (51 units of permanent supportive housing).
- Lane County Homes for Good and Lane County broke ground on the Commons on MLK 51 unit Permanent Supportive Housing development in November 2019. Homes for Good and Lane County continue to work on the development of 100+ units of new supportive housing.
- Lane County, Homes for Good, and Oregon Department of Human Services applied for 75 Family Unification Program (FUP) Vouchers in December 2019 and are awaiting grant award announcements. FUP vouchers are for families involved with child welfare for whom the lack of adequate housing is a primary factor in the imminent placement of the family's child, or children, in/out-of-home care, or in the delay of discharge of a child, or children, to the family from out-of-home care. FUP vouchers are also designated for youth who are between the ages of 18-24, has left foster care, or will leave foster care within 90 days, and is homeless or is at risk of becoming homeless at age 16 or older.
- 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. The Poverty and Homelessness Board continued a special Veteran’s Initiative Workgroup to manage this project. Lane County’s goals for the campaign include achieving 100% utilization of Permanent Supportive Housing (PSH) and HUD-VASH (vouchers for veterans) and increasing utilization and turnover for PSH and HUD-VASH from 2% to 5% with Move-On strategies.

### **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 shelter beds and 20 unit micro-campsite that allowed pets).
- In January 2019 Technical Assistance Collaborative (TAC) presented the results of their final Shelter Feasibility Study to the Poverty and Homelessness Board. 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.

### **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. 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**

- The Youth Homeless Solutions Workgroup was instrumental in coordinating the grant application for the Continuum of Care for the Youth Homelessness Demonstration Program Grant (YHDP) grant opportunity from the Department of Housing and Urban Development. This was Lane County’s second attempt at this grant opportunity, but Lane County was not awarded.

**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

**Advocate for 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**

- Public Shelter Feasibility Study
- TAC Implementation Steering Committee work
- Youth Homelessness Needs Assessment
- Community Needs Assessment
- Annual Point in Time (PIT) and Homeless Street Count and Housing Inventory Count (HIC)
- Continuum of Care 2019 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, 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
- LEAGUE report on Participant Feedback Sessions
- State of Homelessness Report from the Lived Experience Advisory Group for Unhoused Engagement (LEAGUE)
- Asset Limited Income Constrained Employed (ALICE) report
- Census 2020
- Lane County Resolution Declaring Homelessness an Emergency
- Healthcare Committee Report
- Community Impact

**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

**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.