

**P.A.T.H.S**  
**January 11<sup>th</sup>, 2023**  
**12:00-1:30 Dallas Academy Building, Conference Room 101, First Floor**

<b>Members</b>			
Michael Cherry, Tribal Council-Confederated Tribes of Grand Ronde	Brian Latta, City Manager-Dallas	Jeremy Gordon, Commissioner- Polk County	
Amy Houghtaling, City Council, Falls City	Rebecca Salinas-Oliveros, City Council, Monmouth	Sarah Frost, Library Director- Willamina	
Kenna West, City Manager-Independence	Ashley Hamilton, Chief Program Officer-Mid-Willamette Community Action Agency		
<b>Staff Support</b>			
Brent DeMoe, Director-Polk County Family & Community Outreach Department	Stephanie Gilbert, Program Manager- Polk County Family & Community Outreach Department	Marianne Bradshaw, Consultant	Brittany Kima, Polk County Communications Coordinator

**AGENDA**

- Public Comment Commissioner Gordon
  - No Public Comments
- Success Story Ben Smith

Ben Smith: We had been working with an unhoused client in Independence for several years, this person was a victim of domestic violence who was visible and well known to the community. Once Ben began reaching out to other agencies he discovered there were several already working with this person, including Polk County Behavioral Health. Ben began to collaborate and meet weekly with the client's peer support specialist Katie Longshore. As the person's health deteriorated Ben and Katie made more contact with law enforcement agencies in the area, who were concerned for the person's welfare and worried about the growing possibility they may die on the street. Working as a group Ben, Katie and all the other community partners involved were able to secure SSI Income, a full forensic mental health assessment, and placement in an adult foster care facility located in Lincoln city.

Brent DeMoe: Mid-Willamette Valley Community Action Agency helps enable this type of intervention in Polk County through things like the Out of the Cold Funds program that allow us to hotel people overnight in these emergency situations.

Jeremy Gordon: This type of case management seems to provide an extremely important level of flexibility, we should try to provide for more of it moving forward.

Ashley Hamilton: There is also the question of having to move someone outside of their own community in order to locate services, does this highlight a need for more adult foster care within Polk county?

Ben Smith: We also had another case where we partnered with West Valley Hospital and the care management staff there. This client was in their 70's, had diabetes, as well as a large wound on their leg that needed care. The client had been placed into a swing bed but was then discharged before Polk County FCO could make contact with them. Ben was again able to form a support network of people who already knew and were working with the client. Eventually the client's son was located and they had not been able to make contact with their parent for over 6 months and North West Senior and Disabled Services had already secured placement for the client at a memory care facility.

- Approval of Minutes/Agenda

Commissioner Gordon

Jeremy Gordon: introduced motion to approve minutes

Sarah frost: Seconded and both passed unanimously

- Website/communications quick update

Brent DeMoe

Brent DeMoe: Brittany Kima is no longer a county employee. This will delay some of the progress on the P.A.T.H.S website but the delay should not be too significant. Brittany may continue to attend P.A.T.H.S meetings in her new capacity at Western Oregon University.

Community Connect will be held on Jan 24th, from 10am - 6pm at Dallas Evangelical Church, there will be transportation from 7 different locations within Polk county. There will be a large number of service providers and community partners on site.

Ben Smith: Has been talking to different community leaders who would be able to utilize the survey we have created to help us gather data as well as doing community education about the differences between homelessness in urban areas and how it manifests in a rural community like ours and making sure we dont leave out people who may be facing eviction, living in RV's without utilities or any other forms of housing instability. One example is contact with a community store in Independence who is willing to both train and pay his employees to fill out the survey. The store is a hot spot for many people who may be facing eviction or unable to pay for their energy bills or other expenses. Overall the more people we have involved with, and aware of the point in time count the better the engagement with and data gathered from the PIT count will be.

Ashley Hamilton: Should shelters be open on Monday January 23rd since that is the night of the Pit count?

Ben Smith: Only if the weather demands it since a large portion of the unhoused population will be counted as sheltered if they stay in a warming shelter that night.

- Confederated Tribes of Grand Ronde Housing Project

Michael Cherry, CTGR

Michael Cherry presented information about the Confederated Tribes of Grand Ronde housing project. The presentation is linked below.

[Confederated Tribes of Grand Ronde Housing Project Presentation](#)

- Work Group for Strategic Plan

Commissioner Gordon

Jeremy Gordon: Would like to present the strategic plan at the next meeting for group feedback. There will also be some small work sessions formed to help with this process. If you are interested in hearing more about this please reach out, it would be about a 3 hour commitment.

Brian Latta: Is interested.

Jeremy Gordon: Is interested.

Sarah Frost: Is interested.

Amy Houghtaling: Is interested.

Michael Cherry: Is interested.

Kenna West: Is interested.

Brent DeMoe: Ben Smith, Kyle Brock, and Stephanie Gilbert and myself will also be available to help as needed.

- Updates from Marianne Bradshaw

Discussion –All Members

Marianne Bradshaw: Marianne would like to request a longer period of time at the next meeting. Forming a strategic plan requires fully understanding the challenges being faced. The next step in this process is connecting with the community and collecting feedback. Community connect would be a great time to do this and Marianne would like to attend and set up a table to take advantage of this opportunity to listen.

Brent DeMoe: We should also utilize facebook to survey the community and gather this feedback simultaneously.

- Municipality updates from members

Discussion –All Members

Brian Latta: Brian had a conversation with the executive director of Home Share Oregon. The organization is focused on matching people who are facing housing instability with funding to help them stabilize, if they share their homes with someone who is unhoused. Brian will also be attending training on how public spaces can and cannot be regulated when it comes to their use by those experiencing homelessness. This topic continues to change and develop as it moves through the courts. We also have received permits for Edgar Hall and will be able to move our first family in soon.

Amy Houghtaling: Wants to make sure everyone remembers SNAP benefits will be reduced in March after the COVID-related funding expires.

Michael Cherry: Anyone who would like to see more of the Housing Project is always welcome to take a tour.

Ashley Hamilton: If we are able to implement pallet shelters in Polk County then it would be a natural fit with Ben's form of case management and intervention. Ashley has also been working with Marianne on the information session and work group for the YHDP shelters coming to Polk County. This will be hosted in the central area, possibly at one of the schools and will be open to the public.

Rebecca Salinas-Oliveros: Is remaining detached from the listening session and other parts of the process in order to avoid bias and restrict her access to information so that she can still participate in any votes on the topic.

Sarah Frost: There is now 100% buy-in from the city council to address homelessness within Willamina. Sarah and the city council will be working to win over the community next.

Jeremy Gordon: The Mid-Willamette Valley Homeless Alliance will be gathering some feedback about data quality and data recording and how the COC is doing on these topics.

- Adjourn