



In Attendance:
Ann Marie Alfrey, Carrie Borgen, Stacy Brubaker, Alex Campbell, Delcia Dillard, Angela Durant, Debra Crawford, Amanda Doemland, Sam Engel, Jason Elzy, Mary Ferrell, Barbara Johnson, Debra Lee, Kim Overson, Tina Smith, and Nate Sickler
Legislative Liaison:
Representative Pam Marsh
Staff:
Melanie Doshier, Melissa Markos, and Noah Werthaiser.
Guests:
Lisa Trauernicht
Absent:
Tina Kessell, Matt Rogers, Linda Reid, Kimberlee Whitney, and City of Medford Representative

- I. **Welcome & Call to Order** – Chair Elzy called the meeting to order at 2:04 PM.
- II. **Roll Call** – A quorum was reached with 16 of 21 members present.
- III. **Consent Agenda** – September 4 and October 2, 2024 Board minutes were approved as submitted.
- IV. **Public Comments** – none.
- V. **Jackson County Continuum of Care Gaps Analysis** - Lisa Trauernicht presented the first GAPS analysis for the CoC. Highlights included:
 - The GAPS analysis is a HUD requirement to inform community planning and decision-making regarding housing and homeless services.
 - The analysis highlights significant gaps in emergency shelter availability, particularly for vulnerable populations such as seniors and those with mental health or addiction issues.
 - It emphasizes the need for improved data accuracy in HMIS and coordinated entry systems to better understand community needs and resource allocation.
 - The analysis highlights specific needs within the community, such as mental health services and housing for vulnerable populations.**The GAPS analysis consists of two main sections: system infrastructure and service delivery:**
 - The system infrastructure section evaluates CoC's organizational structure and compliance with HUD requirements, including using the HMIS and CES processes.
 - The service delivery section focuses on the availability and effectiveness of housing resources, mental health services, and support for special populations, highlighting gaps in services for seniors, youth, and individuals with co-occurring conditions.

Key gaps identified in HMIS usage, PIT count methodology, coordinated entry, and CoC funding:

- Inconsistent HMIS data reporting among member organizations leads to incomplete and inaccurate information, hindering effective decision-making and resource allocation.
- The PIT count methodology lacks a standardized approach, resulting in potential inaccuracies in the homeless population data collected, which affects funding and service planning.
- CoC funding heavily relies on emergency orders and specific organizations, raising concerns about sustainability and the need for diversified funding sources to support ongoing services.

Housing and Population Data - Challenges in quantifying bed counts and housing inventory include:

- Inconsistent definitions among providers regarding what constitutes emergency shelter versus transitional housing, leading to discrepancies in reported numbers.
- Variability in funding allocation allows organizations to adjust bed counts based on changing needs, complicating the relationship between funding and actual available beds.
- The reliance on HMIS data, which is often inaccurate or incomplete, hinders the ability to obtain a clear and comprehensive picture of the housing inventory and bed availability in the community.
- Emergency shelters in Jackson County face a significant shortfall, with a reported need for additional 464 beds to effectively accommodate the unhoused population.
- Transitional housing lacks sufficient support systems, leading to individuals not being prepared to move into permanent housing, as there is often no bridge for continuous case management after transitional stays.
- Permanent housing options are limited, with long waiting lists for both subsidized and unsubsidized housing, exacerbated by an aging population that struggles with affordability and availability.
- There is a growing trend of seniors experiencing homelessness for the first time due to rising living costs and insufficient income from Social Security or disability benefits.
- Anecdotal evidence suggests that many seniors are entering homelessness after facing health issues or major life changes, highlighting the need for targeted support services.
- Current data collection methods, such as HMIS, do not adequately capture the complexities of senior homelessness, necessitating improved methodologies to better understand and address their needs.
- The need for better data visualization and synthesis was highlighted in the discussion.
- There is a desire for clear, visual representations of demand versus supply in homelessness services to identify gaps effectively.
- Improved data synthesis could facilitate better understanding of community needs and enhance decision-making for resource allocation.

Discussed needs of domestic violence survivors and LGBTQIA population:

- The need for specialized housing options for domestic violence survivors is critical, as many face long waiting lists and inadequate resources to escape abusive situations.

- LGBTQIA individuals often experience discrimination and fear when seeking services, highlighting the necessity for safe and inclusive support systems tailored to their unique needs.
- Both populations require access to comprehensive support services, including mental health care and legal assistance, to address the complex challenges they face in securing stable housing and safety.

Highlighted gaps in services for seniors and individuals with dementia:

- Increased number of seniors experiencing homelessness due to rising living costs and insufficient income from Social Security and disability benefits.
- Lack of adequate support services for seniors with dementia, leading to difficulties in accessing housing and care options.
- Need for improved coordination between housing providers and healthcare services to address the unique challenges faced by elderly individuals and those with cognitive impairments.
- The discussion highlighted the necessity for improved collaboration with adult aging and disability services to address the needs of vulnerable populations.
- There is a growing concern about the increasing number of seniors experiencing homelessness, particularly those with disabilities or health issues.
- Effective coordination could enhance seniors' access to resources and support, ensuring they receive appropriate care and housing solutions.

VI. **Future Agenda Building** – a) November 15th strategic planning meeting with John Bowling; b) Matt Havnear will give a presentation and proposal at December’s meeting on the Long-Term Recovery Group and Housing Pipeline work; c) Discuss/Approve the Point-in-Time Count process; and d) funding stream updates.

VII. **Good of the Order**

- Planning and resources are essential to the success of the PIT, which the Regional Planning Workgroup will coordinate.
- November’s consent agenda will include a list of performance measures.
- Jason announced the opening of Orchard Homes and Prescott Gardens (one by North Medford High School and one by South Medford). These developments add 196 new housing units and prioritize fire survivors. ACCESS is managing referral and placement.
- The meeting ended with positive feedback on the first annual general membership meeting.
- Melissa will contact John Bowling to determine if non-board members can attend the strategic planning meeting. If board members cannot attend, they may send a representative.

VIII. **Adjourn** – meeting adjourned at 3:33 PM

Next Executive Committee Meeting: Wednesday, November 20, 2024 @ 2:00 – 3:00 PM

Strategic Planning: Friday, November 15, 2024 @ 9 AM – 4 PM (in person only)

Next Board Meeting: December 4, 2024 @ 2:00 – 4:00 PM