Statewide Oregon Unhoused Response & Recovery Network for COVID-19 and Wildfires

Winter and Warming Shelter Strategy and Local Planning Efforts

Meeting Objective

DATE: **Friday, October 22nd, 2021**
TIME: 1:00pm – 2:15pm
Meeting Recording

Objectives:
- Help connect people / organizations interested in supporting winter – warming shelter to the local planning body and learn about what efforts are underway
- Bring awareness of what resources may be available to support winter – warming shelter such as resources from Oregon Housing & Community Services Homeless Service Section
- Provide information on best practices for winter – warming shelter and facilitate a peer network of share learning
- Provide public health related information and know where to go for locally to follow-up

Agenda

Introductions, Welcome, and Updates – *5 min*	Connor McDonnell
Building Intentional Partnerships for Winter & Warming Shelter– 10 *min*	Christina Zamora, Executive Director of Klamath & Lake Community Action Services
Winter Shelter Resources & Planning– 20 *min* *CAPO Response to Winter Warming PPT.*	Mike Savara, Assistant Director of Homeless Services at Oregon Housing & Community Services; Ashley Hamilton, Program Director at ARCHES/MWVCAA
Public Health Considerations: Lessons Learned from Last Year's Winter-Warming and Review of Guidance– 10 min	Neeti Vyas, Congregate Care Setting Epidemiologist with the Oregon Health Authority (OHA)
Facilitated Conversation and Questions & Answer by CoC Geographic Areas – *30*	

Summary and Resources from meeting

- How many year-round low-barrier shelter beds does each Continuum of Care (CoC) have?
  - There is not a definitive place to get statewide information on shelter beds across the entire state. Each CoC in Oregon should have information on shelter beds in their given area as they provide this information to HUD on an annual basis and are responsible for tracking homeless services in their given geographic area.

  - As well, the Statewide Shelter Study has good information on shelter bed accessibility and data sharing on shelter (Via 2019) and highlights that there is not robust and coordinated shelter system across Oregon and that Oregon has one of the highest rates of unsheltered homelessness in the country.

- o Other suggested that shelter beds vary wildly across the state and fluctuates from year to year based on local and state funding resources available. As a policy objective we really need to encourage all shelter providers to be as low barrier as possible. There's been a good amount of movement on that in the last couple years, but there's a lot of room still for improvement.

- o We don't have any year-round low barrier shelters in our service area. The warming center and emergency shelter provided by the Klamath Tribes are both low barriers.

- Other items raised during presentations in the chat during the facilitated portion of the agenda, here are the questions that were asked:
  - What is your communities planning structure for standing up and coordinating shelter?
  - How are you providing access and culturally appropriate services to people of color in your winter & warming shelter?
  - What adjustments/considerations are being made with COVID? (i.e. volunteers considerations, PPE, congregate & non-congregate space)
  - What technical assistance are you looking for?

  - o Important to make seniors and people with disabilities have equal access to shelter

  - o Marion County Local organizations are actively working on compiling regional library of information and blueprints on shelter services. We would be happy to share the work and continue the conversation state-wide

  - o The importance of the local emergency sheltering planning committee whether organized by the Continuum of Care, Community Action Agency, or other entity be coordinated with the local emergency management department such as the Mass Care unit and health related organized such as the Local Public Health Authority, Federally Qualified Health Clinics / Community Clinics, and the Coordinated Care Organization

  - o Importance of peer mentoring across communities to ensure that best practices and processes for creating and operating winter - warming - extreme weather sheltering can be shared such as template of low-barrier shelter rules, agreements with hotels, budgets, and other information would be useful