

Ruth Stellmacher

From: Karlynn Wierer <karlynnhuling@msn.com>
Sent: Saturday, January 22, 2022 11:07 AM
To: CityRecorder
Subject: Homeless micro shelter locations

I would like to comment on the possible locations for micro shelters. I think that the location at Front and Hood is the best location since it is near services for the homeless and is not situated on an extremely busy road.

The location on Turner Road seems unfair to the people who live in the manufactured home park next to Cascades Gateway Park. They have already had to deal with problems created by allowing homeless camping in the park. It could be a good location, but only if it is supported by the neighbors.

The location near Safeway on Center Street may be unsafe and noisy due to its location right next to the train tracks and a busy intersection.

Karlynn Wierer
Salem, Oregon

Sent from [Mail](#) for Windows

Ruth Stellmacher

From: Meagan Shepherd <mshepherd314@gmail.com>
Sent: Saturday, January 22, 2022 1:54 PM
To: CityRecorder
Subject: Houseless Individuals

I urge the consideration of direct assistance programs as an alternative to the proposed towing "solution". Many of these individuals are likely using these 'abandoned' rvs as squat sites or temporary shelter from the environment. Making the ugly problem disappear doesn't actually help unless the issue is solved at its core. I may not know the absolute best course of action but I have to believe we can find a more moral one. Part of the perpetual cycle of poverty/houselessness is due to the barriers put in place on existing assistance forms; how can someone receive food stamps if they can't list a home address?

Oftentimes those in this situation don't want to be there, and oftentimes they are unaware of and not made aware of specific options that may be helpful to them. I think a more cost effective and humane course of action is a more interpersonal one. Talk to them. Ask them how you can both solve the issues at hand. Stop being so disparaging. Offer kindness.

Ruth Stellmacher

From: SARAH OWENS <hlowens2@msn.com>
Sent: Sunday, January 23, 2022 7:05 AM
To: CityRecorder
Cc: Michael Livingston
Subject: Item 21-551 on 1/24/22 City Council Mtg
Attachments: Item 21-551 Comment.pdf

Dear City Council and any City Staff and Interested Citizens who may be reading this:

In discussing this agenda item, "City service and investment in response to the homelessness emergency", specifically, in deciding whether to expend funds to prepare new "micro-village" sites, you may be tempted to speak to the "success" of "micro-villages" in moving participants into Transitional Housing, Rapid Rehousing, and Permanent Supportive Housing programs. We ask that you NOT do this until you have information from an INDEPENDENT, UNBIASED source, such as an HMIS Data Administrator. A lot of figures have been shared with and by the City, but they do not present an accurate picture of the "micro-villages" success, and they have been MISUNDERSTOOD and MISINTERPRETED. As a result, a MISIMPRESSION of their effectiveness has captured Salem's imagination and corrective action by City leadership is called for.

For details, please see the attached blog post.

Sarah Owens and Michael Livingston

CANDO Archive

The weblog of the Central Area Neighborhood Organization in Salem,
Oregon

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Saturday, January 22, 2022

When is a shed = shelter?

By Sarah Owens and Michael Livingston

Livables, based out of Salem, are twice as insulated and can be used on sites without power. Livables can also have more than two beds to accommodate families with children.



Pallet Shelters, based out of Tacoma, Washington, have two beds; a heater unit can be purchased for sites with power.

"Ambiguous Sleeping Locations"

Why, when Janet Carlson says it is!

Janet Carlson is the paid Board Administrator for the Mid-Willamette Valley Homeless Alliance and its weird twin, the ORS 190 Entity. Let's call them the Alliance. See "MWV Homeless Alliance Launches in Pandemic." (25 May 2020)

In addition to being the Alliance's Board Administrator, Carlson is also a former Marion County Commissioner. She lives in Idaho.

Last week, Carlson authorized Jan Calvin, a paid Alliance consultant/contractor who lives in Salem, to reverse the decision of the Alliance's Point-in-Time Count (PIT) Workgroup co-chairs that those sleeping in Salem's "micro-shelters" on Portland Road NE should be counted as "unsheltered" for purposes of the PIT Count. This blog will explore the reasons for and implications of the reversal.

The Alliance is a "Continuum of Care" organized in 2020 to carry out the purposes of HUD's CoC Program, described in 24 CFR Part 578. Conducting the PIT Count is one of its responsibilities. However, the Alliance assigned that responsibility to the Mid-Willamette Valley Community Action Agency (MWVCAA), which happens to be the Alliance's duly designated "Homeless Management Information System (HMIS) Coordination Entity."

One of the PIT Workgroup co-chairs works for Church at the Park, which operates Salem's "micro-

shelter" program, and the other works for MWVCAA/The Arches Project. Their decision was based on HUD guidance and an inspection. First the guidance: HUD allows persons sleeping in "ambiguous sleeping locations" such as Salem's "micro-shelters" to be counted as sheltered when they are:

...[O]n a campus maintained by an organization, such as a governmental entity, nonprofit, or religious organization, where toilets, showers, and communal food preparation or food service areas are provided. CPD Notice 21-12, 15 November 2021 at page 29.

However, "special considerations" apply, namely, "the campus must have enough toilets and showers per capita for the resident population within a reasonable distance from the units to count the residents as sheltered", and, because Salem's "regular seasonal patterns fall below 32 degrees or above 100 degrees Fahrenheit", "the unit must have heat or air conditioning to be counted as sheltered." CPD Notice 21-12.

The inspection of 2640 Portland Road NE ("Village of Hope" or DMV) found built-in heat, but only 1 toilet per 13 residents and 1 shower per 65 residents. Conclusion: not enough toilets or showers to count as "sheltered." The inspection of 3737 Portland Road NE (CCS) found 1 toilet per 9 residents and 1 shower per 7.5 residents, but portable heaters (extension cords) for leaky, sometimes moldy, units. Conclusion: heating insufficient to count as "sheltered" (cooling capacity not mentioned).

The decision to reverse was not based on an inspection, but on "information from other CoC's [sic] and consultation with HUD." Reasons as such were not given, but the text of the email communicating the decision (set out in its entirety at the end of the blog) seems to say that reversal was required by the absence of *HUD-established* "ratio-based criteria" as to how many showers and toilets are "enough" (though others have figured this out), and *HUD standards* for whether Salem's "regular seasonal patterns fall below 32 degrees or above 100 degrees Fahrenheit" (she must have missed Salem's years-long controversy over warming). In sum, the consultant/contractor found:

The resources invested in these emergency sheltering communities move people from unsheltered to a place with *sufficient* weather protection and sanitary accommodations to consider them sheltered. [Emphasis added.]

The first thing one notices about the decision to reverse is that it seems to be a *policy* decision made by *contractors*. Contractors who religiously bring such routine decisions as accepting committee members' resignations to the Board. Yet *this* decision was *not* taken to the Board.

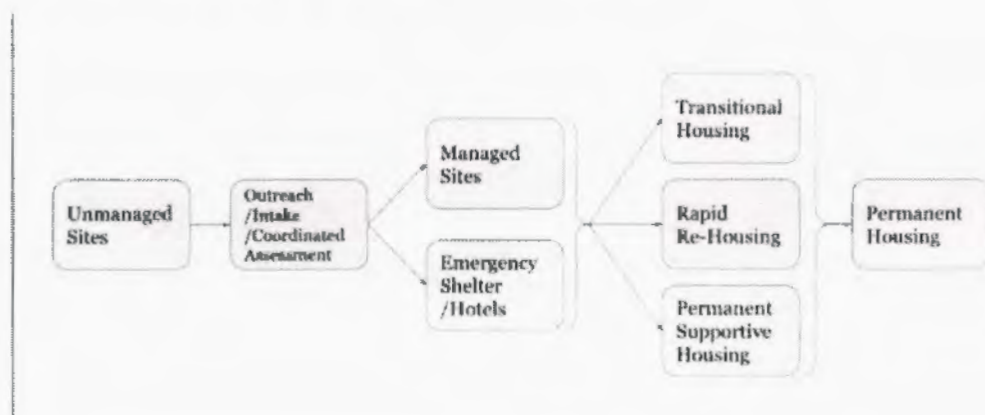
Another thing that stands out is that their decision gave no deference whatsoever to, or even acknowledged the role of, the Alliance's PIT Workgroup or its HMIS Coordination Entity, to whom the Alliance had given responsibility for the PIT. It even suggests that the co-chairs' decision was somehow a "discount" of Salem's "efforts to move individuals and families toward housing stability." Such disrespect, and that is not too strong a word here, is contrary to the Alliance's mission and purpose, the success of which depends utterly on gaining the goodwill and cooperation of homeless services providers whose committee work is in *in addition to* all their regular duties, which goodwill and cooperation is by *no* means guaranteed at this point in the

Alliance's development. Trust and cooperation are *not* built by politically-motivated, ham-handed tactical maneuvering.

The last thing worth a mention is that, by reversing the co-chairs' decision, the contractors removed a perhaps strong incentive to address the defects that the co-chairs identified and thereby improve the situation for program participants. Want the "micro-shelter village" to qualify as emergency shelter? Bring in more toilets and showers. Do something about the heating situation. In other words, the decision to reverse may well have *hurt* those the Alliance exists to *help*.

The Alliance might have, but has not so far, developed minimum standards for what constitutes "emergency shelter." Thus the contractors' decision has implications beyond the PIT in that it will, in all likelihood, mean that Salem's "micro-shelters" will be classified in HMIS and counted as "emergency housing" for purposes of the Housing Inventory Count (HIC), along with UGM Men's Mission, UGM's Simonka Place, Safe Sleep United, The Arches Inn, Sheltering Silverton, Family Promise, etc. Thus, the contractors' decision is likely to affect the Alliance's "statistics" in non-trivial ways -- for example, its HMIS bed coverage rate, bed usage rate and system performance metrics.

The contractors' decision will also affect the way Salem looks at Salem's "micro-village" program outcomes. Church at the Park (CATP) operates Salem's "micro-villages" with periodic grants from the City of Salem. CATP has indicated variously that its goal is to move participants to "more permanent housing destinations", "positive destinations", "positive exit destinations", and "more permanent locations", and uses the below chart to illustrate.



The chart implies participants are moving from CATP's "managed sites" (which include duration warming (= sheltered) and vehicle camping (= unsheltered)) into housing of some sort. A *Statesman Journal* story reported 18 people moving from the DMV site into "stable housing" and "67% of households [*sic*]" from CCS had moved into "more permanent destinations." Woodworth, W. "Salem officials consider next sites for micro-shelter villages for homeless." (3 January 2022, *Statesman Journal*.) Councilor Phillips said at the 18 January work session, "The testimony from DJ Vincent during our last session in terms of the first year metrics on the micro-shelter sites that are managed is that we ended homelessness for about a hundred people" (at 22') and was not corrected. In short, Salem thinks managed sites are moving people into housing.

In fact, based on HMIS information provided by CATP, *most* program (both DMV and CCS) participants exiting to "more permanent locations" have exited to something *other than* the three housing classifications shown on the above chart, whether to emergency shelter, hotel, residential treatment facility or detox, friends or family (hardly more permanent). Thus only 29% of DMV exits (versus the reported 37%) and only 8% of CCS exits (versus the reported 61%) were to type of housing advertised. The figures would like be even lower if calculated by household, but CATP did not provide that information. See the chart at the end of the blog.

Classifying "micro-villages" as "emergency shelter" would make moving from them to other forms of emergency shelter a lateral move, not "more permanent." Those thinking, well, we all know "micro-villages" are subpar shelter must bear in mind that HMIS does not recognize gradations in the quality of emergency shelter. In HMIS, ES is just ES.

How will we know if this is an effective strategy to reduce homelessness?

C@P collects an abundance of data on every single person using our services utilizing the community's Homeless Management Information System (HMIS). We review our data weekly and are always looking for ways to improve service delivery to meet our target outcomes.

CATP "Micro-Shelter Communities" FAQs

The big unanswered question here is why CATP feels the need, if it does, to be classified as an emergency shelter, or to prove that "micro-villages" are "an effective strategy to reduce homelessness." Is it not enough that they offer *some degree of comfort and safety*? That they offer folks who have difficulty meeting social demands of Salem's emergency shelters a way to reconnect? See Harrell, S. "Relationship building is key to Church at the Park's model in tackling homelessness." (6 December 2021, *Salem Reporter*.) Certainly, few true emergency shelters could prove they are an effective strategy to reduce homelessness, nor do they feel the need. They just do the best they can. Perhaps if CATP had not felt this unnecessary pressure to be what it is not, and to prove what probably cannot be proved, this controversy would not have arisen. While it is still possible to correct this bad decision, people have their ideas and people are stubborn.

No doubt some will try to have it both ways -- that is, count the "micro-villages" as emergency shelter *and* count a move from them to a *true* emergency shelter as "more permanent." And that's fine, if what we want to do is game the system so as to paint the rosiest possible picture for public consumption in order to make providers and donors and government officials, etc. feel better. The alternative would be to focus on getting the best information one can about Salem's homeless services delivery system, and then communicating that information with as much focus as possible on the nature and extent of the problems, so that those problems can be addressed. Nothing about this is easy. Salem needs less obfuscation and cheer-leading, and more clear vision and leadership.

I have gathered information from other CoC's and consultations with HUD and determined that the people residing in the micro shelter villages operated by Church at the Park should be counted as sheltered.

While we would all wish for permanent housing for everyone and more robust sanitation services, these structures, collectively operated in clusters with restrooms, showers (on site and mobile), and food meet the HUD criteria for emergency shelter. The resources invested in these emergency sheltering communities move people from unsheltered to a place with sufficient weather protection and sanitary accommodations to consider them sheltered.

HUD has not established a ratio based criteria that would guide a different interpretation of having "enough" toilets and showers per capita or similarly, standards that define "regular" seasonal patterns that fall below 32 degrees or above 100 degrees Fahrenheit.

The micro shelter villages operated by Church at the Park provide toilets, showers, and communal food service areas. In addition, each micro shelter is heated.

As our region continues to elevate our individual and collective responses to the realities faced by those who are homeless, it is in our best interest to raise the bar and also to not discount efforts that move individuals and families toward housing stability.

text of Jan Calvin's 1/19 decision

Church Day Center: Jan 1, 2021 - Jan 6, 2022		Positive Exit Destinations; VOH: April 18, 2021 - Jan 1, 2022		TH/R RH/P SH
Total People Served	90	Rental by client, no ongoing subsidy	2	2
Exits to More Permanent Locations	22	Rental by client, other ongoing subsidy	4	4
Number of Time Day Room was Utilized	221	Permanent Housing (other than RRH) for formerly homeless persons	2	
VOH: April 18, 2021 - Jan 6, 2022		Staying or living with family, permanent tenure	1	
Total People Served	106	Staying or living with friends, permanent tenure	1	
Total Number of Exits	54	Rental by client, with RRH or equivalent subsidy	1	1
Exits to More Permanent Locations	20	Rental by client in a public housing unit	1	1
Percentage of Exits With Positive Destinations	37%	Emergency shelter, including hotel or motel paid for with emergency shelter voucher	4	
Total Number of Current Residents	51	Staying or living with friends, temporary tenure (e.g., room apartment or house)	1	
CCS: Sept. 6, 2021 - Jan 6, 2022		Hotel or motel paid for without emergency shelter voucher	1	
Total People Served	107 (62 Adults, 45 Children)	Substance abuse treatment facility or detox center	1	
Total Number of Exits	28	Total:	19	8
Exits to More Permanent Locations	17	Percent all Exits to TH, RRH or PSH		29%
Percentage of Exits With Positive Destinations	61%	Positive Exit Destinations CCS: Sept. 6, 2021 - Jan 1, 2022		
Total Number of Current Residents	79	Emergency shelter, including hotel or motel paid for with emergency shelter or voucher	8	
VOH Indoor Warming Oct 18, 2021 - Jan 6, 2022		Transitional housing for homeless persons (including homeless youth)	4	4
Total People Served	65	Hotel or motel paid for without emergency shelter voucher	1	
Total Number of Exits	50	Substance abuse treatment facility or detox center	1	
Exits to More Permanent Locations	17	Residential project or halfway house with no homeless criteria	3	
Percentage of Exits With Positive Destinations	34%	Total:	17	4
Outreach May, 2021 - Jan 6, 2022		Percent Exits to TH, RRH or PSH		8%
Total People Served	388	*are any of these in the same household?		

Church at the Park's HMIS-sourced Report + Our #s in pink

Labels: MWVHA, politics

No comments:

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When is a shed = shelter?

CANDO Board records

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January 2019 Revision

The CANDO Archive was revised substantially in December 2018 and January 2019 to update links, add labels to facilitate searching, correct formatting, and remove outdated information. Sarah Owens and Michael Livingston

Old City Records

The CANDO Archive contains links that broke when the City "turned off" its old website on February 6, 2019. The linked documents can still be obtained through a public records request. It will help to submit a copy of the link with the request.

City Recorder: cityrecorder@cityofsalem.net

City Recorder: 503-588-6097

Make a public records request [here](#)

Disclaimer

The views expressed in individual blog posts are those of the author(s) and do not reflect the official position of the CANDO Board of Directors, unless that is specifically indicated in the blog post.

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Ruth Stellmacher

From: Laurie Hall <laurietpc@yahoo.com>
Sent: Sunday, January 23, 2022 11:08 AM
To: CityRecorder
Cc: Laurie Hall
Subject: Shelter villages

City Council members-

Why not put one of the new shelter villages in Marion Park downtown?

Obviously, much of the homeless population is already there, the property is already owned by the city, and it is close to resources at Arches & the Mission.

Seems like a very simple, obvious option to me.

Laurie Hall

Sent from Yahoo Mail for iPad

Ruth Stellmacher

From: DJ Vincent <dj@church-at-the-park.org>
Sent: Monday, January 24, 2022 1:50 PM
To: citycouncil
Subject: Positive Destinations and Micro-shelter communities
Attachments: C@P Micro-Shelter Communities Flyer.pdf

City Council Members,

Thank you for your continued engagement in supporting our unsheltered neighbors. Attached you will find an overview of the Micro-Shelter Communities operated by Church at the Park with opportunities for expansion.

And per the council's request, we wanted to give more detail on the positive exits from our shelter locations (below). We track all of our data in the community's homeless management information system (HMIS) and will continue to monitor our effectiveness over time.

Village of Hope @ 2640 Portland Rd., serving adults only (9 months of operation):

- 63% of positive exits were to permanent housing
- 36% of positive exits were to temporary housing
- 5% of positive exits were to recovery resources

CCS @ 3737 Portland Rd., serving families (3 months of operation):

- 76% of positive exits were to transitional housing
- 24% of positive exits were to recovery resources

Please don't hesitate to reach out with any questions! We are honored to serve our unsheltered neighbors in this way.

Thank you,

DJ Vincent
503.949.2124
Pastor & Founder
Church-at-the-Park.org
https://youtu.be/-IsG_2QulyQ

CHURCH @ THE PARK

MICRO SHELTER COMMUNITIES

DESCRIPTION:

In partnership with the City of Salem, hundreds of community members, and partner providers, Church at the Park (C@P) is addressing the lack of shelter capacity in Salem by operating safe, sanitary, and supported sites for people to park and be sheltered in micro structures. Each site offers the support of 24/7 staffing, onsite wrap-around services, and is fully enclosed with fencing to ensure safety of guests.

After nine months of operation, 37% of individuals exiting Village of Hope transitioned to positive destinations. In three months of operation, 72% of people exiting CCS transitioned to positive destinations.

OBJECTIVE:

By increasing shelter availability, C@P will support our unsheltered neighbors move from homelessness to housing.

OPPORTUNITY:

- Over 250 individual donors have contributed financially over \$635,000 toward the purchase of an additional **127 micro-shelters**.
- There are 4 feasible sites for hosting Micro-Shelter Communities, with the possibility of adding 120 shelter beds, supporting 320 beds total.

INVESTMENT NEEDED:

START UP / ONE TIME COSTS per site:

- **investment needed:** \$175,000 for site preparations
- **investment secured:** \$240,000 for micro-shelters

OPERATION COSTS per guest:

- **investment needed:** \$1,600 / guest / month
- for the ideal shelter size of between 40 - 120 guests, investment ranges from \$64,000 - \$192,000 per site per month.



Monday, January 24, 2022

RE Council Agenda Item 5.c. 21-551 City Service Investment in response to the homelessness emergency

Comments Regarding Proposed Micro-Shelter Site Locations:

Thank you to Church at the Park, Gretchen Bennett, and those who have stepped up to diligently seek sites and volunteer their own properties for this needed use. Our city is in desperate need for all types of housing and we should be working to get these micro-shelter sites up and running as quickly as possible. We know the need is great, even greater than all three of these proposed sites combined. So, as a community, we need to find more sites north, south, east, and west.

As Church at the Park has been providing services in its' current location on Turner Road for some time, it is not a new site. As a proposed location for micro-shelters, it is a no-brainer, the allocation of funds should be approved. Center Street, and Front Street will hopefully one day be the location of multi-family housing. However, given our circumstances, the temporary use as micro-shelters should be approved.

Other than Church at the Park, Northeast Salem - particularly Ward 1 - holds the vast majority of homeless services as well as shelters. It is well past time for the rest of our community to share in providing this service. Unsheltered people live in every sector of our city, there should be micro-shelters in every sector as well.

Each current city councilor should be using their contacts and supporters to find sites in their own ward. There is no excuse for failure to walk the talk. This is a region-wide issue and it is beyond inequitable to continue the ways of the past by placing all services in the lowest income areas of our city. We have to do better. Even though staff has been working very hard, councilors cannot pass the buck to city staff to get this done.

These three proposed sites are a great start but will not provide enough shelter to address the need. We need sites in all wards and we need our community leaders to make it happen. Today, those leaders are this council.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'A. Terpening', with a stylized, flowing script.

Aaron Terpening