

RESOLUTION NO. 2019-17

A RESOLUTION TO SUPPORT WITHDRAWAL FROM THE RURAL OREGON CONTINUUM OF CARE AND ESTABLISHING A REGIONAL CONTINUUM OF CARE FOR THE MID-WILLAMETTE REGION

Whereas, homelessness is a critical issue in the Mid-Willamette region, in Oregon, and across the nation; and

Whereas, more than 2,600 homeless individuals in Marion and Polk counties were identified through evidence-based assessments between October 2016 and January 2019; and

Whereas, children, families, veterans, and chronically homeless individuals experiencing mental illness and addictions comprise a large portion of the region's homeless population; and

Whereas, the Mid-Willamette Homeless Initiative was established in 2016 "to identify and launch proven strategies to reduce homelessness" in the region; and

Whereas, the Mid-Willamette Homeless Initiative's strategic plan recommended that the region "assess local inclusion in the Rural Oregon Continuum of Care to understand how best to address the problems of homelessness and needs of people experiencing homelessness;" and

Whereas, the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development created the Continuum of Care program in 1994 as a means for communities across the nation to "engage in multi-year strategic planning for homeless programs and services that are well integrated with planning for mainstream services;" mainstream services denoting public housing, Section 8 housing choice vouchers, and services for runaway and homeless youth, victims of domestic violence, veterans, seniors, and people experiencing addictions and/or mental illness; and

Whereas, in 2011, the Marion-Polk Continuum of Care joined 26 Oregon counties in the "balance of state" Rural Oregon Continuum of Care; and

Whereas, the Mid-Willamette Homeless Initiative Steering Committee carefully considered relevant factors and determined that the region could benefit from creating its own Continuum of Care, with enhanced service coordination, local autonomy, and alignment of goals to more effectively reduce homelessness in the region;

NOW, THEREFORE, THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF SALEM, OREGON, RESOLVES AS FOLLOWS:

Section 1. The City of Salem hereby supports establishing a Continuum of Care for the Mid-Willamette region and supports the new Continuum of Care registering with the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development in 2020.

Section 2. This resolution is effective upon adoption.

ADOPTED by the City Council this 10th day of June 2019.

ATTEST:

City Recorder

Approved by City Attorney: _____

Checked by: K.Retherford