

MID-WILLAMETTE HOMELESS INITIATIVE
PUBLIC COMMENT

- 6/24/16 Gretchen Bennett, City of Salem Human Rights and Relations/Federal Compliance Coordinator - added to Interested Persons list.
- There is a need for more homeless housing/shelters with accommodations for pets.
- 6/28/16 Crystal Ignatowski - added to Interested Persons list.
- My name is Crystal I work for a company called Surety Solutions. We are partnering with a local upcycling company called Nuvoglas and launching a Kickstarter campaign to help the homeless in Marion/Polk county by creating and providing jobs. Our hope is that we can create a job training program to empower these individuals to break the cycle of homelessness and ultimately change their lives.
 - I just took a tour of the Women at the Well Grace House and Missy Townsend said you guys are doing great things and that I should reach out to you. Would you be willing to share some of your knowledge and experience of helping in the community so we can begin to develop this project? Nuvoglas and I hope to launch this project via a crowdfunding website at the end of July. So we are working double time to make this dream a reality!
- 6/30/16 Ann Watters - added to Interested Persons list.
- I had an experience today. i saw a man with pants at half-mast talking to himself with a blanket tucked in his arms. Knat toothed and obviously distraught and mentally ill walking down state street. Who do I call? I did not want to call the police. The police are on overload with these calls I am sure. 911 no not the correct place to call? Who ..there are so many agencies..unify.
 - Bring representatives from all agencies government, VA , welfare, charities, churches, mental health, social services etc.. Together have representatives from each resource available for folks that are brought in through outreach vans or just brought in by citizens, police, anyone who has found someone adult, teen or child that needs assistance any kind. The lead representative will sort the need and send the person to the correct person sitting at a table or desk that can process the person and get them help. Doctors and nurses need to be on sight also. Ambulance available if needed. This needs to be a charitable organization funded by grants or funded by corporations. Without some CEO raking in all the money like goodwill or united way. Cooperation and unity are needed to get these folks help. Medical, jobs, food, a place to sleep. Rehabilitation of people comes thru caring about them not ignoring them.
- 7/1/16 Tim Buckley - added to Interested Persons list.
- Question referred to Warren Bednarz, Affordable Housing subcommittee.
 - Any particulars you can give me about the affordable housing project would be useful. Is it designed to satisfy any one population, i.e. families, single parents with kids, people with former prison time, people coming back from substance abuse treatment? Are there at this point any groups specifically NOT included, such as sex offenders, arsonists, etc?

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- I have been developing an acquaintance of a guy with substantial housing property in the valley. I will contact him to see if he has interest in collaborating.

7/5/16

Ann Watters – added to Interested Persons list.

- All these people need to be out on the street looking for people and helping them. To many meetings and too much talking and too much money spent not efficiently. WE have been talking about this for ever. Action. Ann A simple van on the street going around the town looking and collecting those people who want help. Volunteers ...all the people on this list. Volunteer and then send them to get assistance ..direct assistance not fifty forms they have to fill out. I am tired of all the bureaucracy and people are dying and starving around the city. This said I am glad to see. The newest and the attempts to serve. Too many agencies. Unify all of these with a central dispatch center.

7/8/16

Keeta Lauderdale – added to Interested Persons list.

- Sent link to OregonLive article [Consolidating homeless services can create efficiency \(Opinion\)](#) July 06, 2016 by Mike Wells

While I agree with many of the concerns for the homeless that Rev. W.J. Mark Knutson and Alison McIntosh express in their June 30 guest column "[Portland's homeless need permanent housing, not warehousing.](#)" I applaud the Homer Williams concept to attack the homeless problem overwhelming our communities. It applies the Family Justice Center model by bringing the efficiency of delivering services to those in need.

In Clackamas County, we too have some talented people and officials who had the foresight to create A Safe Place, opening on Dec. 10, 2013, as a partnership between the nonprofit Clackamas Women's Services and the Clackamas County Sheriff's Office.

My focus here is to concentrate on the homelessness of women and children, as well over 50 percent of homeless women and children are victims of domestic or sexual violence fleeing a traumatic situation. That same domestic and sexual violence is the cause of nearly 65 percent of the foster children expense in Idaho, but to my knowledge Oregon has not yet been able to isolate those costs.

On average, victims of domestic violence try to leave the trauma five times before succeeding. In 2012, Clackamas County and many agencies did a mapping program to look at the cause and efficiency, or lack thereof, of what a victim with a child must go through to seek basic care — from safety to housing to food to medical need. We found that she needed to go to six buildings and tell her story to seven or eight people, almost all of whom were public employees.

Is it any wonder more than half gave up? The system had become another trauma, and it was easier to go back.

My big difference with the Knutson/McIntosh guest column is the use of the phrase "scarce public resources." There is no scarcity of funds; they are just being wasted as

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every office, agency, church and nonprofit operates in its silo with duplication of efforts but no real collaboration. Public funds are being spent after the fact — or, as my friend and Alliance for HOPE International President Casey Gwinn often says, at the bottom of the cliff, not at the top.

Social services do not have a history of collaboration, which the victims desperately need.

When we opened A Safe Place Family Justice Center, we were the 91st in the country. I believe that number has now reached 122. It brings business efficiency to a variety of services all in one place under one roof. That saves public dollars.

Domestic and sexual violence increase in intensity (and public cost) as the incidents go unaccounted for. National data tell us to build the fence at the top of the cliff. Looking at the cause is the start. Organize services around the customer/survivor.