

AGENDA

BENTON COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

Tuesday, September 28, 2021

GoToMeeting: <https://global.gotomeeting.com/join/996046221>

or Dial 1 (646) 749-3122; Access Code 996-046-221#

Livestream: <http://facebook.com/BentonCoGov>

(Chair May Alter the Agenda)

THE BOARD WILL TAKE A BRIEF RECESS BETWEEN THE WORK SESSION AND BUSINESS MEETING

9:00 A.M.

I. Opening:

A. Introductions

B. Announcements

II. Comments from the Public

Time restrictions may be imposed on public comment, dependent on the business before the Board of Commissioners. Individual comment may be limited to three minutes.

III. Review and Approve Agenda

IV. Work Session

- 4.1 9:00 a.m., 1 hour - Discussion about Service Providers Supporting a Variety of Needs for Those Who are Housing Insecure (i.e., rental assistance, job training, etc.) – Ilene McClelland, Vina Moses; Pegge McGuire, Community Services Consortium; Michelle Mayers, Dept. of Human Services
- 4.2 10:00 a.m., 30 minutes - Quarterly Update from Economic Development – Kate Porsche, Economic Development Director
- 4.3 10:30 a.m., 1 hour - Discussion and Decision Regarding Justice System Improvement Program – Nick Kurth, JSIP Project Coordinator

The Board of Commissioners may call an executive session when necessary pursuant to ORS 192.660. The Board is not required to provide advance notice of an executive session. However, every effort will be made to give notice of an executive session. If an executive session is the only item on the agenda for the Board meeting, notice shall be given as for all public meetings (ORS 192.640(2)) and the notice shall state the specific reason for the executive session as required by ORS 192.660.

The meeting location is accessible to persons with disabilities. A request for an interpreter for the hearing impaired or for other accommodations for persons with disabilities should be made at least 48 hours before the meeting to the Board of Commissioners Office, (541) 766-6800.

BUSINESS MEETING

V. Information Sharing: (If time permits the following section will be heard. *The chief purpose of "Information Sharing" items is to allow the Board of Commissioners time and a venue to update one another of their individual activities.*)

- 5.1 Xanthippe Augerot, Chair
- 5.2 Nancy Wyse, Commissioner
- 5.3 Pat Malone, Commissioner
- 5.4 Joe Kerby, County Administrator

IV. Other

ORS 192.640(1)" . . . notice shall include a list of the principal subjects anticipated to be considered at the meeting, but this requirement shall not limit the ability of a governing body to consider additional subjects."

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MINUTES OF THE MEETING
BENTON COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
Tuesday, September 28, 2021
GoToMeeting link: <https://global.gotomeeting.com/join/996046221>
Livestream: <http://facebook.com/BentonCoGov>
9:00 a.m.

Present: **Xanthippe Augerot**, Chair; **Nancy Wyse**, Commissioner; **Pat Malone**, Commissioner; **Joe Kerby**, County Administrator; **Vance Croney**, County Counsel

Staff: **Teresa Farley**, **Joe Hahn**, **Lili'a Neville**, BOC staff; **Nick Kurth**, Justice System Improvement Project; **Sean McGuire**, Sustainability; **Erika Milo**, BOC Recorder; **Alyssa Rash**, Public Information Officer; **Jef Van Arsdall**, Sheriff's Office

Guests: **Dina Eldridge**, Community Services Consortium; **Mitch Hein**, DLR Group; **Peggy Lynch**, League of Women Voters; **Michelle (Misha) Mayers**, Department of Human Services; **Ilene McClelland**, Vina Moses Center; **Kate Porsche**, Corvallis Economic Development Office

Chair Augerot called the meeting to order at 9:02 a.m.

I. Opening:
A. Introductions
B. Announcements

Augerot acknowledged that Benton County is on the traditional territories of the Kalapuya and Alsea peoples, and we honor and respect their traditions and hope to honor them in our decision-making process. These peoples are still present in the Confederated Tribes of Grand Ronde Community and the Confederated Tribes of the Siletz Indians.

II. Comments from the Public

No comment was offered.

III. Review and Approve Agenda

The following item was added to the agenda:

Executive Session ORS 192.660(2)(e) – Real Estate

IV. Work Session

4.1 Discussion about Service Providers Supporting a Variety of Needs for Those Who are Housing Insecure (i.e., rental assistance, job training, etc.) – Ilene McClelland, Vina Moses Center; Dina Eldridge, Community Services Consortium; Michelle (Misha) Mayers, Department of Human Services

Augerot explained this is the fourth in a series inviting community-based organizations (CBOs) that support unhoused and vulnerably housed people. Speakers should address how the CBO supports people in the unhoused community, what services are offered to prevent houselessness, how the CBO could work with Benton County and the City of Corvallis on Home, Opportunity, Planning, and Equity (HOPE) recommendations, and how the CBO collaborates with other

CBOs. Due to movement of unhoused people between Linn, Lincoln, and Benton Counties, it is important to take a regional and long-term approach to these issues.

Mayers is the Community Partnership Coordinator for Department of Human Services (DHS) self-sufficiency programs. Mayers attends HOPE meetings when possible and works with many organizations. DHS also offers programs on aging and disabilities, developmental disabilities, child welfare, and vocational rehabilitation. Self-sufficiency programs offered in Linn, Benton, and Lincoln Counties are: Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP), Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF), Employment-Related Day Care (ERDC), and Temporary Assistance for Domestic Violence Survivors (TA-DVS).

SNAP is income-based assistance to purchase food. Income limit is 185% of the Federal Poverty Level (FPL). Undocumented noncitizens are ineligible, but other household members may be eligible. ERDC assists working families with childcare costs. Income limit is 185% FPL. Applicants do not have to be citizens, but children must meet qualifying factors. TANF is cash assistance and case management for families with dependent children to assist with family stabilization and basic needs. Income limit is 38% FPL. Noncitizens may be eligible for qualified children under their care. TANF recipients and some SNAP recipients can also receive support from CBOs on life skills, parenting, housing, job seeking, and more. TA-DVS provides temporary safety-related assistance for domestic violence survivors with children or who are pregnant. Income limit is 38% FPL, determined by what funds are available to the survivor. DHS partners with local domestic violence service agencies such as the Center Against Rape and Domestic Violence. Many survivors may be houseless due to domestic violence. Family Tree Relief Nursery has no income limit; families can self-refer or CBOs can refer clients.

Employment training programs: Jobs Opportunity and Basic Skills (JOBS) assists TANF families with employment, transportation, and childcare. TANF provides work experience. JOBS+ provides subsidized wages for work-ready TANF participants; the employer receives partial wage and payroll tax reimbursements. SNAP Employment and Training Program (STEP) provides case-managed job searches and vocational training for SNAP recipients. Dependents are not required.

People can apply for services online at <https://one.oregon.gov>, by telephone, or at a DHS office. One application is used for all services. Under the 'no wrong door' policy, a person can apply for any program through any DHS office.

Responding to a question from Malone, Mayers replied that all these programs have Federal requirements (such as citizenship or income level) for applicants, but there is some flexibility.

Augerot asked if the self-sufficiency program also works with Cascades West Council of Governments (COG) on aging and disabilities.

Mayers replied that COG is contracted by the State to provide aging and disability services in this area. A client who has qualified for services receives a referral if there are additional needs. Self-sufficiency offices determine eligibility and needs but are not experts in all services.

Malone asked if ERDC increases the amount of daycare available.

Mayers replied that DHS is partnering to increase the number of providers. Families must use a state-approved provider (SAP), which can be a family member. In ERDC or TANF, clients must find a SAP with an opening, which can be difficult.

Eldridge, Community Services Consortium (CSC) Housing Services Manager, explained that CSC serves Linn, Benton, and Lincoln Counties. CSC receives State, Federal, and private foundation grants to provide rapid rehousing programs to people who are unhoused or trying to prevent becoming unhoused. CSC moves unhoused people directly into rentals intended to be permanent housing. In the old model, people would lose housing, end up at a shelter, go to transitional housing, then move into permanent supportive housing (PSH). Housing and Urban Development (HUD) research showed that is not the best model for everyone, especially those who are unhoused for a shorter time. CSC does not run shelters, but passes funds to shelter partners like CHF for programs like Corvallis PSH, funded by a HUD Continuum of Care grant. PSH is aimed at people experiencing chronic homelessness and provides resources to maintain housing. CHF seeks out clients, does the paperwork and reporting, moves clients into housing, and pays the rental subsidy directly to the property manager. The target is to serve five chronically homeless individuals at a time, though sometimes up to eight.

CSC also subcontracts for street outreach to providers such as Unity Shelter. Unity's Third Street Commons was funded through Project Turnkey funds and an Emergency Solutions Grant (ESG) from Oregon Housing and Community Services. CSC also coordinates with Corvallis Daytime Drop-in Center (CDDC) on outreach and coordinated entry assessments for PSH and other programs. CSC received an ESG grant for CHF to hire a street outreach coordinator for the City of Corvallis. CSC also supports CHANCE Recovery. When social distancing became an issue in congregate shelters, CHANCE was able to quickly place people in hotels/motels. CHANCE has contracts with CSC in all three counties.

CSC programs for the unhoused focus on short-term and medium-term intervention (though PSH is longer term). Short-term interventions serve people who are unhoused due to a setback, but have some income. Longer-term programs provide addiction prevention and short-term security interventions. Coordinated entry is offered through the Rural Oregon Continuum of Care, which governs Oregon's 26 most rural counties. Coordinated entry is an assessment to gauge a person's vulnerabilities if they stay unhoused. In addition to gathering basic data, the Vulnerability Index — Service Prioritization Decision Assistance Tool evaluates housing and health history, risk behaviors, and wellness, then indicates the best intervention for that person. People with a low vulnerability score may only need a short-term program. A mid-range score indicates rapid rehousing, for people who need rental support and case management. The high range indicates PSH, for people who will need long-term or permanent rental support and case management to stay housed. CSC maintains a list of mid-range people to contact about openings.

CSC housing advocates help people find housing, work with landlords, and learn to self-advocate. CSC helps with move-in costs, ongoing housing subsidy, and case management for one to two years. If participants have stabilized and received renter education, CSC provides a reference to Linn-Benton Housing Authority, which places those clients at the top of the Section 8 housing voucher list. Section 8 provides ongoing assistance with rent.

CSC collaborates closely with all partners, participating on housing boards in each county and doing monthly check-ins with Corvallis CBOs. Pegge McGuire serves on the HOPE committee. Eldridge agreed that a regional approach is needed to look at the issue holistically.

Responding to a question from Wyse, Eldridge replied that demand for services has always exceeded capacity. About 75% of people who call CSC for housing need homelessness prevention: people facing eviction, living in a vehicle, or doubled up (living temporarily with friends or family). Pre-pandemic, CSC could serve about 25% of those callers. CSC does not have capacity to help every homeless person find housing. CSC triages short-term services to

people who have identified a place to live. People who are unhoused are about 25% of callers; CSC can serve about 45% of those people. CSC's annual budget went from \$2.5 million to \$50 million in 2020. CSC received \$18.8 million from the Oregon Emergency Rental Assistance Program, but can only serve 20% of those who could qualify, mostly due to funding and lack of housing availability. Lack of vacancy is the biggest obstacle statewide. In Benton, when students were learning remotely, housing availability increased from 2% to 5%, so CSC placed many clients here. But more counties will be back to under 1%.

McClelland explained that Vina Moses Center (VMC) adopted a strategic plan in August 2021. The mission is to help people through hardship, engaging the community to build resilience and improve and well-being. VMC is a crisis situation center, but is moving in direction of helping people be more sustainable. Because VMC is smaller than many CBOS, it can be more flexible and provide very accessible, low barrier assistance. VMC is just starting to collect client data.

VMC operates a free thrift store which is open by appointment or drop-in. The FISH emergency financial program helps with rent, utilities, et cetera. VMC is part of a financial resource network with We Care Corvallis, Saint Vincent de Paul, and Saint Mary's Corvallis, who can collaborate to cover a large request. In early 2020 VMC provided a lot of rent assistance; now VMC is providing a lot of help with utilities. VMC has doubled the usual spending on this program, per year and per household. VMC operates an outdoor food pantry, hygiene pantry, and community closets for people who cannot get to the Center. The next step is finding a new location. VMC works with CHF, Jackson Street Youth Services, CDDC, and other groups.

VMC volunteers are low- or no-income; VMC provides work experience, job references, and emotional support for people who need some support but not major crisis intervention. VMC's role is not necessarily to be part of a Crisis Resource Center hub, but to support a hub. VMC wants to support all HOPE recommendations.

Responding to a question from Augerot, McClelland replied that VMC collects data on age, race/ethnicity, gender, household composition, location, whether this is the client's first visit, and whether there is interpersonal violence in the client's background. Clients are not required to provide information to receive services. When VMC moves into a new building, McClelland hopes to co-locate with another organization and have a few microshelters on site.

Augerot asked if each organization has Spanish-speaking staff.

McClelland replied that VMC has a Spanish-speaker on staff.

Eldridge replied that CSC hired a Spanish language navigator for the automated telephone system, and hopes to hire more.

Wyse asked about VMC organizational capacity versus demand.

McClelland replied that VMC is small and cannot provide case management, but can inform callers about available resources. VMC refers clients to shelters/housing, but these are often full. VMC is open five days a week and answers calls 8 hours a day. Funding is mostly community donations, with some grants. VMC has three paid staff but is mostly volunteer-run.

Augerot asked Eldridge if the coordinated entry list corresponded to the Unity Shelter waiting list (about 140 people).

Eldridge replied that there are thousands of people on CSC's coordinated entry list across all three counties. CSC has hired an administrator for list data. CSC does not have waiting lists for programs due to high demand.

4.2 Quarterly Update from Economic Development – Kate Porsche, Corvallis Economic Development Director

Porsche presented highlights from 2020-2021 fiscal year programs. Almost all Corvallis Economic Development Office (EDO) work involved pandemic response and recovery, with a focus on issuing funding and information to Benton County businesses in an equitable and timely manner. EDO distributed 80,000 masks to businesses. EDO contacted 956 businesses by telephone or visit, including 265 rural businesses (about 27% of total). EDO will receive a COG grant for a business portal website. EDO secured funding for the City of Monroe economic development report and will help the City understand County goals. EDO secured a Pacific Power grant for an electric bicycle program.

Porsche will forward reports to the Board from recipients of pass-through funding, including Oregon Regional Accelerator and Innovation Network and the Small Business Development Center Foundry. The Economic Development Coalition has resumed monthly meetings, mainly working on a food hub; when EDO receives \$550,000 in American Rescue Plan Act funding from the State, some will be used to start the food hub. EDO staff Jerry Sorte and Heather Stevens are working with the City of Corvallis and the County on the annexation of the Corvallis Municipal Airport and Airport Industrial Park, which will require code changes. Porsche will assemble a work group to analyze the County business ecosystem and gaps, as a tool for policy-making. EDO continues to seek other grant opportunities.

Malone asked about the future of the Business-Right-of-Way (BROW) program.

Porsche replied that once Corvallis Public Works finishes its parking study, EDO will ask the Corvallis City Council about making BROW permanent. Since the pandemic is ongoing, the City Council will extend the pilot program another year as is. Next summer, Porsche will return to the City about making the program permanent, possibly seasonal.

Malone praised the program for helping local restaurants.

Augerot asked about sustainability values in relation to EDO work.

Porsche replied that EDO continues to work with Sean McGuire on economic resiliency and sustainability. The Enterprise Zone Program requires higher levels of sustainability.

Wyse praised the focus on rural businesses and was excited about the Airport annexation project.

Chair Augerot recessed the meeting at 10:40 a.m.

Chair Augerot reconvened the meeting at 10:45 a.m.

4.3 *Discussion and Decision Regarding Justice System Improvement Program – Nick Kurth, JSIP Project Coordinator; Alyssa Rash, Public Information Officer

Rash reviewed JSIP public engagement efforts since September 21, 2021, including well-attended presentations to the League of Women Voters on September 20, 2021 and the National

Association for the Advancement of Colored People (NAACP) on September 21, 2021. JSIP equity and access were key themes. The League was very supportive of County prevention efforts. NAACP participants recommended that the County direct funds to education and treatment to support re-entry of previously incarcerated adults to the community, and also recommended tracking incarcerated people by race/ethnicity.

Kurth added that engagement continues through October 13, 2021, after which the team will report findings to the Board again.

Van Arsdall added there was also a meeting in downtown Corvallis. The County's due diligence is building the community's trust and support of the system.

Hahn offered a copy of book *The New Jim Crow* by Michelle Alexander to anyone who is part of the JSIP process. Hahn noted that at the NAACP meeting, the District Attorney listed a number of violent crimes in a row, which could be triggering for some, especially marginalized populations; Hahn recommended being more careful when delivering that information.

Wyse asked about the focus of the next large public outreach meeting.

Kurth to discuss at Operations Team meeting today. Kurth hopes to present a draft site recommendation at the October 13, 2021 meeting, and review findings to ensure public sentiments were captured correctly.

Rash added that staff plan to use polling again at the webinar, questions to be determined.

Augerot appreciated that JSIP is gaining community traction, especially in the Black, Indigenous, People of Color community. Engagement will resume in February 2022.

Kurth explained this is the first of three Board discussions on JSIP suburban site selection. Exhibit One shows the site ranking performed a year ago. Based on 32 factors, the south site scored 2.2 and the west site scored -4.6. At that time, the south site only included 16 acres, not the entire 65, and did not include development costs discovered later. The south site is mostly wetlands, and all 16 acres need mitigation. The 35-acre west site is 50% wetlands, all concentrated in the area of development, which means little mitigation is needed, if any. Site acquisition costs are similar, but development costs are very different. Kurth noted a calculation error in cost per acre; correcting the error raises stated development costs in the south and lowers costs in the west. The remaining 50 acres of the south site could be grassland. The west site does not need much long-term maintenance. The west site has utilities; the south does not. Neither site is in the floodplain, but the south is near the Marys River junction. Both have room for JSIP expansion, particularly the south. Both sites are under letters of intent (LOIs) and both owners are willing to sell. Zoning is good on both sites: general-industrial, mixed use employment, and light industrial/ office on the south, intensive industrial on the west. Neighborhoods near each site have expressed concerns. The travel time from downtown Corvallis is about equal; the Sheriff's response time to the entire county may be slightly better from the west.

Van Arsdall concurred about the west having better response time to the City of Philomath; however, response time to the City of Monroe is better from the south site.

Kurth shared that both sites are about a half mile from existing public transportation routes. Solutions with Corvallis Public Transit can be found for either site. Both have plenty of parking

room. The west site has multiple paths. The south site is a gateway into Corvallis, and the City supports the County becoming a tenant and spurring development; the west site is not a gateway.

Malone requested more specificity on development costs, given the \$5 million difference between low and high estimates on the south site.

Kurth explained that the range is because the Oregon Department of Transportation (ODOT) could require road improvements, which will not be known until development starts. This factor is out of the County's control.

Augerot added there will be uncertainty for several years. The ongoing Highway 99-West corridor study will clarify ODOT and Corvallis expectations in that area. The City and County Transportation Service Plans (TSPs) for West 53rd Street also envision street upgrades.

Kerby disclosed being a resident of Grand Oaks subdivision, but does not have a legal conflict of interest, has contacted Counsel, and feels able to be fair and impartial while working on this project. The West 53rd Street corridor is a challenge for the County and Corvallis. The County is working on a railroad overpass on 53rd Street. The west site traffic impact analysis will be complete in mid-October 2021. The last public meeting for the overpass was in 2017; costs were then projected at \$7 million, but have probably increased. The County will need participate in solutions regarding the Marys annexation and improvements on 53rd and West Hills Road.

Kurth noted that both sites have transportation concerns and costs. At full development of the south site, Highway 99-W did not even require a right turn lane at Southeast Kiger Island Drive. DKS Associates concluded traffic impacts are likely to be minimal, and Kurth does not expect the current study to show major impacts.

Kerby noted that with the west site, the County has more control over improvements on 53rd Street or Southwest Reservoir Avenue, which will affect future development.

Wyse shared hearing more community concern about the procedure when adults in custody (AIC) are released from jail.

Van Arsdall explained that AIC currently exit into downtown with access to nearby resources. The number of people leaving custody each day is small. Law Enforcement can give a soft handoff to a resource center or facilitate transport to the next step. Releasing AIC locally, rather than in the City of The Dalles, allows staff to help those individuals make a better transition.

Wyse requested a commitment that the County will develop plans to address those concerns.

Van Arsdall expressed commitment to JSIP and addressing community concerns. Augerot concurred.

Malone noted similar concerns from City of Philomath residents about the 2015 bond measure. These concerns are not very realistic; the current facility does not have significant problems of this nature. A better facility with more programs should help even more.

Van Arsdall asked if AIC had been consulted since this study, as some people do not want a ride when released.

Augerot agreed about the need to consult AIC about post-release and reintegration. Augerot asked what other information the Board needs to reach a site decision.

Wyse felt that more outreach is needed before making a decision, but prioritized these considerations: 1. Community support. 2. Up-front costs. 3. Long-term expenses and operating costs. 4. Hurdles: annexation, development requirements, wetlands mitigation, transportation. 5. Accessibility to other locations.

Malone felt cost is very important. Good community support is needed, determining the seriousness neighborhood concerns and if that can be mitigated. New facilities are attractive and could be a neighborhood asset.

Augerot stated that location and accessibility to all parts of the County is a concern. The west site's more central location is appealing, with better access to north, west, and south parts of County. Up-front costs are a significant concern and should be constrained when possible. The Board needs the best information possible to make that decision, but some transportation costs will remain unclear until the County applies for a permit. Augerot asked how DLR Group factors those less-predictable costs into engineering design.

Kurth replied that the development costs are not factored into the project costs shown in the analysis; however, internal roads and parking are included. The potential \$5-10 million cost on the south site and \$500-700,000 on the west site are in addition to facilities cost and must be included in the bond measure.

Based on current information, Augerot leaned towards the west site because of location and much lower development costs, but was ready to consider either site.

Kerby asked what else the Board needs from staff to make a site selection in the next one-two weeks, such as a recommendation from DLR Group and/or staff.

Malone requested that DLR update the site comparison matrix. Hein to follow up for the next Board Meeting.

Augerot suggested re-examining 53rd Street overpass plans with a cost inflation factor. Kurth to follow up with Laurel Byer, Community Development.

Wyse requested updated financial cost estimates, including correction of the cost per acre error.

Kurth clarified the development costs are correct as shown. Kurth will correct cost per acre.

Augerot suggested that the Operations Team summarize site recommendations from DLR, the Technical Advisory Committee, and the Community Advisory Committee. It will be easier to discern broad community leanings if the Board makes a preliminary recommendation at the October 13, 2021 public meeting.

Kurth asked Wyse's expectations for gauging community support.

Wyse instructed Kurth to collect all public feedback for Board review.

Augerot suggested that the October 13, 2021 presentation include a simplified chart comparing the two sites' location, access to other parts of the County, development costs, and initial purchase costs. Site potential for expansion or other uses is also a criterion.

Wyse requested that all information be as concise as possible for the public and the Board.

Kerby requested clarification on whether the Operations Team should recommend a specific site.

Malone requested a pro/con summary from each body, but not a firm recommendation. Wyse and Augerot concurred.

Kurth stated that the goal is to reach a final site decision at the October 19, 2021 Board Meeting so Counsel can begin drafting Purchase and Sale Agreements. However, discussion can extend to the November 26, 2021 meeting if necessary.

{Exhibit 1: South versus West Site Pro/Con Analysis}

{Exhibit 2: JSIP Public Involvement Report: September 23, 2021}

Chair Augerot entered Executive Session under ORS 192.660(2)(e) – Real Estate at 11:52 a.m.

Chair Augerot exited the Executive Session at 12:40 p.m. and immediately reconvened the regular Board Meeting.

V. Information Sharing

5.1 Xanthippe Augerot, Chair

Augerot will meet Lincoln County Commissioner Kaety Jacobson this week. Augerot has a standing meeting with Linn County Commissioner Sherrie Sprenger, set up when Commissioner Will Tucker retired. Tucker was re-elected and continues to be in touch; last week Tucker and Augerot discussed parallels between homelessness issues in Linn County and the City of Albany, and in Benton County and the City of Corvallis. Augerot may discuss with Sprenger and Tucker how both Boards could work to increase cooperation on approaches to homelessness.

5.2 Nancy Wyse, Commissioner

Wyse offered to attend the CSC Governing Board meeting. October 2, 2021 is Wyse's 20-year anniversary of moving to Corvallis. Wyse will present to the Corvallis Rotary Club on October 8, 2021. Wyse asked about out-of-state travel policies in light of the COVID-19 surge, and asked if the Board usually attends the National Association of Counties Next Generation Network Symposium (October 10-12, 2021) and Western Inter-state Conference (October 14-15, 2021).

Augerot replied attendance depends on interest. The Board budget includes travel. Both meetings can provide useful networking. Check with Tracy Martineau, Human Resources, on current travel limitations. Augerot will attend the October 2021 Association of Oregon Counties (AOC) meeting at the Salem Fairgrounds in person.

Wyse shared that her children contracted COVID-19, but Wyse and her husband tested negative. Wyse thanked community members who reached out in support.

Responding to Augerot, Wyse replied that yesterday's meeting with the Governor's Office went well. A few attendees shared an anti-vaccine stance. Wyse shared that her children have COVID-19 and encouraged others to get vaccinated to protect children and keep schools open.

Wyse met with Polk County Commissioner Morehouse, who appreciates the work Benton is doing.

Augerot was paired with Jacobson and Klamath County Commissioner Derrick DeGroot for the AOC county exchange program.

Augerot and Malone referred to the Oregon legislative redistricting maps, which appear to show relatively minor changes to Congressional District 5 (which includes parts of Benton County).

5.3 Pat Malone, Commissioner

Malone shared that the AOC October 11, 2021 meeting will vote on President Biden's rivers bill, then send the recommendation to the Legislative Committee. The vote was postponed for a month due to not being noticed publicly. Malone expects a lot of opposition and recommended organize a response of no position or support. Malone asked about preparations for the AOC District 5 meeting on October 4, 2021.

Augerot has been preparing with JonnaVe Stokes (BOC staff) and Tyler Janzen (AOC Legislative Affairs). The meeting is all virtual. On the Natural Resource Steering Committee, AOC hired Drenda Howatt to replace Legislative Affairs Manager Lauren Smith; Howatt is used to working with a politically diverse county and should have a better sense of bringing balance.

Malone hoped there would be some overlap between Smith and Howatt, and commented on high turnover among AOC legislative personnel in the last three years.

Augerot observed lobbying staff used to be very stable. There is tension between hiring former commissioners versus professional lobbyists; most of the young people AOC brought in have lobbying experience. Most of the lobbyists AOC has hired are uncomfortable with conservative positions and struggle when perspectives are dichotomous.

Malone is working on the Corvallis-to-Adair Village Community Connection Path, which is part of the TSP and has funding connected with three segments.

5.4 Joe Kerby, County Administrator

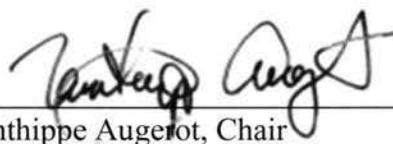
No business was discussed.

VI. Other

No other business was discussed.

VII. Adjournment

Chair Augerot adjourned the meeting at 1:07 p.m.


Xanthippe Augerot, Chair


Erika Milo, Recorder

** NOTE: Items denoted with an asterisk do NOT have accompanying written materials in the meeting packet.*



**Oregon
Department of
Human Services**
*Self-Sufficiency
Programs*

Programs and Services Presentation

Self-Sufficiency
Programs and Services



Introductions

Michelle Mayers (Misha)
Community Partnership Coordinator
Oregon Department of Human Services
Self-Sufficiency Programs
Michelle.mayers@dhsosha.state.or.us





ODHS Vision:

Safety, health and independence for all Oregonians.



ODHS Umbrella



- Aging and People with Disabilities
- Developmental Disabilities
- Child Welfare
- Self-Sufficiency*
- Vocational Rehabilitation

Our focus today is on
Self-Sufficiency Programs
(SSP).



Self-Sufficiency Program (SSP)

SNAP: Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program
[Food Assistance](#)

TANF: Temporary Assistance for Needy Families
[Cash Assistance](#)

ERDC: Employment Related Day Care
[Child Care Assistance](#)

TA-DVS: Temporary Assistance for Domestic Violence Survivors
[Domestic Violence Survivor Services](#)



**Spread the word:
HEALTHY food
is within reach**

**SUPPLEMENTAL NUTRITION
ASSISTANCE PROGRAM**



SNAP



- Assistance to purchase food
- Eligibility for this assistance is based on income and the number of eligible people in a household.
- The income limit is 185% Federal Poverty Level (FPL).
- Undocumented noncitizens are ineligible for SNAP, but other household members may be eligible.



ERDC

- Assists working families with childcare costs (185% FPL)
- Each family pays a copay determined by their income/household size
- Adults applying for this program do not have to meet specific citizenship requirements, but children must meet certain qualifying factors as a noncitizen.



TANF

- Commonly referred to as Welfare or Cash Assistance.
- Grant and case management for families (approx. 38% FPL) with dependent children, to assist with family stabilization.
- Cash assistance is intended to meet a family's basic needs.
- Noncitizens (including undocumented noncitizens) who do not meet qualifying factors for TANF, may still be eligible for qualified children under their care.

The **JOBS program** assists families receiving TANF with employment. The assistance can include work experience, supported work, and short-term training. They may also receive other support services such as transportation and childcare.

TANF and SNAP Support Services

- Support Services are available for TANF recipients and some SNAP-only recipients who volunteer for the STEP program
- Support services include working with community partners on life skills, parenting, housing, job seeking and more
- Support Services can help with common job seeker needs:
 - Transportation (gas money, bus passes)
 - Clothing for interviewing or work
 - Identification (birth certificate, driver license, etc.)
 - Tools for work
 - School costs such as fees and books



TA-DVS

- Provides temporary assistance for domestic violence survivors with children or who are pregnant
 - For example funding for housing, relocating costs, emergency shelter, changing the locks in the house, etc.
- The income limit is the same as TANF (about 38% FPL). Income is determined by what is available to the survivor.
- We partner with local DV service agencies to provide support and safety planning.
- The main goal: survivor safety.



Employment and training programs

- JOBS
 - Stabilized Living
 - TANF Work Experience
 - Family Support and Connections
- JOBS Plus
- STEP

Stabilized Living

- Special program through JOBS
- Provides housing advocate and assistance
- Contracted Advocate through Community Services Consortium

TANF Work Experience

- Unpaid, part-time positions at real employer work sites
- Hours are limited (20 hrs or less depending on benefit amount)
- No time limit. Generally 2 to 4 months long
- ODHS covers workers compensation



Self Sufficiency Program (SSP)

family tree
relief
nursery

Family Support and Connections (FS&C) is a voluntary home visiting program contracted with Family Tree Relief Nursery. Services are designed to strengthen families and support effective parenting

- No income limit. FS&C can serve up to 10% of their caseload not on TANF.
- Referrals can come from SSP, community agencies or a family can self-refer.
- If you have a family that could use FS&C services, it is recommended that you assist them with the referral and help articulate the needs.



JOBS Plus

- TANF participants who are work ready are eligible
- Full time positions (30 hours or more) at actual employer sites
- TANF and SNAP benefits are suspended as the worker makes actual wages (at least Oregon minimum wage)
- An Individual Education Account is established for the participant. Access is available after finishing the program and finding regular, unsubsidized employment
- JOBS Plus positions are subsidized, with the employer receiving partial wage and payroll tax reimbursements.



SNAP Training and Employment Program (STEP)

- Voluntary Employment and Training Program for SNAP recipients (Families in the TANF JOBS program cannot participate in STEP)
- Example providers:
 - Linn Benton Community College
 - Oregon Coast Community College
 - Community Services Consortium
 - Youth Development Coalition
 - And more
- Components vary depending on the provider, but can include:
 - Case managed job search
 - Job search training
 - Vocational training
 - Adult Basic Education (GED, literacy, numeracy, ELA)
 - Job retention



Apply online

<https://one.oregon.gov/>

Create an account and apply for SNAP benefits!

Printable application for:

[Cash Assistance](#)

[Child Care Assistance](#)

[Domestic Violence Survivor Services](#)

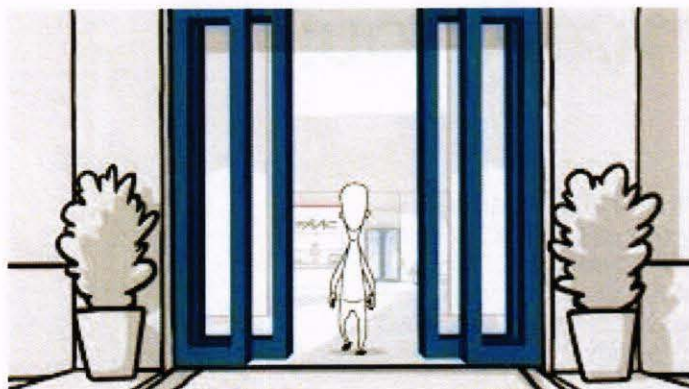
[Refugee Cash Assistance](#)

[Oregon Health Plan](#)



 DHS | Oregon Department of Human Services

no wrong door policy



 DHS | Oregon Department of Human Services

Questions?



THANK YOU!

Michelle Mayers (Misha)
Community Partnership Coordinator
Oregon Department of Human Services
Self-Sufficiency Programs
Michelle.mayers@dhs.ohs.state.or.us
541.220.7451



Vina Moses Center helps people through hardship, engaging the community to build resilience and improve wellbeing.

Vision

In our ideal future, more people in our community are on a path to the life they want, and we are a partner in their success.



We believe in the importance of...

Saying "yes." We're the ones who say "yes" when others say "no."

Removing barriers. We take people at their word that they're in need. Our customers may share as little information as they want – we don't want to present another barrier to their ability to fill their needs.

Dignity of choice. Having choices is essential when so many things in life are beyond individual control. When people come in our doors, we make sure it's a shopping experience like anyone would want: with choices.

Personal agency. People want to make a difference in their community and they need opportunities to engage.

Trust. Relationships built in trust – with our customers and our volunteers – make our organization successful.

Inclusion. We don't judge what people have done in their past. We welcome them and do our best to meet their needs. It's important to us that we're a space where people want to be.

Continuous improvement. We are curious and listen intentionally to what our customers need, so we can be of best service and make our case for funding to expand our programs.

Connecting Community Giving to Community Need



Vina Moses Center
Emergency Financial Services
Giving Tree Program
Community Closets
Back-to School Program
Layettes & New Leaf
Community Food Pantry
Little Free Library
Prom Wear Giveaway

GOAL 1. PROGRAMS. Our client-centered approach addresses the whole person, from emergent need to future financial stability.

Emergency Financial Services

As part of a coordinated response to improve health outcomes for people experiencing poverty, homelessness, or who are at risk, Vina Moses Center provides financial assistance for urgent needs such as rent, utilities, prescriptions, transportation, laundry, and more. Sometimes the biggest difference we make is being the place that says yes.

Payments are made directly to the party owed to prevent eviction, late rent fees, utility shut-offs, or to prevent going without filling a prescription. Assistance is meant to be a bridge from a short-term financial crisis to sustainable steps forward. We use an interagency referral system with We Care, St. Vincent de Paul, and St. Mary's to collectively meet the highest needs when we can't pay a cost on our own.

COVID Impact

So far in 2021, we're off the charts for utility and other types of assistance. Rent assistance was on track to do the same until OERAP provided relief in the spring. In 2020, we doubled the total amount of financial assistance we provided any other previous year. There was an uptick in requests from people asking for help for the first time, especially among families who were barely making it before work hours were cut and workplaces began to close. The good news is we've directed community support to more than 2,000 individuals since the shutdown in March 2020.

Back-to-School Program

Our program provides clothing, new shoes, backpacks, lunch boxes, water bottles, extra school supplies and other necessities to support kids' success.

More than 550 children participated in person at the Center during our three-week Back to School Program in 2021. Even more participated in other ways: we gave supplies, clothes, shoes, and hygiene kits to the Alsea and Monroe School Districts so their staff could reach families on our behalf. Mid Valley Bicycle Club visited us and gave away about 100 kids' bike helmets for our kids! (Need to be prepared to *get* to school, too.) We also distributed Summer Reading book bags and craft kits from CBCPL.

Students' needs don't end in September, so we keep a supply of school necessities available all year long at the Center.



Layettes

We put together bundles of goodies for bundles of joy! Expecting and new moms can request a layette package from us, which includes blankets, clothes, diapers, towels, toys, and more.

New Leaf

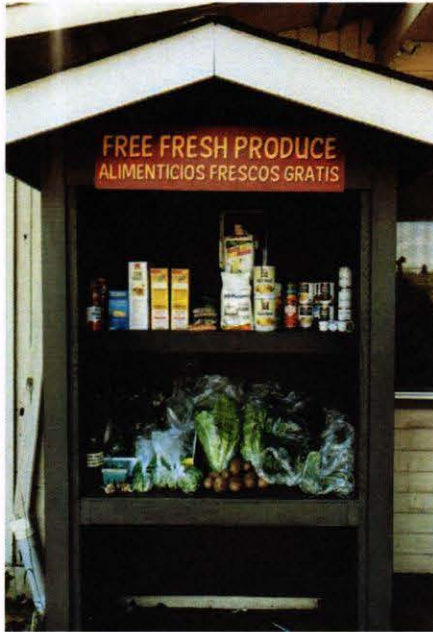
People generally shop the Center no more than once a month, but when they're transitioning from safe shelter to a new home, we give extra visits the first month to help ensure they get what they need so the transition is smooth.



“I’m calling to thank her so much [voice breaking] for all her help. It really meant a lot to me.” A voicemail from a recipient of emergency utility assistance.

GOAL 2. FACILITIES. We deliver our programs and services at a range of locations to make it as easy as possible for our clients.

Community Food & Hygiene Pantries



In August 2020, Christian Vela built and installed a food pantry outside Vina Moses Center for his Eagle Scout project. The outdoor pantry complements our indoor food supply. The outdoor pantry is a space where people give and take non-perishable food and excess produce from their gardens. Food items needed include:

- pop-top soups, chilis, meats, fruits
- nut butters
- bread, bagels
- Individually packaged snack bars, soft foods
- packaged coffee, tea, water



"I send people to Vina Moses Center every day. You save people's lives. Thank you." From an employee at the Benton County Health Department.

Giving Tree Program

Vina Moses Center provides food, goods, and gifts for children, seniors, and families throughout Benton County during the holidays. Our Giving Tree Store is in Corvallis, but we partner with organizations in Monroe, Alsea, Alpine, Philomath, and other areas to deliver items to their communities. More than 500 families participated last year; in 2020, our Vina Moses community provided gifts to more than 1600 children.

The community's commitment to giving helps us share kindness, care, and joy during the holidays.

Donations of gifts, goods, food, time, and money make it possible for families and individuals to celebrate the season. Gift tags with gift ideas can be plucked from Giving Trees in public spaces and from a Digital Giving Tree on our website. A huge thank you goes to the 63 volunteers who gave more than 700 hours to our program last year.

vinamoses.org/giving-tree



GOAL 3. COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT.
Volunteers have an essential role in sustainably furthering our operations, advancing our mission, and empowering each other.



WE NEED

CLEAN

Housewares
Clothes / Shoes
Bedding / Towels
Paper goods: TP/Tissues
Sleeping bags / Camping gear
SMALL countertop appliances
Bags: Paper / reusable bags
Cleaning supplies
Children's Books
School Supplies
Eyeglasses
Toiletries
Food



DONATION HOURS: Mondays and Thursdays 10 am to 12 pm, Tuesdays 2 pm to 4 pm
CLEAN, USABLE ITEMS ONLY

#boredteenagerdays



Most weeks we pair bored teenagers with projects around the Center. Last summer, teens moved boxes, organized our recycled clothing pick-ups, bicycled extra books to Little Free Libraries around town, and generally made life a little easier for the rest of our volunteers. A lot of parents ask on social media when we were going to have our next #boredteenager day!

Supporting recommendations of the HOPE Advisory Board

Prioritize collaboration and coordination of providers and partners with routine meetings for improved care coordination facilitated by a full-time staff member.

Facilitate and support the creation of a Resource Center.

Explore and investigate the need and the barriers to accessing housing for individuals and their families in our community whose past history has impacted their ability to secure housing.

Provide routine communication, notice, and opportunities for community involvement on the topic of homelessness services.

Increase available rental/income assistance options.

Increase supportive services and stable funding streams to provide services to residents at more affordable housing locations.

**GOAL 4, 5 & 6. OPERATIONAL GOALS:
Advancement, Team, and Operations.**

How to Donate

Mail & In Person:
Vina Moses Center
968 NW Garfield
Corvallis, OR 97330

Online:
vinamoses.org/donate

Ilene McClelland
Executive Director
Vina Moses Center
director@vinamoses.org
541-753-1420
[facebook/vinamosescenter](https://facebook.com/vinamosescenter)
[instagram/vinamosescenter](https://instagram.com/vinamosescenter)

THANK YOU!

AGENDA CHECKLIST TEMPLATE

4.2WS

Date of Meeting: 9/28/21

10 am Meeting

Title: Economic Development Office FY 20/21 Annual Report

Salient Issues: Presentation from EDO on their annual report.

Options: Acceptance of attached report.

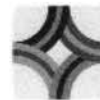
Fiscal Impact: None.

Staff Recommendations: Staff recommends acceptance of the annual report.

Suggested Motion:

I move to accept the fiscal year 20-21 annual report submitted by the Corvallis Benton County Economic Development Office.

To: Benton County Commissioners



**CORVALLIS
BENTON COUNTY**
ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT OFFICE

From: Kate Porsche, Economic Development Manager *KCP*

Date: September 22, 2021, for September 28, 2021 Commissioners Meeting

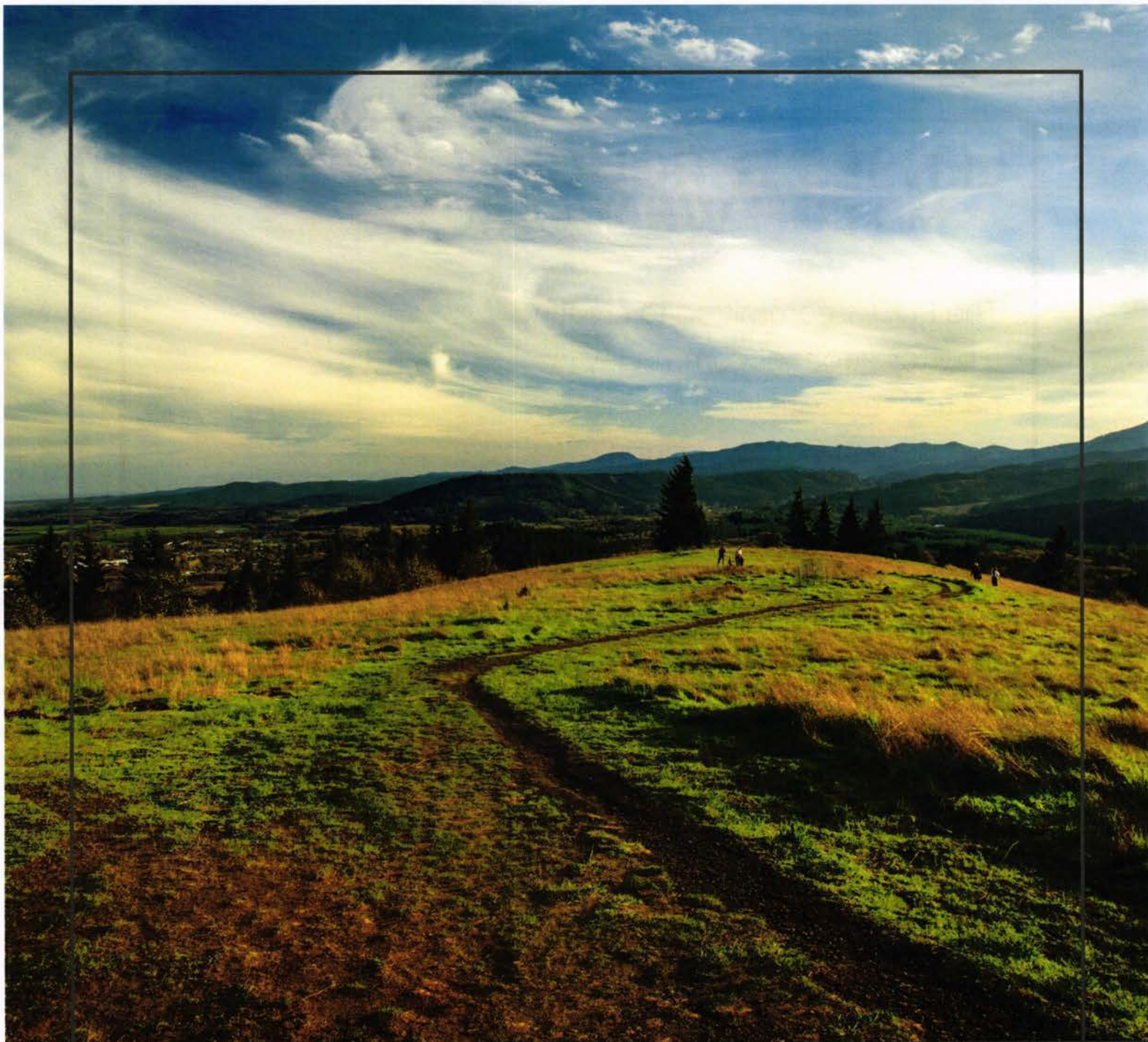
Re: FY 20/21 Annual Report

Commissioners, we are using the September 28th meeting to give you a brief report of our office's work from the FY 20-21 and to talk about any upcoming projects.

I will be forwarding reports from partner organizations in the coming days.

Attachments:

1 – EDO Annual Report



Annual Report

2020/2021



LENSES THROUGH WHICH WE WORK

The EDO is committed to creating a better, stronger community in partnership with local businesses and Benton County residents.

All our work is done with the following concepts in mind:



Diversity, Equity, Inclusion and Belonging (DEIB)

The EDO is uniquely positioned to address this challenge in our local business communities. We will work to dismantle the systems, policies, and procedures that perpetuate structural racism, inequities, and different forms of discrimination based on power, privilege and accessibility. We will focus on inequities with a goal of establishing a sense of belonging, where community members will be respected, valued, and able to participate in power structures that affect them.



The Environment

The EDO will take bold steps and be an active leader in addressing the threats of climate change, both through our work within the business community and with the Climate Action Advisory Board. The EDO will work to promote projects that mitigate and prevent the production of harmful emissions in order to create a healthier, more sustainable future for Benton County residents.



2040 Visions

The EDO will further the City of Corvallis' [Imagine Corvallis Vision 2040](#) and [Benton County's 2040 Thriving Communities Initiative](#) by committing to projects that aim to diversify the economy, stimulate entrepreneurship, nurture small businesses and balance growth with livability. These documents help form the guiding principles of the work we do in the EDO and are a consideration in all projects that we undertake.

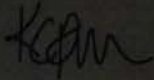
The EDO currently staffs three boards and advisory bodies:

1. **The Imagine Corvallis Action Network**
2. **The Economic Development Coalition**
3. **The Climate Action Advisory Board**

LOOKING BACK, LAUNCHING FORWARD

As the FY 2021-2023 begins, so does the road to recovery from the COVID-19 pandemic. Over the past year, Benton County has faced an unprecedented and unpredictable economic crisis. With record high unemployment rates not seen since the Great Depression, many businesses were forced to close, not knowing if, or when, they would be able to open again. The Corvallis-Benton County Economic Development Office (EDO) quickly pivoted, serving in the Emergency Operations Center (EOC), standing up local grant programs, and finding new and creative ways to reach and assist businesses in our region. Now that vaccination rates are rising and the pandemic is waning, we can begin the hard work ahead of recovery and resiliency.

In the previous Strategic Work Plan, we quoted Albert Einstein, "In the middle of every difficulty lies opportunity," not knowing the extent to which this statement would ring true. In this strategic work plan, we look back at what went well, where we were challenged and what lessons we learned to launch forward.



Kate Porsche,
Economic Development Manager

THE EDO TEAM



Kate Porsche,
Economic Development
Manager

Kate has been with the EDO since February 2018. She has worked in local government on economic development and urban renewal projects for 15 years and serves as past president of Oregon Economic Development Association.



Jerry Sorte,
Economic Development
Supervisor

Jerry came to the EDO in February 2019 with experience in economic and community development from across Oregon and other states. Along with other projects, he works with the Climate Action Advisory Board.



Heather Stevens,
Economic Development
Specialist

Heather started with the EDO in February 2019 with previous experience serving the local business community. She leads communication and outreach for the office and works with the Imagine Corvallis Action Network.



Kathryn Duvall,
Economic Development
Specialist

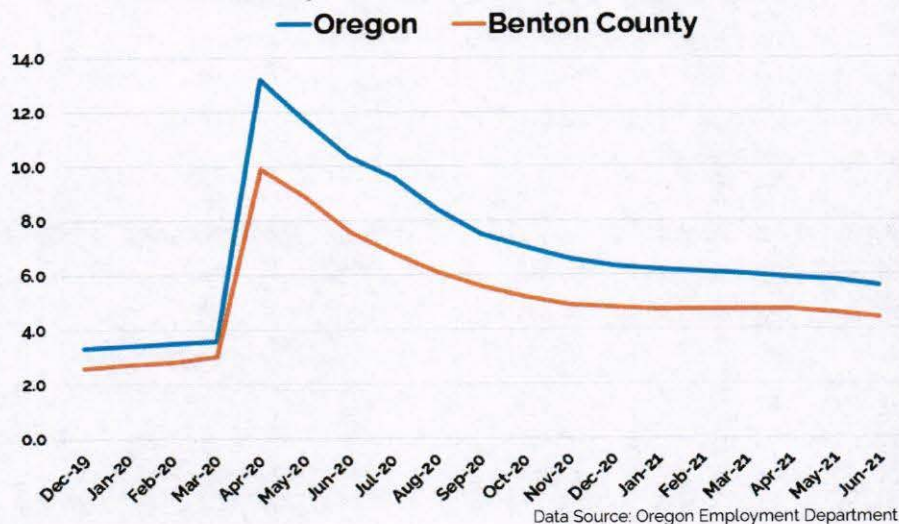
Kathryn has been with the EDO since March 2020. She works with the Climate Action Advisory Board and with Spanish speaking business owners throughout Benton County. She studied public policy at Oregon State.

ECONOMIC INDICATORS

Our team has been thinking about "which way the wind is blowing" as we think about our work and continue our efforts in economic recovery. Some of the data we follow as indicators of the economic conditions in our area are changes in average local wage, unemployment rates and comparables, job growth in target industry sectors, local numbers of accommodation bookings, and local growth in food and beverage and retail spending.

Unemployment Rates and Recovery

Percentage of labor force unemployed in Oregon and Benton County from December 2019 through June 2021

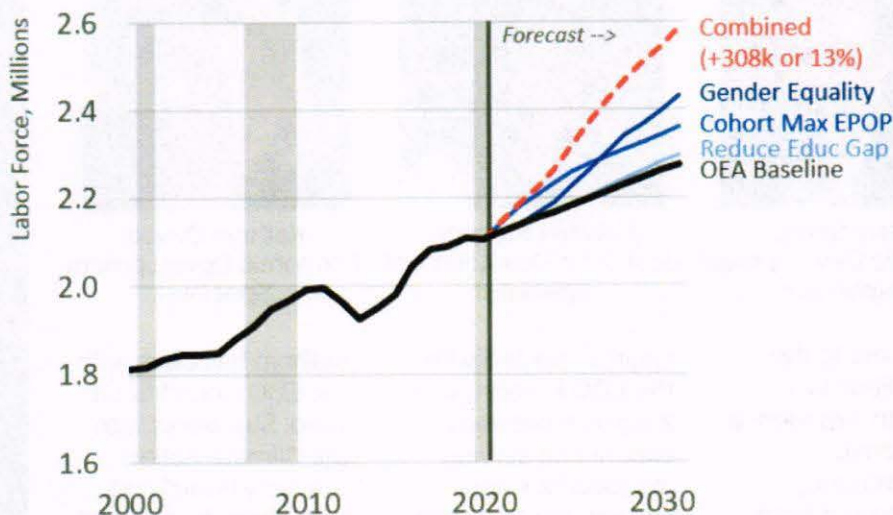


The Local Economy

The unemployment rate in Benton County has continued to drop since its peak in April 2020, with countywide unemployment hitting a pandemic low of 4.4% in June 2021.

The tourism industry in Benton County has begun to recover from the steep losses it suffered during the pandemic. While year-over-year demand for accommodation was down 6% for fiscal year 2020-2021 compared to 2019-2020, demand is slowly beginning to come back.

Oregon's Latent Labor Force



This graph, from the [Oregon Office of Economic Analysis](https://oregoneconomicanalysis.com/2021/09/09/report-oregons-latent-labor-force/), shows Oregon's forecasted labor force based on current population growth and participation ("OEA Baseline") compared to the potential labor force if the labor force inequality gaps of gender, educational attainment, and race and ethnicity were addressed.

For more on this graph, visit <https://oregoneconomicanalysis.com/2021/09/09/report-oregons-latent-labor-force/>

We're also looking at inequities that are causing labor shortages throughout the state, like employment disparities due to education, race, and gender. We're working with our partners to increase childcare access in order to help get women back to work.

"Increasing employment opportunities for half the population (women) really moves the overall economic needle. [...] To really address this disparity, the availability and affordability of childcare and extended care after school would really need to be addressed."

- Josh Lehner, [Oregon Office of Economic Analysis](https://oregoneconomicanalysis.com/)

THE YEAR IN REVIEW

As the COVID-19 pandemic continued to disrupt local business into the fall of 2020 and the new year, the EDO worked quickly to create opportunities for local businesses to continue to operate under challenging circumstances. We balanced pandemic mitigation and recovery with ongoing work in our focus areas, including climate action, urban renewal, and general business support.

Here are some highlights from last year's work:

Secured grant funding through the Oregon Cascades West Council of Governments **for a Monroe economic development plan** and a **Benton County Business Portal**, the latter of which will create a one-stop platform for new businesses opening in Benton County or businesses looking to expand.

Offered opportunities for **free legal services for low-income businesses** struggling with COVID-19 related legal matters through the Lewis and Clark Small Business Legal Center.

Supported businesses through our partners at Visit Corvallis and the Downtown Corvallis Association with funds from the federal government's Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security (CARES) Act.

Partnered with Parks and Recreation to **create Fitness in the Parks**, a program that allows local businesses to use park space for programming as an alternative to indoor recreation.

Created **multiple grant programs** for local businesses, including **funds for the most adversely affected businesses and business owners** through Governor Kate Brown's emergency funding program; **funds for new businesses started in 2020** and not covered by federal business support programs; administration of CDBG funds for **low-income business owners**.

Partnered with the Oregon State School of Public Policy on a **variety of research projects related to the Corvallis downtown** and business owner's and community member's needs and wants regarding the area and a vision for the future, at no cost.



Successfully applied for a grant through Pacific Power and the Oregon Clean Fuels Program to provide **instant rebates for electric bicycles for low-income individuals** in Benton County.

Convened internal meetings to begin discussions around potential **policies for the South Corvallis urban renewal district**.



THE YEAR IN REVIEW

A few more highlights from this past year:



Distrubution of PPE, including masks, gloves, hand sanitizer, face shields, disinfectant wipes, and disinfectant spray to over 100 businesses in Benton County throughout the fall, winter, and spring.

Through the Climate Action Advisory Board's Revolving Loan Program, **administered two loans for local organizations** to make energy efficiency upgrades to organizational buildings and local residences.

Provided **continuous updates on federal, state, and local regulations and programs** for local businesses through our email newsletter. Frequency was determined by major announcements and shifts in policies.

Secured **\$550,000 in funding for a food hub in South Corvallis** from Oregon Senator Sara Gelser-Blouin's office.

Participated in classes and trainings, including an **economic development pandemic recovery class** to help focus future goals and strategies, and a voluntary **diversity, equity, and inclusion training** led by a local organization, Soul Force Education.

Partnered with Public Works to continue the **business right of way program**, which allows businesses to use up to four on-street parking spaces for outdoor dining, retail, physical fitness, or other activities.

Funding for tents for businesses taking advantage of the business right of way program so they could continue operation throughout the rainy season. Tents were provided through a second generation locally owned business, Special Occasions.

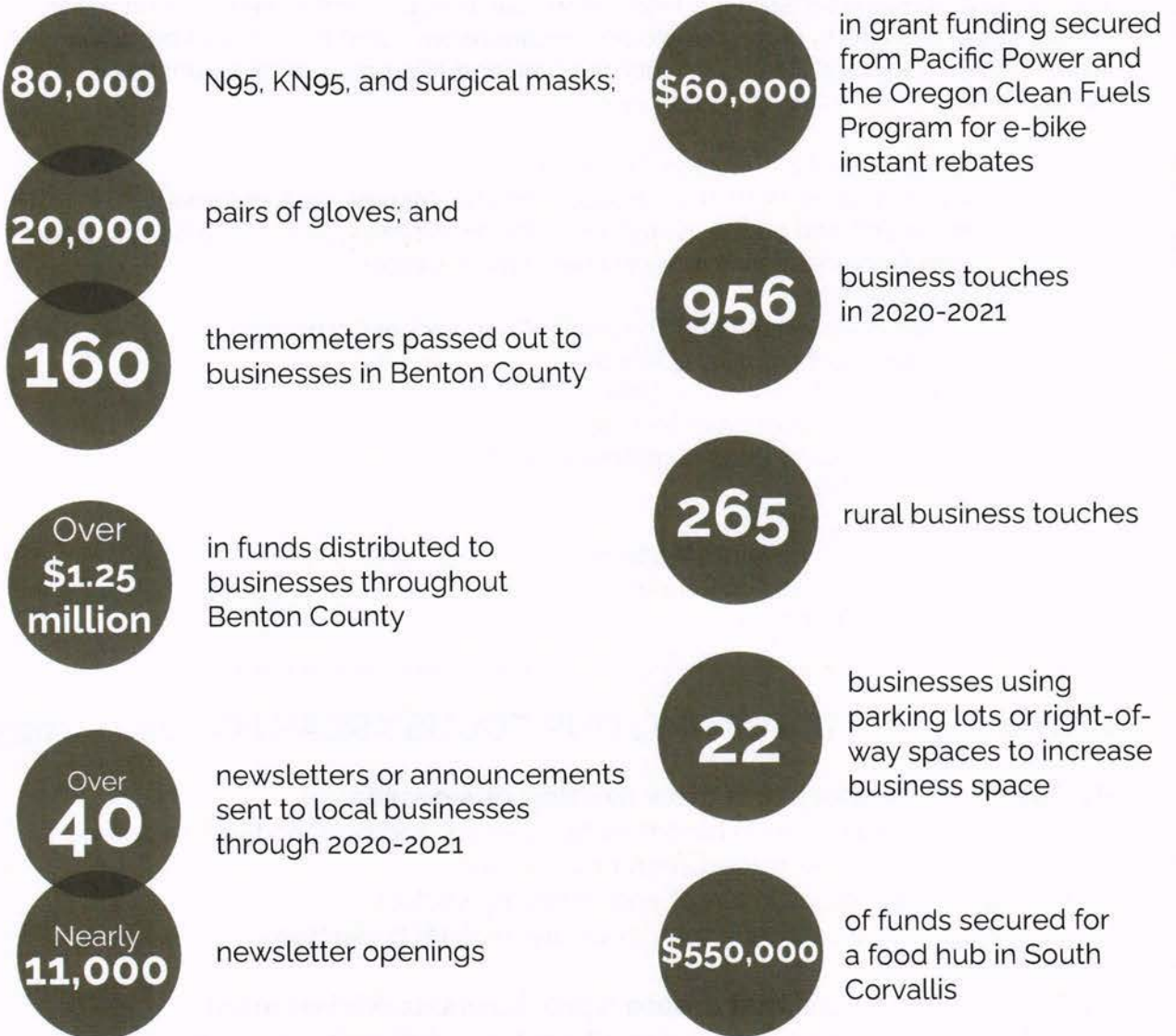
Led a group that succesfully **streamlined the local approval process for permits** granted through the Oregon Liquor Control Commission.

In partnership with organizations in Lincoln, Linn, and Lane Counties, successfully applied for an Economic Development Administration **grant to assess broadband infrastructure** throughout the region.

Implemented an e-commerce designation for the Benton County enterprise zone.



LET'S DO THE NUMBERS



@CorvallisEDO
Increased 1.7% year-over-year



@yesCorvallis
Increased 34.9% year-over-year



@yesCorvallis
Increased 8.6% year-over-year



@Corvallis-Benton Economic Development Office
Increased 9.8% year-over-year

EDO Work in the Media

[City Council Approves 2 Towns Tax Exemption](#)

[4 New Benton County Virus Aid Programs](#)

[Corvallis offering loans for climate action projects](#)

[PPE giveaway in Corvallis each Friday in May](#)

[Benton County looks to jump-start the economy after moving to low-risk](#)

[Gelser Gets \\$4M Wishlist](#)

[Corvallis fitness firms can use city parks](#)

KEY EXTERNAL PARTNERS

The success of our businesses is a team effort. Our work is solidified by the partnership, relationships, and efforts of the people and organizations listed here. While our office represents Corvallis and Benton County, the time and effort of all of these entities is what makes our community strong. Thank you!

- City of Corvallis & Benton County staff
- City managers from Adair Village, Corvallis, Monroe, and Philomath.
- Marketing and outreach staff, including PIOs from Corvallis and Benton County
- Linn-Benton Small Business Development Center
- Visit Corvallis
- Corvallis, Philomath and Tri-County Chambers of Commerce
- Corvallis Sustainability Coalition
- Downtown Corvallis Association
- Business Association of Monroe
- Cascades-West Council of Governments
- Oregon RAIN
- Foundry Collective
- Willamette Innovators Network
- OSU Advantage Accelerator
- Business Oregon

LOOKING TO THE FUTURE: OUR FOCUS AREAS FOR 2021-2023

#1 Revitalize, support, and grow existing businesses

- Continue assistance to hardest hit businesses, sectors, and business owners
- Support and grow traded sector businesses
- Bolster businesses in target and emerging sectors
- Create and strengthen emergency planning for businesses

#2 Champion policies that create a pro-business environment

- Manage economic development tools to incentivize business improvement and growth
- Improve regulatory environment

#3 Expand buildings and infrastructure

- Annex airport industrial park
- Support industrial zoning and land use study
- Cultivate manufacturing space

#4 Strengthen outreach and communication

- Create a marketing plan
- Collate information for businesses

#5 Spark entrepreneurship and innovation

- Support entrepreneurial ecosystem through partner organizations



Midway Farms

4.3WS

BOC Agenda Checklist Master

Agenda Placement and Contacts

Suggested Agenda Date 09/28/21

[View Agenda Tracker](#)

Suggested Placement* Work Session

Department* Board of Commissioners

Contact Name* Nick Kurth

Phone Extension* 6076

Meeting Attendee Name* Nick Kurth

Agenda Item Details



Item Title* JSIP Public Engagement Results and Site Selection

Item Involves*

Check all that apply

- ☐ Appointments
- ☐ Budget
- ☐ Contract/Agreement
- ☐ Discussion and Action
- ☒ Discussion Only
- ☐ Document Recording
- ☐ Employment
- ☐ Notice of Intent
- ☐ Order/Resolution
- ☐ Ordinance/Public Hearing 1st Reading
- ☐ Ordinance/Public Hearing 2nd Reading
- ☐ Proclamation
- ☐ Project/Committee Update
- ☐ Public Comment
- ☐ Special Report
- ☐ Other

Estimated Time* 45-60 min

Board/Committee Involvement*
☐ Yes
☒ No

Advertisement*

☐ Yes

☒ No

Issues and Fiscal Impact

Item Issues and Description

Identified Salient Issues * Determination of the best suburban site, whether south or west, for purposes of siting justice system facilities contemplated for the November 2022 ballot measure.

Options *

- 1) Choose the south site
- 2) Choose the west site
- 3) Choose both sites
- 4) Choose neither sites

Fiscal Impact *

- ☒ Yes
- ☐ No

Fiscal Impact Description * See attachment Site Pro/Con Analysis

2040 Thriving Communities Initiative

Mandated Service? * ☐ Yes ☒ No

2040 Thriving Communities Initiative

Describe how this agenda checklist advances the core values or focus areas of 2040, or supports a strategy of a departmental goal.

To review the initiative, visit the website [HERE](#).

Values and Focus Areas

Check boxes that reflect each applicable value or focus area and explain how they will be advanced.

Core Values *

Select all that apply.

- ☒ Vibrant, Livable Communities
- ☐ Supportive People Resources
- ☐ High Quality Environment and Access
- ☐ Diverse Economy that Fits
- ☐ Community Resilience
- ☐ Equity for Everyone
- ☐ Health in All Actions
- ☐ NA

Explain Core Values Selections *

JSIP Vision: The residents of Benton County require an effective, efficient and equitable criminal justice system that maintains public safety and holds people accountable, while providing treatment opportunities that address underlying causes of criminal behavior.

Focus Areas and Vision *

Select all that apply.

- ☒ Community Safety
- ☒ Emergency Preparedness
- ☐ Outdoor Recreation
- ☐ Prosperous Economy
- ☐ Environment and Natural Resources
- ☐ Mobility and Transportation
- ☐ Housing and Growth
- ☐ Arts, Entertainment, Culture, and History
- ☐ Food and Agriculture
- ☐ Lifelong Learning and Education
- ☐ NA

Explain Focus Areas and Vision Selection *

JSIP Vision: The residents of Benton County require an effective, efficient and equitable criminal justice system that maintains public safety and holds people accountable, while providing treatment opportunities that address underlying causes of criminal behavior.

Recommendations and Motions

Item Recommendations and Motions

Staff
Recommendations* None

Work Session
Motions* I move to ...
None

Attachments, Comments, and Submission

Item Comments and Attachments

Attachments Upload any attachments to be included in the agenda, preferably as PDF files. If more than one attachment / exhibit, please indicate "1", "2", "3" or "A", "B", "C" on the documents.

Comments (optional) Attachments will be added at a later date.
If you have any questions, please call ext.6800

Department Approver TERESA FARLEY

Department Approval

Comments

Signature

Teresa Farley

BOC Initial Approval

Approvals Required ☒ Counsel

☐ Finance

☐ HR

Counsel Approver VANCE CRONEY

County Administrator Approver TERESA FARLEY

Comments

Counsel Approval

Comments

Signature

Vance H. Chokey

County Administrator Approval

Comments

Signature



Teresa Farley

BOC Final Approval

Comments

Signature

Teresa Farley

Site Pro/Con Analysis – South versus West (DRAFT)

Category	South	West
Property Acquisition and Development Cost		
Total Acreage	65 +/-	35 +/-
Wetlands versus Uplands	59/6	16.5/18.5
Percent Wetlands	91%	47%
Acquisition Cost	\$900,000	\$1,500,000
Acquisition Cost per Acre	\$13,846	\$42,857
Development Cost (JSIP Facilities Only, incl. wetland mitigation and contingency)	\$4,716,432 - \$9,716,432 ¹	\$450,000 - \$735,000 ²
Cost per Acre Including JSIP Development Costs	\$86,407 - \$163,330	\$55,714 - \$63,857
Long Term Holding & Maintenance Expense	Minimal ³	Minimal ⁴
Annexation Required	Probable	No
Wetland Mitigation Required	Yes	Minimal
Utilities on Site	No	Yes
Soil Concerns	Unlikely ⁵	No ⁶
Floodplain Present	No ⁷	No
Potential for Future Expansion	Yes	Minimal ⁸
Steep Slope Present	No	No
Ease of Acquisition		
Owner Willing to Sell	Yes/LOI	Yes/LOI
Neighborhood Compatibility		
Zoning Type	GI/LI-O/MUE	II
Zone Change Required	Yes ⁹	Yes ¹⁰
Adjacent to Existing Residential	No	One-side
Concerns Expressed by Proximate Neighborhoods	Yes	Yes
Planned roads through site	Yes	No
Service to Downtown/County		
Travel time to City Hall	8 min	10 min
Sheriff's Response Access	Good	Better ¹¹
Service to the Public		
Adjacent to Public Transportation	No	No
Adjacent to Multi-Modal Paths	No	Yes
Adjacent to Maj/Min Arterial	Yes	Yes
Accommodate Required Parking	Yes	Yes
Community Visibility		
Gateway Site	Yes	No

Notes:

1. Cost range reflects addition of to-be-determined Corvallis TSP/ODOT-proposed roundabout at OR 99W and Kiger Island Road
2. Cost range reflects up to three acres requiring wetland mitigation at \$95,000 per acre
3. Assumes County leases remaining land (approx. 50) acres for current rye grass farming
4. Assumes NAPE would cut grass on 53rd Street strip periodically
5. Per DLR based on geologic map of Corvallis and Lincoln School findings
6. Per Foundation Engineering soils report, July 2021
7. South site not in floodplain, but could be isolated from points north due to flooding
8. Possible room for Fairgrounds parking along eastern edge of property
9. Corvallis LDC affords path for requisite conversion of LI-O to MUE
10. Director's Interpretation required is new courthouse included on site
11. Per Sheriff Van Arsdall

BUILDING A JUSTICE SYSTEM FOR THE FUTURE

*Accountability and treatment to
transform lives, ensure safety and
strengthen community*



Public Involvement Report: September 23, 2021

Summary

Thoughtful public engagement has resulted in significant outreach and clear themes in relation to the Justice System Improvement Program. With hundreds of residents weighing in on the issues and a 750+ communications list, the County has captured a wide range of perspectives on building a justice system for the future.

Opportunities voiced by the public include:

- Improving community safety, security, and the ability to respond to crisis.
- Creating operational efficiencies by co-locating facilities.
- Providing both accountability and treatment through programs and facilities.

Concerns and questions shared by the public include:

- Transportation impacts to neighborhoods, specifically the West site.
- Concerns about the South site, including flooding, infrastructure capacity, and gateway issues.
- Economic impacts of added taxes to residents.
- Safety and property valuation concerns near correctional facilities.
- Equity issues in relation to site geography and justice system data.
- Lack of trust in County financial decisions.

1. Introduction

Benton County is working hard to build an equitable, effective, and safe justice system for all residents. Existing facilities are old, outdated, too small, and have security issues. Currently, people experiencing addictions and mental illness struggle to find help, the historic courthouse does not meet modern standards for access and safety, and limited jail space means offenders are routinely released into the community.

NEW FACILITIES

WHAT and WHY



- ✓ Treatment helps address underlying needs.
- ✓ All community members need to feel safe and have fair and equitable access.
- ✓ Victims and the public know dangerous offenders are off the street and receiving treatment.
- ✓ Modern buildings with new technology assist in saving lives.

Between June and September of 2021, the project accomplished the following:

- Built a **750+ Interested Parties List** and sent 4 meeting invites/project updates.
- Conducted **26+ speaking engagements and small group conversations with 300+ attendees**. Over 400 people were invited.
- Hosted a Virtual Community Meeting on September 8, and another meeting is planned for October 13. For the **September 8 meeting, the County received 137 RSVPs, 79 attendees, and 130 interested/attending the Facebook event**.
- Individually **emailed 106 stakeholder organizations**, introducing them to the project and inviting them to share the Virtual Community Meeting information.
- Provided regular opportunities for **JSIP Community Advisory Committee and the Technical Advisory Committee** to review and comment on the draft and final public involvement materials such as a presentation powerpoint.
- Posted on **Facebook, Nextdoor, Instagram, and Twitter**
- Updated the **project website** with current public involvement information and the Virtual Community Meeting zoom recording.

Due to Covid, the project was unable to complete the in-person outreach/surveys planned, but we look forward to resuming that work as soon as possible.

The Pre-Design phase of this project includes significant decisions relating to site selection and facilities configuration. The Operations Team asked participants in the speaking engagements and Virtual Community Meeting to rate the importance of each facility, weigh in on where the new Courthouse should be located (downtown or suburban location), and share their preference for the future use of the Historic Courthouse.

Background

The public involvement goals for this phase of the program are to:

- **Raise awareness** about the County's approach to embracing prevention, treatment and accountability in the justice system.
- **Gather** perspectives about the Justice System Improvement Program from both involved community members and the general public.
- **Listen carefully to people** regarding program purpose, goals, and questions.
- **Hear from a broad and diverse** group of people; consider all input, not just the loudest opinions.
- **Thoughtfully consider community input**, respond in a timely way, and explain the reasoning behind program decisions.
- **Build community trust** as a strong foundation for the program.
- **Determine** the elements of a bond measure for the Justice System Improvement Program.

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2. Speaking Engagements and Small Group Conversations

The program worked hard to engage a wide range of residents and organizations. The following small group conversations/speaking engagements were conducted between July and September of 2021:

Albany Police Department: 7/27/21
Corvallis Police Department: 8/12/21
Corvallis Chamber of Commerce: 9/3/21
Corvallis City Council: 9/20/21
Benton County Sheriff's Office staff: 7/15/21, 7/28/21, and 8/11/21
Downtown Corvallis Association: 8/18/21
Health and Social Service Providers: 8/12/21, 8/17/21, and 8/19/21
HOPE Advisory Board: 9/22/21
League of Women Voters of Corvallis: 9/20/21
Linn-Benton Hispanic Advisory Committee: 8/31/21
Living Southtown: 7/29/21
Mental Health, Addictions And Developmental Disabilities Advisory Committee (MHADDAC): 9/7/21
Municipalities and OSU: 7/26/21 and 8/4/21
NAACP Corvallis/Albany: 9/21/21
Spanish Speaking residents and organizations: 9/17/21
Visit Corvallis: 9/23/21
West Hills Neighborhood Association: 8/8/21
Willamette Landing Homeowners Association: 9/13/21

See the following page for example quotes and comments heard in the speaking engagements.

Key quotes/comments – categorized

General

- Best connection between programs and facilities I have seen. That is the hook for me and many others. Good job.
- This will be a tough sell to the public due to property tax impacts.
- Seeing the options for justice system facility buildings helped me realize it's not just concrete and barbed wire.

Transportation

- I would encourage any of the sites, especially the West and South sites to prioritize transit. It's unfortunate for parking to drive development.
- We have a problem in the West Hills with transportation because of the great deal of growth and our infrastructure is substandard. The addition of a justice center will exacerbate that system greatly.
- Transportation is a big issue. A lot of my clients would have a long bus ride if its in the South or West site.

Equity

- The new Jim Crow is a book that everyone who works in Justice should read. Instead of Jim Crow laws, what we have is over incarceration of BIPOC individuals. Will you be tracking the incarceration of people by race or ethnicity?
- If this bond is passed, regardless of where it may be, it is critically important to the NAACP that funds are directly set aside for education and treatment, specifically to support the re-entry of incarcerated adults back into society.
- How is this related to people with disabilities and their safety in the community?

Location

- Everyone recognizes the need, but we go back to location. Where is it going to go?

West

- When you bring these facilities out towards the West edge, you're bringing these services closer to the rest of Benton County.
- West Corvallis is lacking the basic amenities that other areas in the city have in place. If you can, please take West Corvallis residents to take those amenities into account. Specifically multi-use paths and infrastructure upgrades to enhance safety in the area.

South

- Southtown residents feel like we constantly get the short end of the stick. I'm also not sure that putting a facility with a lot of parking is going to spur development of amenities... I'd like to see as many facilities as possible downtown, because I think that's best for everyone.
- I'm concerned about flooding with the south site, especially in the event of Cascadia. Having emergency services in Southtown and cut off is not a good thing.

Downtown

- It's important to have a viable, healthy downtown.
- 110% the Courthouse needs to be downtown. It's our civic life and supports other jobs down there. Concern about protests occurring downtown, out of site.

Efficiency

- As I look at overall costs, it will be less costly to build everything all in one location in less phases.
- The operational efficiencies of a system-focused, campus plan are definitely important in the overall cost impact.
- I recommend centralize security for as many people as possible. One site makes sense; same staff for several uses would be efficient.

Land Use

- To the extent that we could continue with industrial use in South, we might be able to preserve space on the west side for future housing.

Correctional Facility

- Even if we have a few dozen more beds, it'd get a lot of the habitual offenders out of circulation.

Crisis Center

- Good Sam has cut their mental health facilities drastically. If someone is in crisis, there's nowhere for them to go right now.
- I believe a "Benton-Best" model can benefit people with developmental disabilities in other counties. That is something we can specialize.
- I am concerned that the Crisis Center is receiving such a low porportion of the estimated cost.
- A Crisis Center is a step in the right direction, but not enough. Focus on preventative measures and resources to ensure that vulnerable community members are getting their needs met.

Historic Courthouse

- The Courthouse is a showpiece for our county and we've got to protect it. It would be nice if we had public access to it.
- It's a beautiful structure, I think though that it has better purposes. There are a lot of people in the area and around the country who would be interested in making this a feature and not a function.
- As the mom of someone who is disabled, it's obviously a real issue. At the very least it needs to be ADA accessible.

Emergency Services

- The EOC is essential. As we look at the climate crisis and pandemic, there's more and more likelihood that we need EOCs that are very viable for the community.

Financial Impacts

- There is a thread on NextDoor going on about property taxes. There's a lot of people agitated about how much their property tax would go up.
- The cost for retired, low income or single-earner income households is going to be really hard for property owners to stomach.

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3. Virtual Community Meeting on September 8, 2021

The meeting invitation was sent to 600+ emails, and forwarded to 100+ organizations:

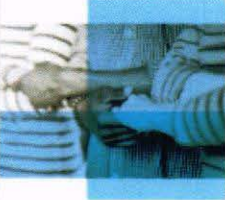
**Benton
County
OREGON**

**Justice System
Improvement Program**

BUILDING A JUSTICE SYSTEM FOR THE FUTURE

*Accountability and treatment to transform lives, ensure safety,
and strengthen community*

Join the conversation about how to build an equitable, effective, and safe justice system for all Benton County residents at our first community meeting.



Save the date!

What: Virtual Community Meeting
When: Wednesday, September 8 from 5:30-7:00 p.m.
Where: [Register here to join us via Zoom Webinar](#)

We want to hear from you

Old and overcrowded buildings are compromising the way the justice system happens in Benton County. Share your ideas about the need and location for new proposed buildings to serve Benton County residents for the next 40 years and beyond:

- Crisis Center
- Courthouse
- Correctional Facility
- Sheriff & Emergency Operations

Stay up-to-date

Visit our website
[Visit the program website](#) to learn more about the Justice System Improvement Program.

Get email updates
If you received this email from Benton County, you are already signed up to receive updates on the Justice System Improvement Program. Was this email forwarded to you? Be sure to stay up-to-date as we move forward! [Sign up for program updates and meeting invitations.](#)

Questions or Comments

Nick Kurth, program manager
Justice System Improvement Program
541-766-6076 | nick.kurth@co.benton.or.us



Connect with us on
Nextdoor

**At your service,
every day.**

A Facebook Event invitation likely reached over 1000 individuals:



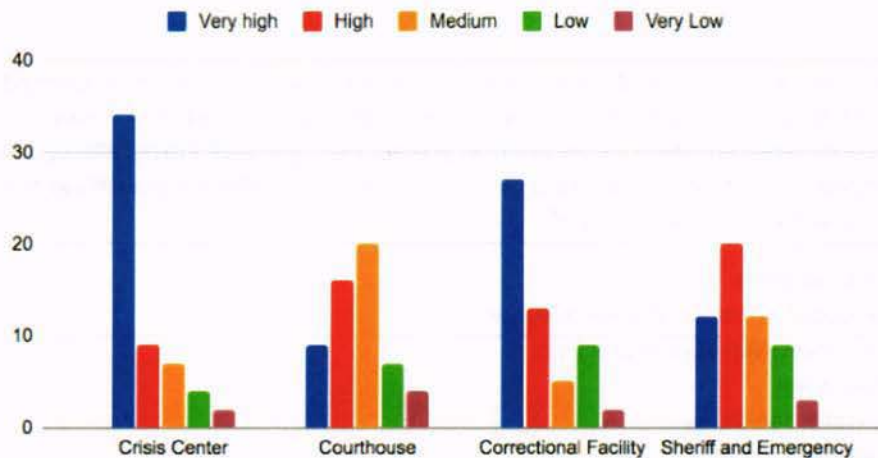
Input from speaking engagements helped staff refine the presentation and prepare for the first open virtual public meeting for the project. 79 people attended the event, hosted in Zoom Webinar. The agenda included an hour presentation by project manager Nick Kurth followed by 30 minutes of questions and answers moderated by Alyssa Rash, Public Information Officer for Benton County. The Q and A panel consisted of:

- Commissioner Xan Augerot
- Behavior Health Deputy Director Dannielle Brown
- Engineering and Survey Manager Laurel Byer
- Captain John DeVaney
- County Administrator Joe Kerby
- Program Manager Nick Kurth
- DLR Group: Justin Stranzl and Mitch Hein
- Sheriff Jef Van Arsdall

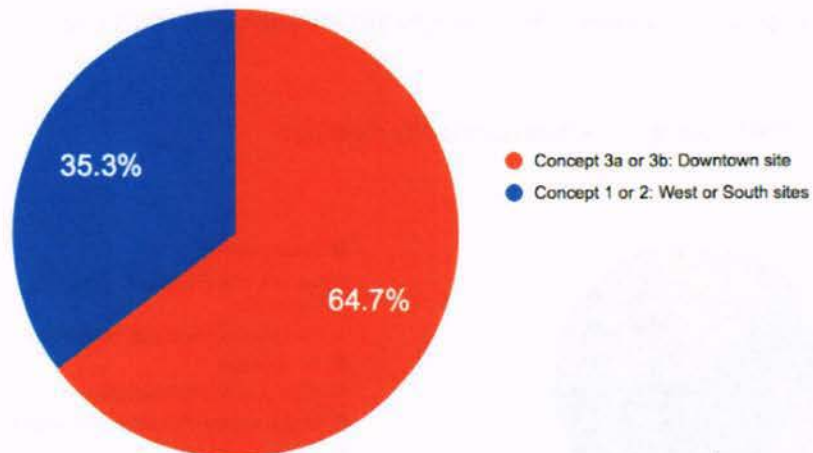


The meeting included 3 live polls: see below for results. Questions posed by participants during the event spanned a range of topics, see page 13 for details.

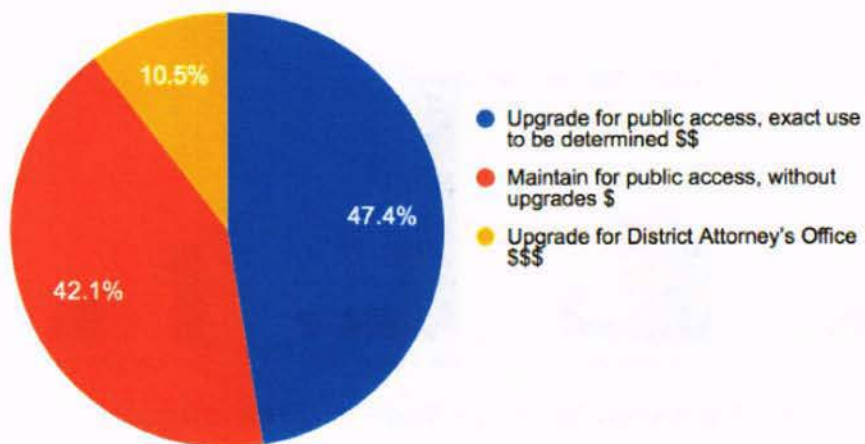
Please rank the importance of each proposed facility to the community



Where should the new Courthouse be located?



The County is studying options to repurpose the Historic Courthouse. What do you favor?

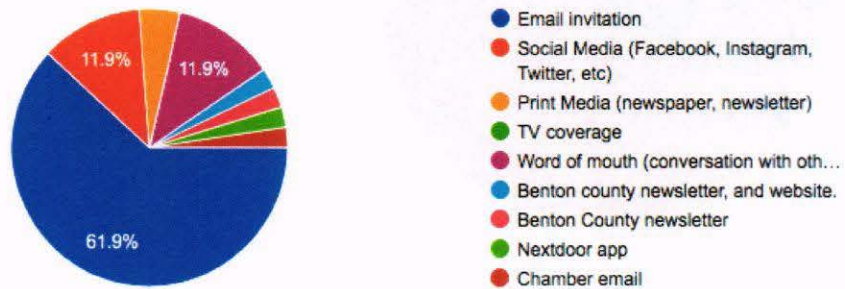


Post-Meeting Questionnaire Results

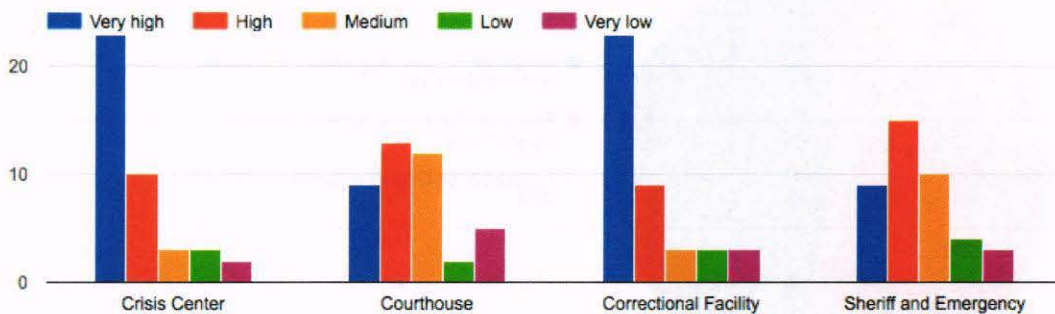
After the event, a follow up survey completed by 43 people yielded additional results, see below for summary results:

How did you hear about the September 8 virtual community meeting?

42 responses

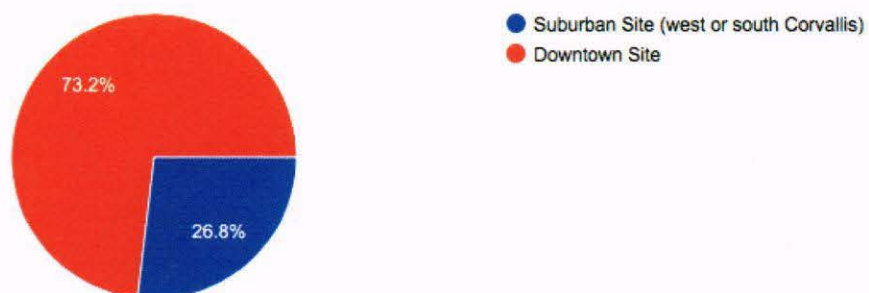


Please rank the importance of each proposed facility to the community.



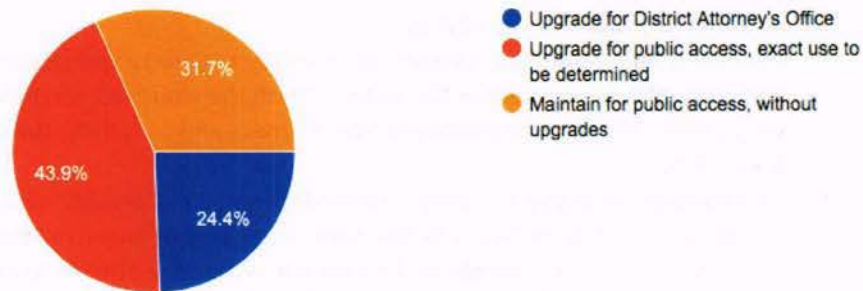
One of the proposed new facilities is a new Courthouse. Where should the new Courthouse be located?

41 responses



The County is studying options to repurpose the Historic Courthouse. Which option do you favor?

41 responses



Virtual Community Meeting: Questions by Category

The following verbatim questions were typed into the zoom Q&A function and most of them were answered by panelists in the last 30 minutes of the meeting. County staff is creating a full Q&A document to distribute to participants. Questions are categorized below by topic:

Process

- It would be great to note how many community members are attending this meeting. I need to leave for another meeting, but please post this info for the recording. Thank you!
- Can we share this information with the public?
- Will there be somewhere for the community to view all Q&As posted in one place as this process continues?

Location

- Is the South site in a 100-year floodplain?
- Where is the West site relative to the Corvallis Fault?
- Your poll did not distinguish between the west and the south site...
- What were the estimates for the 2 suburban site, south and west?
- Has a traffic impact study been done for the west location? The existing roads, West Hills, Harrison, and Philomath highway are substandard and over used now.
- How does the location of the corrections facility impact the operational costs with options 1 -2 and option 3.
- Nick said the west site being considered was across the street from the Benton co. Fairgrounds. East or south of the fairgrounds?
- A new recreational RV park is being built in Philomath along Hwy 20 with an access point on 9th Street, which turns into West Hills Road. It would likely have some impact on traffic leading to the proposed West site, but I doubt it will be completed by the time the Traffic Impact Analysis happens. Will the RV park be taken into consideration when conducting the Traffic Impact Analysis?

Finances

- How many years would it be before the investment comes out ahead?
- Has any of the funding come from Covid relief funds?
- Having been provided with inaccurate underestimated costs for previous bond measures that subsequently passed and were implemented, I question the \$200/yr number you provided. Please tell us what the actual mil rate is so we can be better informed of what this will cost us.
- I think it is imperative that Oregon, or at least our County and City, come to their senses and let a sales tax help share the burden. With the churches, the hospitals, and the Universities all shamefully excused from fairness and civic duty, the only equitable tax is a sales tax.
- As a 65-year-old property owner of a modest home in Corvallis, I live in deep fear that I will be taxed out of my home before I die. Being one of only five States that doesn't have a state sales tax, Oregon is the only one where the already existent legal option for local jurisdictions to levy one, is not heavily utilized. Maybe the entire rest of the country isn't wrong. Maybe it is time for this outdated vanity to be examined?
- Do you have an idea of the tax ramifications?
- There is a lot about capital costs but nothing about on going cost compared with the various options.
- The hope is that the bond measure passes. If it doesn't, are there any contingency plans in place to use the existing funding already received?

Equity

- How do the percentages of BIPOC people arrested and/or incarcerated compare to the percentage they make up of our community's population? In other words, is there much racial disproportionality in our local justice system?
- Where are the equity considerations on the location? Do not establish another facility of this type in South Corvallis.

Facilities

- Are the proposed facilities designed with flexibility in mind for future needs?

Historic Courthouse

- If the courthouse is deemed too unsafe for the public as a courthouse, how will it be deemed safe for the public as not a courthouse?
- What are the realms of ideas for how the courthouse would be used for otherwise?

Sheriff's Office & Emergency Operations

- I would be interested to hear more about the emergency ops center.

Courthouse

- Are there any opportunities for the County and City to house their court functions in the same building for County/City efficiencies?
- Are people aware at the Courthouse the victims are not separate and in close quarters to accused?
- What are the additional annual operational costs if the Courthouse is not co-located with the Correctional Facility?

- Are there potential drawbacks for a downtown location for the new courthouse?

Correctional Facility

- Why are we no longer renting beds from Lincoln County?
- How can you reassure the public that an increase in jail beds won't lead to an increase in arrests? Will you be collecting data to examine for this possibility?
- Could the old correctional facility be repurposed, either as a crisis center or emergency response center.
- With people being directed to the crisis center would you expect the jail population to decrease?
- To Xan Augerot: Nick spoke about how this has been 10 years in the making. Times have changed (CAHOOTS, BLM, etc) and we should expect more change before this proposed project ends. If we seriously implement CAHOOTS-like solutions over the next few years, are we going to end up with a jail that's just too big? Thank you.

Crisis Center

- Danielle-Can you speak to the plans for the Crisis Center: how many beds will be available? How long can a client stay there? Is it eligible for Medicaid reimbursement? How many staff members are needed?

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