

POLK COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
TUESDAY MEETING MINUTES
May 7, 2024

1. At 9:00 a.m., Commissioner Pope declared the Tuesday meeting of the Polk County Board of Commissioners in session and led the Board and attending audience in the Pledge of Allegiance. Commissioner Gordon and Commissioner Mordhorst were present.

2. COMMENTS (for items not on this agenda):

None.

3. MINUTES: **COMMISSIONER MORDHORST MOVED, COMMISSIONER GORDON
SECONDED TO APPROVE THE MINUTES OF April 16 & April 23, 2024**

MOTION PASSED BY UNANIMOUS VOTE OF THE BOARD.

4. STAR RECOGNITION AWARD

The Board and staff would like to give Special Thanks and Recognition to Katie Finley who was nominated for the STAR Recognition program for FY2023-2024 Q3. Commissioner Pope read aloud his nomination and thanked her for all of her hard work. Ms. Finley was presented with a signed certificate and a gift basket. The STAR Recognition program allows for department heads to nominate an employee for recognition each quarter.

5. HOMELESSNESS PREVENTION AND SERVICES

Ryan Pollard, Family & Community Outreach, along with Petra Jaurequi, Polk County Rapid Rehousing Manager & Breezy Poyner, Mid-Willamette Valley Community Action Agency, were present today to discuss the current homelessness prevention services that are being offered in Polk County. Ms. Poyner provided some background information of her time with MWVCAA over the last 10 years and how they have been recently partnering with FCO and Arches in Salem. Ms. Poyner talked about their work with minors and with youth ages 18-24, their rapid rehousing programs and how they are engaging with the community. Ms. Jaurequi talked further about their rapid rehousing program and what the process looks like when someone needs assistance. Ms. Jaurequi talked about how many case managers they have and how many families they each have on their caseloads. Ms. Jaurequi shared data on how many people have been housed with their program. Commissioner Pope asked how many new cases they are taking on daily/weekly and Ms. Jaurequi stated that they are not taking on any new cases at this time because they have maxed out their grant funds, but early on they were taking on 3-4 households a week. Commissioner Pope asked if the need has stopped and Ms. Jaurequi stated that the needs have not stopped and that they currently have a waiting list of people who need help. Commissioner Gordon provided input on some funds that should be making its way to Polk County. Commissioner Mordhorst asked for some more details on the waitlist and Ms. Jaurequi answered his question. Commissioner Pope asked about the people who are on the waitlist and what their living conditions are like and Ms. Jaurequi answered his question. Next, Mr. Pollard talked about what they are doing at FCO to help prevent homelessness and the resources that are available at the Resource Center. Mr. Pollard talked about Edigar Hall, which is a single household transitional housing that is available, as well as Gale's Lodge, which is transitional housing for Polk County Veterans. Mr. Pollard talked about the number of people who used the warming centers this last year and how they try to work with each individual to connect them with the resources they need. Mr. Pollard shared data they have from working with people who are homeless and the data from housed households. Commissioner

Pope asked what happens when they run into someone who is not from Polk County and Mr. Pollard stated that they will try and get them back into contact with their caseworker from where they are from, but if they have no ties to Polk County, they cannot get into the rapid re housing program. Commissioner Pope asked Mr. Pollard to define what having ties to Polk County means and Mr. Pollard answered his question. Commissioner Mordhorst asked how are we working with people who are from West Salem and Mr. Pollard answered his question. Commissioner Pope stated that he would like to hear more information about the West Salem community who are experiencing homelessness. Ms. Poyner stated that MWVCAA can come back and present specifically on what they are doing in the West Salem/Salem area for the community. Commissioner Gordon shared praise that he has received from other local governments and agencies on how well FCO, along with all these other agencies are doing and the positive impact they are having on the community. Commissioner Mordhorst asked if they are seeing an increase in the elderly not having enough funds to live and Mr. Pollard said yes, they are seeing an increase with those individuals.

6. NON-LISTED ITEMS - (Pursuant to ORS 192.640, the Board of Commissioners considered the below identified non-listed items.)

None

Commissioner Pope adjourned the meeting at 9:47 a.m.

Minutes: Nicole Pineda
Approved: May 14, 2024