

LIBRARY ADVISORY COMMITTEE MINUTES

January 15, 2025

- Present:** Scott Siracusa (K.F.), Spyder (S.R), Joe Spendolini (K.F.), Christine Neterer (Bonanza), Rigo Cisneros (K.F.) Tim Sexton (Chiloquin), Margaret Adam (K.F.), Jennifer Cole (Keno), Katie Walker (Malin), Cassie Stiehr (K.F.), Elizabeth Mabou (K.F.). Nathalie Naveau, (Director), Cindy Williams (Recorder).
- Call to order:** 12:00 p.m.
- Minutes:** M/S/Approved.
- Membership:** The Committee has two new members. Cassie introduced herself to the committee. She has lived in Klamath County for five years and is a former special education teacher. Cassie is the Associate Director of the United Way and is excited to help promote the D.P.I.L. program. There is a possibility of a grant opportunity in 2027 for the Friends of the Library to apply for funds to assist with the program. Cassie does not have a library card but will apply for one after the meeting.
- Elizabeth introduced herself to the committee. She is a Sales Director at Running Y Resort and the library is important to her.
- Scott would like to step down as Committee Chair. He made a motion to appoint Cassie as Library Advisory Committee Chair. Spyder seconded. Discussion followed that the members would have liked to have known prior to the meeting that a new chair would be selected and when the change would take place. Joe asked Cassie to speak more about herself. She is very enthusiastic about the library and partnering with the United Way to bring more awareness to the community about services available. Funding for D.P.I.L. is especially important. Scott amended his motion: Appoint Cassie as Library Advisory Committee Chair effective at the end of the meeting. Spyder seconded. Approved.
- Director:** Nathalie reported that Officer Terry Amos, City Police, is now assigned to the main library and will be doing walk throughs. He will not be available on weekends. Circulation is about the same as last month and attendance is higher. The library has a new 4-week crochet class which is full and has a waiting list! Great Decisions (an eight-week discussion group focused on foreign policy) is starting January 25th and will run for 8 weeks. We are holding two sessions a week on Thursdays and Saturdays. Both sessions are full. Staff do not participate in the discussions. The Chemult library will be closing and moved into the new Crescent library building on February 3rd. The Gilchrist branch will be moving March 4th. The Oregon Department of Revenue will provide tax preparation assistance for low-income taxpayers on February 12th at the Main Library from 10-8 p.m. Sky Lakes Birthing Center will now be giving library card and D.P.I.L. applications to all new babies' families. Commissioner DeGroot is the library's new liaison. Commissioner Nichols visited the library yesterday with the Maintenance Department Head and applied for his library card.
- Tim sent an email report: Chiloquin library is doing well. No facility or safety concerns. Wednesday book reading for kids is very well attended.

New Business: The B.O.C.C., Scott, and Nathalie met to interview candidates to the committee and afterward discuss the open positions in the outlying areas, which have been vacant for years due to no interested applicants. The B.O.C.C. amended the Advisory Committee's By-Laws to remove the geographical requirement. All positions will now be at-large positions.

Branch staff will now send quarterly reports to Wes Stone with any safety concerns and program news. Committee members were encouraged to still visit branches and get community feedback. Jennifer asked about the membership numbers and Scott said that the B.O.C.C. is considering changing the Committee from 11 members to 7 or 9.

Chris expressed concerns about an incident at the S.S. branch. Nathalie emphasized that staff safety is a priority and mentioned that staff can text the reference desk to have them call 911 if they feel uncomfortable doing so in front of a patron.

Jennifer reported on a presentation by Marilyn Gran-Moravec from O.H.S.U. and her street nursing team. Their goal is to address the health issues of unhoused individuals early to prevent the need for emergency services later, by providing foot soaks and two pairs of socks to each person. Nathalie suggested offering a basket for patrons to donate socks and contact Marilyn to inquire about presenting the program to the public. She also plans to post flyers to inform the public about the program and to dispel myths about people experiencing homelessness (PEH). (See flyer on page 3)

Adjourned: 1:06 p.m.

Next Meeting: April 16, 2025, Noon. In person and Zoom.



10 MYTHS ABOUT

PEOPLE EXPERIENCING HOMELESSNESS (PEH)



MYTH

VS

FACT

Homelessness is a choice

Experiencing homelessness is often the result of systemic issues such as poverty, lack of affordable housing, and inadequate social services. (1)

People don't want to use the resources available

There is a nationwide shortage of mental health services, substance use disorder treatment, and shelter. As of 2022, there are an estimated 18,000 PEH in Oregon with only 5,200 year-round shelter beds to serve them. (3)

All homeless people are mentally ill and have substance use disorder

Less than 50% of the nation's PEH are affected by these conditions. In 2022: 21% reported having a severe mental illness and 16% reported chronic substance abuse. (2)

Homeless people are lazy and don't want to work or pay for housing

Most PEH are actively trying to find work but experience overwhelming barriers to employment. (2)
Lack of affordable housing is the best predictor of homelessness.

Homeless people are dangerous criminals

This population actually faces disproportionate rates of violence. 49% of PEH are estimated to be victims of violence, compared to 2% of the national population. (2)

Homelessness is a problem only in urban areas

This is a nationwide issue that affects both urban and rural areas. It may be underestimated in rural communities due to a lack of visibility, and an overall lack of resources. (4)

Homeless people don't want help

Maslow's Hierarchy of Needs provides evidence that a person's psychological and safety needs cannot be met if their physiological needs (food, water, sleep) have not been met yet.

Homelessness is a result of mental illness and substance use disorder

Mental health conditions and SUD can frequently be outcomes of experiencing homelessness. (2)
Experiencing homelessness is recognized as a risk factor.

Most homeless people are single men

Families with children make up a significant portion. Oregon saw a 27% increase in the number of families experiencing homelessness between 2020 and 2022. (3)

Homelessness is a temporary problem that can be solved easily

Homelessness is a complex issue and its prevalence will continue to increase until long-term solutions are implemented such as affordable housing and comprehensive social services. (3)




STREET NURSING TEAM

About Us


We are a group of nurses and nursing students providing holistic nursing care to the unhoused community through weekly outreach and foot clinics at established locations.

We are a trusted presence in the unhoused community.


Our Goals



To prepare a compassionate nursing workforce that understands the complexities of the housing crisis and life on the street



To reduce harm and prevent unnecessary deaths from opioid overdose



To avoid the overuse of emergency services through the provision of preventative care



To bridge gaps in healthcare access

Core Services



Foot clinics



Wound care



Harm reduction



Advocacy in the hospitals and clinics



Referrals to services



Best practice trainings for the community on health issues related to homelessness

Our Partners

- Klamath Tribal Engagement Center
- Department of Human Services
- Tayas Yawks
- Max's Mission
- The Warming Center



How to Reach Us:

Primary Contact:

Marilyn Gran-Moravec,
MSN, RN

OHSU School of Nursing
Klamath Falls campus

(541) 274-7654