

The Advisory Council approved the minutes as submitted via e-mail, as well as the agenda.

Viviana Matthews of Clatsop Community Action (CCA) was introduced to the Advisory Council. She has served with CCA for ten years, and has worked in social services in Clatsop County for the last 20 years. Services that CCA provide include ten housing programs, energy assistance, the Regional Food Bank (RFB), social services outside of the RFB, and veteran's services.

The Advisory Council was updated on the incentive fund project, Healthy Hearts. The Coordinator reported that the program is going well. Less enrollment for the pilot cohort than initially expected, however a large recruitment push will occur in February. All participants have been using their passes to Sunset Empire Parks and Recreation pool and exercise room, and the Coordinator has been delivering CCA Food Boxes from the Regional Food Bank to the participant's homes. Surprisingly, the participants had previously not accessed the resources at the Food Bank. The Advisory Council discussed ways for the participants to receive their clinical measures without making appointments with their primary care physician, and an idea that was presented was to have a medical assistant join the nutrition education class with the dietician from Providence.

Viviana Matthews led the Advisory Council's discussion on the homelessness and the affordable housing climate in Clatsop County. She told the Council that there are more homeless families and individuals in Clatsop County than you might think. CCA is hosting a Project Homeless Connect Event in Seaside on Jan. 30. This provides a space for those experiencing homelessness to come and access resources, as well as an opportunity for CCA to count the number of homeless in the county, along with other count strategies. This count provides CCA to receive continued or added funding as well as other agencies in the community that receive state and federal funds. Previously, Clatsop County has had the highest percentage of homeless persons per capita in the state. This is the eighth year that CCA has been hosting the Project Homeless Connect in Seaside. Over 40 agencies are involved, helping with intake, guiding participants, providing resources and services. Conversation revolved around what the Advisory Council can do to support CCA's efforts as well as explore possible variables for the high rates of homelessness in Clatsop County. Viviana left the council with the notion that "[homelessness] can happen to anyone".

To continue the discussion around homelessness in Clatsop County, we will reach out to those who may be experiencing or have experienced homelessness and invite them to the February Advisory Council meeting to share their story. The Innovator Agent Update was provided to the council, including an update on "OHP Now Covers Me."