

**ENDING HOMELESSNESS PLAN – WHERE ARE WE NOW HIGHLIGHTS**  
**(May 2014)**

The decision to develop the Yamhill County Ten Year Ending Homelessness Plan actually started in Fall 2006 when the Yamhill County Commissioners passed a resolution indicating backing of efforts to move forward with a 10-Year Plan to end homelessness.

A Committee was formed in fall 2007 with one of the goals being to develop a 10-Year Ending Homelessness Plan to present to the community. This goal was completed in September 2008.

The Ending Homelessness Plan has a super ambitious goal of not simply “managing” homelessness but of ending homelessness and for every citizen to have a decent, safe, and affordable place to call home.

Several highlights of major events that have occurred under the plan are as follows:

- 1) Yamhill County started counting not just the homeless in shelter beds but on the street as well during their annual Point In Time homeless count that occurs each January.
- 2) In 2009, we held our first Community Connect Event. On June 18<sup>th</sup>, 2014, we will be holding our sixth annual Community Connect Event. The event has been growing by leaps and bounds and in 2014, we will add on a Veterans Stand Down and WorkSource Job Fair to the event. We have served between 250 – 600 residents with needed resources and direct services through these events.
- 3) Affordable Housing completed since Fall 2008 when we rolled out the plan:
  - a. 50 new units of Affordable Senior Housing
  - b. 34 new units of Affordable Workforce Housing (Mac and Newberg Habitats and Community Homebuilders)
  - c. 1-5 bedroom home for women in recovery with young children
- 4) Memorandums of Agreement were put in place between the Housing Authority of Yamhill County and the Yamhill Community Action Partnership, Yamhill County Community Corrections, Yamhill County Health and Human Services, Department of Human Services, and the Yamhill County Veteran’s Department to provide prioritized and expedited voucher process for clients meeting specified criteria.
- 5) Yamhill County began piloting the 2-1-1 info social services hotline on June 1, 2009.
- 6) 12 beds were made available in Yamhill County for runaway and homeless youth (11-17 years of age)
- 7) C-WISH (Community Winter Inclement Shelter) group created and established a system for activating winter shelters in McMinnville and Newberg.
- 8) Faith-based organizations in McMinnville have increase the number of community meals to eight per week. Faith-based organizations in Newberg have increased the number of community dinner meals from 3 nights to 4 nights a week.

**SUMMARY:** We will be finishing up year 6 of the plan in this Fall. I am proud of the way this community steps forward to fill gaps which is why we have made steps forward with the plan. We are obviously still way short of all types of affordable housing options from homeless shelters to transitional housing to long-term housing to homeownership. A logical next step in the plan is this COMPASS center which is being talked about tonight.

This type of facility has been in the plan since day one and it is time for the community to come together to move forward with this task.