



Presenting Today

Crystal Magana - LEC Fawn Hakert - LEC Hollie Spriggs-LEC Desiree' J. DuBoise - PSU Mentimeter: Who is here today?





About Us - PSU Team:



Kathleen Conte



Marisa Zapata



Desiree' J. DuBoise

- Other Team Members:
- Tania Hoode all things admin
- Molly Liang MPH Intern
- Susan Avila- MPH Intern



Lived Experience Committee

LIVED EXPERIENCE COMMITTEE



KORI HAMILTON
LIVED EXPERIENCE COMMITTEE MEMBER



JESSICA AHEARN LIVED EXPERIENCE COMMITTEE MEMBER



ERIC GIBSON
LIVED EXPERIENCE COMMITTEE MEMBER



CRYSTAL MAGANA
LIVED EXPERIENCE COMMITTEE MEMBER



ARTANIA BRYANT
LIVED EXPERIENCE COMMITTEE MEMBER



CASSIE MARUSA Lived experience committee member



THEODORE/FLEX LIVED EXPERIENCE COMMITTEE MEMBER

7 of our 17 members!





Where did this project come from:

HSD interest:

- Funded by Joint Office of Homeless
 Services/Homeless Services Department
 - Focus on Multnomah County
- Interest: what services help people move from "pathways through shelter to housing"

PSU interest "Pathways through homelessness":

- "Pathways" are different for everyone
- Sometimes we don't know the "path" or the "goal" until we look back at where we've been
 - What are people's goals when they are navigating houselessness? (not just what OUR goals are)
 - What actually helps people?
 - What do we need to understand better about people's journeys?

Pathways research questions:

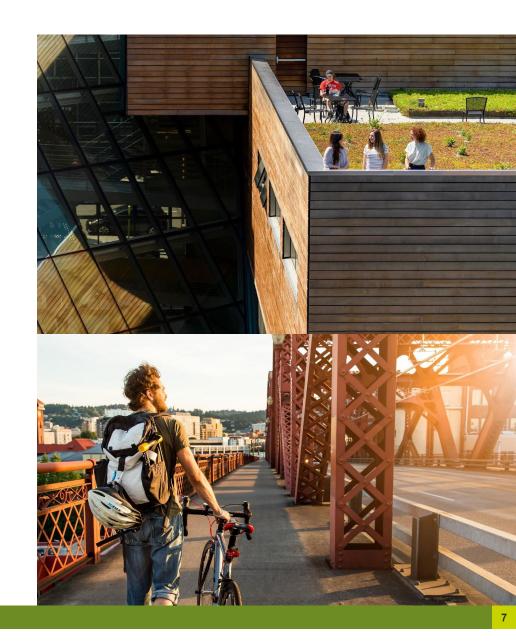
Research Question 1: What supports people while they're living on the street?

Research Question 2: What goals do people have relating to shelter and housing?

Research Question 3: What supports/impedes people in working towards those housing and shelter goals?

Research Question 4: How do socio-demographic factors influence or change people's' needs, priorities, goals (i.e. responses to previous questions)

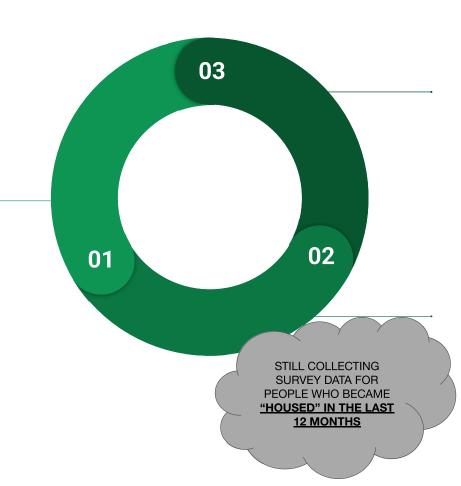
Research Question 5: What do "pathways" through homelessness look like?



"Pathways" Study Overview

Transformational Research for Equity and Experience in Shelter(T.R.E.E.S.) committee (2024- 2026)

Committee created to collaborate to create the research



Interviews and Mapping (Summer/Fall 2025)

Explore "what pathways through homelessness" look like to improve services, offer hope, share experience.

Develop individual maps, and possibly, "community-level" maps

About 40 in-depth maps and

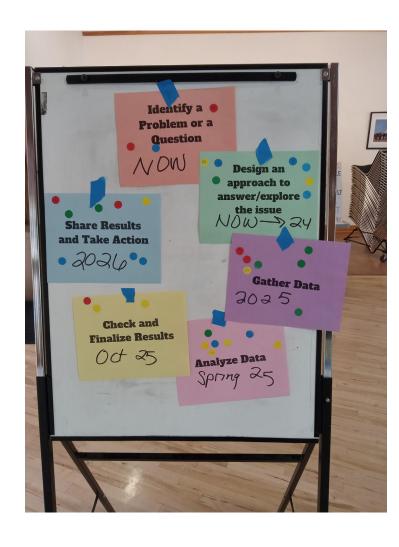
Possible community workshop/mapping

Survey (Spring/Fall 2025)

- 400 people with experience with <u>current</u> homeless system in Multnomah County
- Includes people who are unsheltered, sheltered, and recently housed
- -Questions: What is current experience of homelessness (including impact of sweeps)? What services do/don't support people? What do people <u>want</u> in terms of qualities of housing, what services etc.



Role of the Lived Experience Committee





Activities the committee has done so far

- Co-Researchers Develop research questions
 - Identify research priorities
 - Review, edit, suggest survey questions
 - Trial survey and give feedback
 - Collect survey data
- Suggest outreach methods and locations to ensure representation
 - Review data
 - Trial qualitative methods mapping
 - Participate in interviews

Activities we hope the committee will do in the future

- Conduct interview
- Analyze data
- Develop messages to share with various stakeholders
 - Take learnings back to community groups
 - Identify priorities for action
 - Advocate
 - New projects?



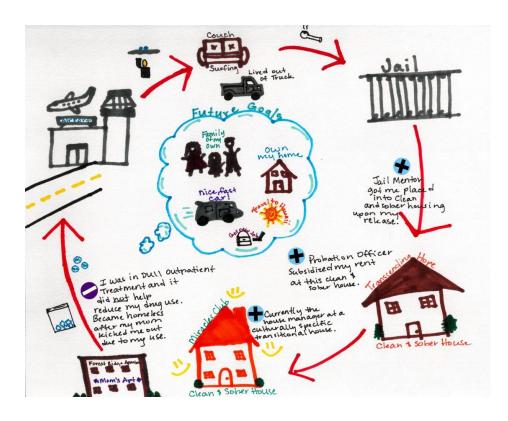
Mapping and Interviews

- Piloted the mapping activity with the Pathways LEC
- Asked participants to create visual maps that illustrated their journeys through houselessness
- Followed up the mapping activity with an in-depth interview
- Explored services, relationships, what was helpful and what was not



Mapping examples







Interview findings so far

- Causes
- Barriers
- Bright spots
- Turning points
- Hopes for the future

 What are some other causes of houselessness?



Causes

A "Perfect Storm"

Sex trafficking

Mental

health

crisis

Relief in detachment from responsibilities + life in general

Systemic

lifestyles

(generational

poverty)

homelessness

Unforeseen circumstances i.e. car accident, or random assault, or crime

Transition from

Work injuries (laid off work)

DV/SA/issues with interpersonal relationships

youth to adult systems

abuse/lack of knowledge of treatment options

Drug

Affordability of housing

Loss of relationshipgrief/ destabilizing

Barriers

Service or System

Rental History

No one provided possibly due to isolated location

Requirements to access or stay in programs

Inconsistent accessibility of

Unsafe shelters/ accommodations Rental rules

Inconsistent/bad case management

Long wait times

Closing city sanctioned camps

No one will sign

a lease or rental

agreement to

someone w/o

income

record (no

Stigma

Rental companies

looking to evict

people who are

placed through

housing assistance

Sweeps (Confiscating RV's, loss of community, home & stuff)

Discrimination closes doors for people reduces access

Legal issues/legal expungement for certain charges) to services

Interpersonal

Communication issues between self and landlords, family or friends

Interpersonal conflict

Racial profiling

Issues outside of an individual's control (flooding, bedbugs)

Cycles of housing -> houselessness esp. With family

Individual

"Know how" - just knowing how to navigate the system and access services and support

Ability to do basic activities of living - having clean clothes, going to work, secure storage

Addiction

Mental health

Having to be incredibly persistent



Turning Points Getting Access/support Change in drug for Financial use / access to Support, Housing treatment Programs, Social Security Types of Programs · Support for mothers/children · Unemployment benefits Community · Food stamps Building · COVID funding that provided support · Employment opportunities · Low-barrier program · Culturally-specific programming · Housing-related costs (moving, rent) Became eligible for services due **Employment** to situation deteriorating Being Personal trusted & responsibility/acc ountability/felt given an empowered opportunity



Barriers to resolving houselessness

I applied for every possible thing that I could apply for, and it's at a point where I don't even care about applying for things anymore and I'm just kind of flying by the seat of my pants because unless something actually seems feasible, it just doesn't even feel like there's a point in applying because you just get put on a waitlist to be forgotten about or to never hear your name come up (P10).



Supports while houseless

The groups, the community that I found within being ho seless and being in those shelters or transitional spaces. I will say the staff that were compassionate. The ones who would push you and make you feel like you got this or don't give up. Those things really matter when you're alone and fighting for survival (P14).



Hopes for the future

And hopefully in two years I'll have my bachelor's. I want to go to grad school hopefully right after, so I don't have to pause and then restart and have it be difficult. But I want to hopefully stay where I'm at now until I'm done with school. I feel like it's very affordable and I found a good spot where I'm able to be, and I feel like continuing to access the services I have (P09).



The activity

- 1. Examine each poster
- 2. What stories do you see here? What stories are missing?
- 3. Pulling on your experience, use sticky notes to add to each poster
- 4. If there are points that you agree with, place a check mark or a sticker next to it we will count up the check marks to help us understand what is most important

Next steps:

- Interviews with people who have had a really LONG and DIFFICULT journey to find "housing", people who have experienced many system failures
- Interviews with people who had a relatively SHORT and EFFICIENT experience with the system, people who experienced homelessness for the first time and had it resolved quickly

Get in touch if you or someone you know fits this description and would be interested in speaking to us!





Thank you! Get in Touch

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