

Committee for Community Involvement Meeting Minutes - DRAFT

February 21, 2023 MEETING MINUTES

Time: 6 - 8 p.m.

Held via Zoom

CCI Attendees: Karen Bjorklund, Rick Cook, Rich Nepon, Brent Parries, Gordon Slatford, Barbara Smolak, Laurie Swanson

County Attendees: Stacy Davenport, Holly Krejci, Chris Lyons, Daniel Nibouar

Public Attendees: Bruce Bartlett (Chair, Washington County CCI), Grover Bornefeld, Pamela Burbach, Nora Gambee, Bill Markt

1. Welcome, Introductions
2. Approval of 1/17 meeting minutes
 - Rick Cook moved to approve minutes, Barbara Smolak 2nd, all in favor.
3. Overview with Bill Flood on assessment report on the County's Community Engagement
 - Bill Flood gave an overview of the County's Community Engagement report
 - Bill urged stakeholders to make the report their own – identifying what works and what does not work.
 - This report is a good opportunity for the community, Public and Government Affairs, and the Equity and Inclusion Office to work together.
 - Discussed his scope of work.
 - CCI members gave feedback and asked questions
 - Code Enforcement should listen to CPOs when feedback is given.
 - Felt that this report was rushed after Community Engagement Framework was created.
 - Too much focus on Equity, Diversity and Inclusion
 - Some feel you will move from a skills-based recruitment to a diversity-based recruitment.
 - Why did the report not discuss why there were so many inactive CPOs.
 - Would like background from page 9 on the report regarding the reasons for inactive CPOs.
 - Need follow through from the County back to the community.
 - Why the recommended name changes from Committee for Community Involvement to Community Engagement Council?
 - Public members gave feedback and asked questions and provided comments:
 - How can we engage more residents to get involved in CPOs and keep CPOs active?
 - Consider a focus beyond land use to engage residents on more positive issues
 - How do we measure success of community engagement?

4. PGA Community Outreach Plan – Daniel Nibouar, Interim Director for Disaster Management
 - Daniel shared how the County’s Disaster Management team is planning to engage residents and community groups to gather information to determine the ability for community members to receive emergency information through their phone or internet services during planned and unplanned power outages and identify solutions to communications challenges brought on by power outages.
 - Question and answer session with Daniel
5. CCI Work Item Tracker
 - Holly went over what can and cannot be done to update the County CPO webpages.
 - A work group was created to work with PGA on the County CPO webpages. They are Karen Bjorklund, Rick Cook, Gordon Slatford
 - List of county newsletters currently available for the public to sign up for
 - Holly directed CCI to the county webpage on where to sign up for different topics to receive information from the county.
 - Web site design support/training for CPOs & Hamlets
 - The County is not able to help with training.
 - Any updates on other items already in the CCI Work Tracker
 - Karen asked status for technology survey to all CPOs. PGA has not started working on the survey
6. CCI Task Force Reports on Monitoring Land Use Applications in Inactive CPO areas
 - Brent gave an update about some inactive CPOs. Still looking for members from Colton CPO.
7. New Business
 - Send all CPOs the link to sign up for newsletters/information from Clackamas County.
 - Some members would like to have Commissioner Ben West attend a CCI meeting since he is newly elected.
 - Chris and Holly shared the process undertaken to share the Bill Flood Community Engagement report.
 - Gordon suggested having an in-person meeting, which brought a discussion about hybrid meetings.
 - Discussed when we could hold another Community Leaders Meeting
8. Public comment
 - No public comment

Next Meeting: Tuesday, March 21, 2023, 6 – 8 p.m. via Zoom

Meeting adjourned 8 p.m.

Eviction Prevention Mediation Demonstration

March 1, 2023

“Thank you! I worked with my manager to have a little more time, and they kindly waited on eviction. All back rent is now paid!”

-Renter

“Mediator amazing at making sure both parties were heard and respected.”

- Housing Provider

“The mediator let each party discuss their perspectives. The client said that this was the first time they had truly been heard.”

-Social Service Case Manager

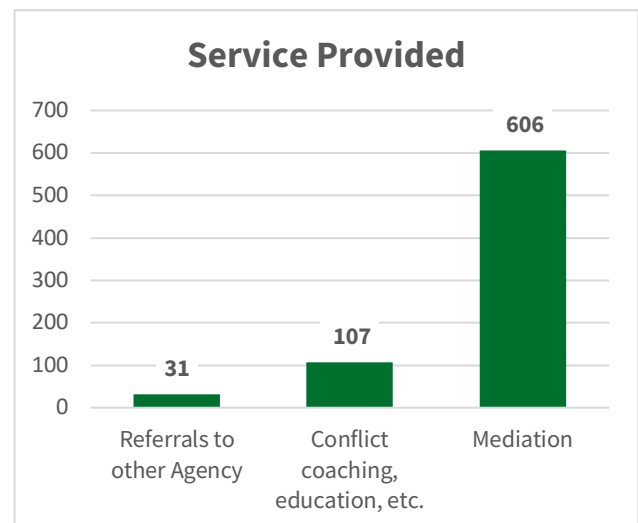
Summary

In December 2021, the Oregon Legislature passed SB 5561, which included State General Funds for eviction prevention and diversion services. The Eviction Prevention Mediation Demonstration (EPMD) formally launched in November 2022 in 13 Oregon counties with services provided by five community Resolution Centers. This report period includes data during the scale-up through January 31, 2023. EPMD sites are providing mediation services within an integrated upstream eviction prevention system in connected partnership with local renter assistance programs, such as legal aid, rehousing programs, community action agencies, and the courts.



Housing stability services

Resolution Centers provide referrals to other agencies, conflict coaching, and/or mediation to help stabilize housing for both the renter and the housing provider. Conflict coaching helps a party to anticipate problems, reality test options, and strategize a solution. In mediation, two or more parties are assisted by a mediator to reach a mutually acceptable resolution to the dispute. During the reporting period, Resolution Centers served approximately 2,892 people through 107 conflict coachings and 606 mediations.



Mediation has a long history in Oregon as an effective housing stability tool before an eviction is filed (prevention), as well as, after the eviction is filed (diversion). Currently, Oregon has no statewide formal requirement or incentive to mediate before an eviction is filed. There are a handful of Oregon courts that do require mediation prior to the trial. These policy differences (voluntary vs. required) create differing data flows and differing impacts on case outcomes. This report offers prevention and diversion details, respectively.

Integrated community response

Resolution Centers have established formal and informal pathways for service providers to stabilize housing efficiently and effectively. For example, Washington County’s Center for Mediation and Dialogue participates in bi-monthly meetings with housing advocacy groups to share information and improve support systems.

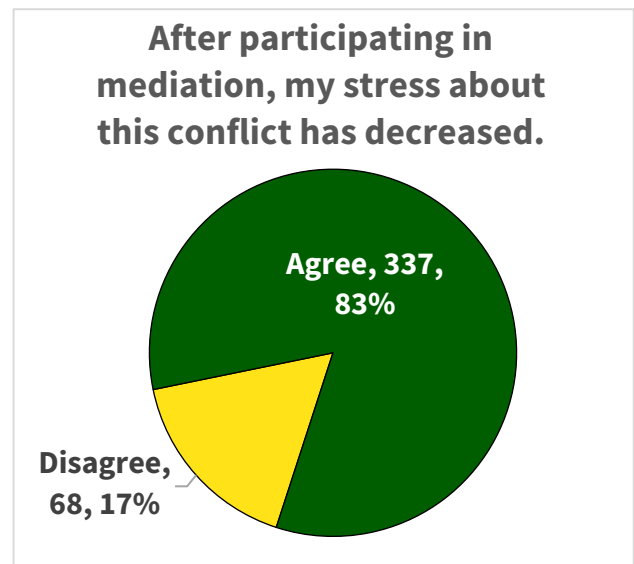
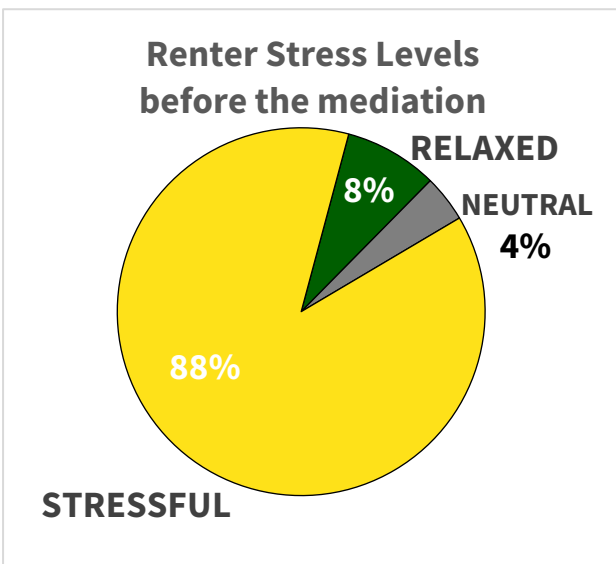
Specialized trainings

Resolution Centers provide continuing education opportunities directly to their local community mediators, and OOCDR supports development of the qualified basic mediation lead trainers and the statewide cadre of community mediators. In January 2023, qualified lead trainers (ORS 36.175) from EPDM sites participated in a 40-hour equity-in-mediation training to deepen accessible and inclusive services. In the next quarter, EPMD Sites are continuing to implement equity-in-mediation trainings for their community mediators. For example, Clackamas County Resolution Services has hired local and national trainers to facilitate a series that will cover topics such as: equity basics, equity in mediation, case development, equitable policies, and continued growth.

Training Events
12

Outreach Events
36

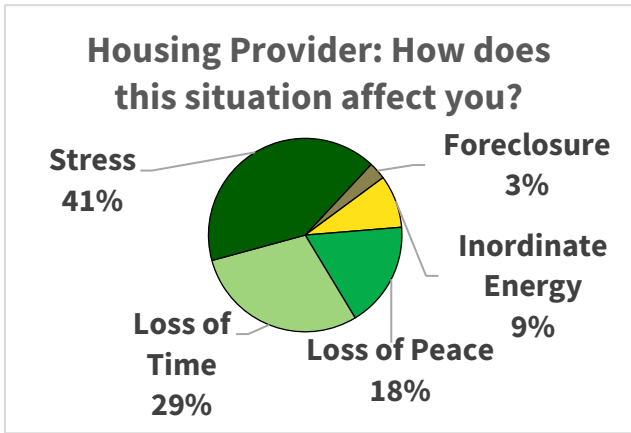
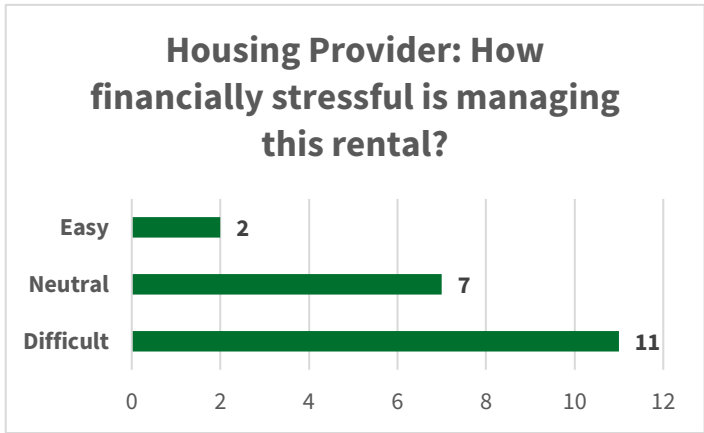
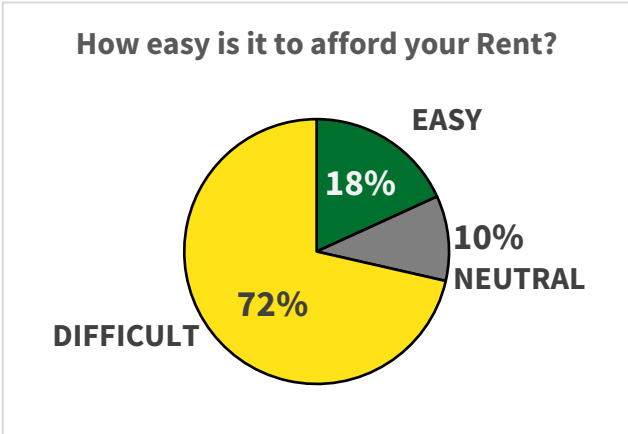
Number of Volunteers
50



Eviction prevention details

Renters are reporting high stress levels related to their housing, with 64% reporting ‘Very Stressful’. 72% of renter respondents report that it is ‘difficult’ to afford their rent. 61% of Housing Providers are reporting that managing these rentals is ‘difficult’ and they are impacted with stress, loss of peace, loss of time, inordinate energy, and foreclosure.

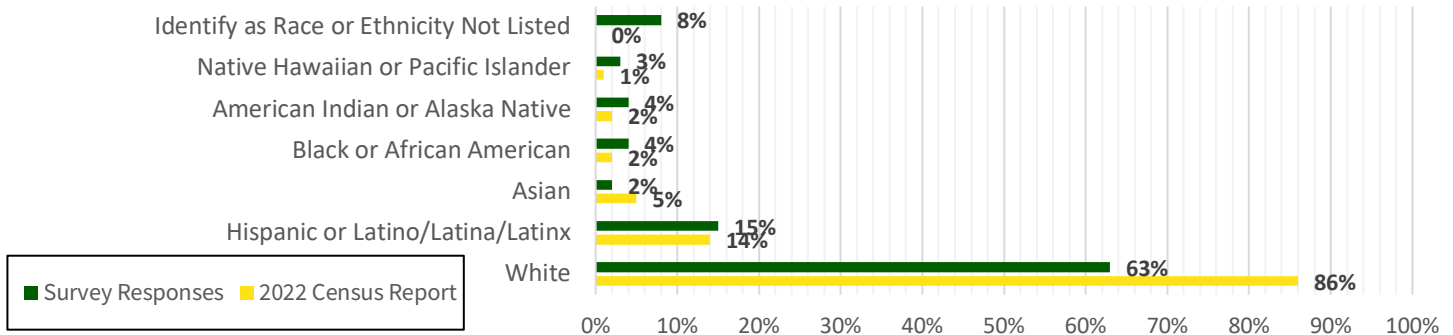
63% of renter survey respondents identify as white, 15% identify as Latinx, 4% as American Indian or Alaska Native, 4% as Black or African American, and 8% identify as a race not listed on the survey. Comparing the survey data with statewide data for Oregon in July 2022, resolution services are being provided slightly less to those who identify as white and Asian, and are provided slightly more to those who identify as Latinx, American Indian or Alaskan Native, Black, or Native Hawaiian or Pacific Islander (<https://www.census.gov/quickfacts/OR>).



**Eviction Prevention Case Study
Homelessness Prevention**

A housing authority was striving to provide stable housing to an individual who had been in and out of homelessness. Unfortunately, there was a \$250 judgement on the renter’s record from several years ago that prevented the housing agency from helping the renter. Bringing parties to the mediation table, the mediator helped the parties untangle much of the red tape and helped to find a way to reconcile the debt that was for a now deceased housing provider. Through mediation, the debt was settled, and a path was cleared for the renter to enter stable housing.

Participating Renter Demographics and Oregon Census Data



These service trends roughly align, when considering the median household income gap in Oregon between Black, American Indian, and Latinx households compared with white households. As calculated by the Oregon Office of Economic Analysis, Latinx, American Indian or Alaskan Native, Black, or Native Hawaiian or Pacific Islander households tend to have 10-20% less income than white Oregon households. (<https://oregoneconomicanalysis.com/2022/12/14/racial-and-ethnic-economic-disparities-in-oregon-an-update/>).

Mediators often find that the mediation is the first time the two parties have had an actual conversation. Often, overcoming the language and/or cultural barrier is the key to resolving the dispute and stabilizing housing. In eviction prevention cases, Resolution Centers report that 12 cases utilized Spanish language interpreters and one case utilized Russian language interpreters.

Many of both Renters (62%) and Housing Providers (69%) report that their relationship with the other party is positive or neutral. These amicable relationships may help to provide a foundation for seeing the struggles of the other party and helping to make an agreement that works for both parties.

I felt safe to say and express what I really wanted to say. You restored my dignity.

- Renter

Polite, informative, and helpful!

- Housing Provider

Allowed me to create a realistic payment plan for the near future.

-Renter

Waiting times are rough but everyone is kind and respectful. More mediators please.

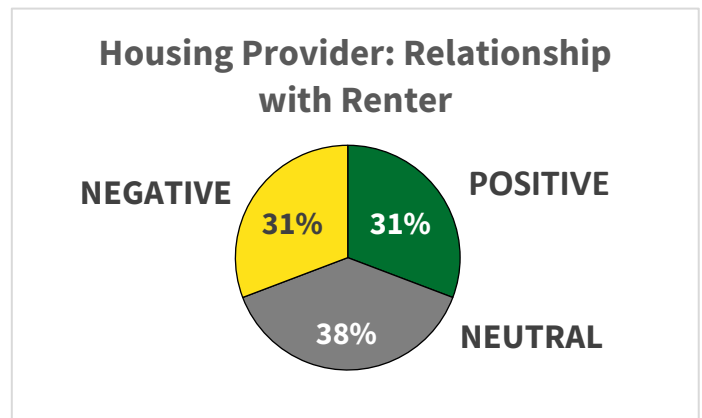
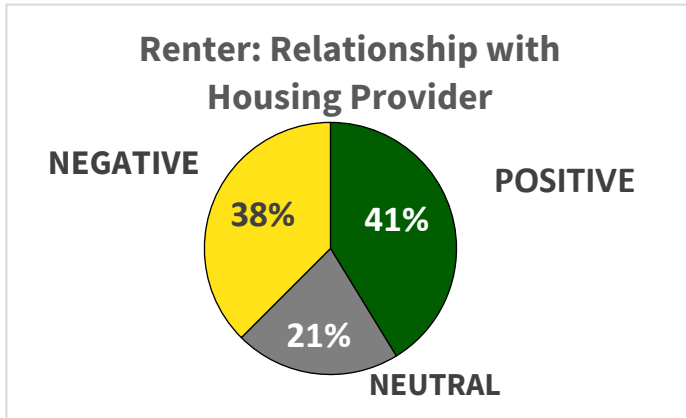
-- Housing Provider

**Eviction Prevention
Resolution Rates**

72%

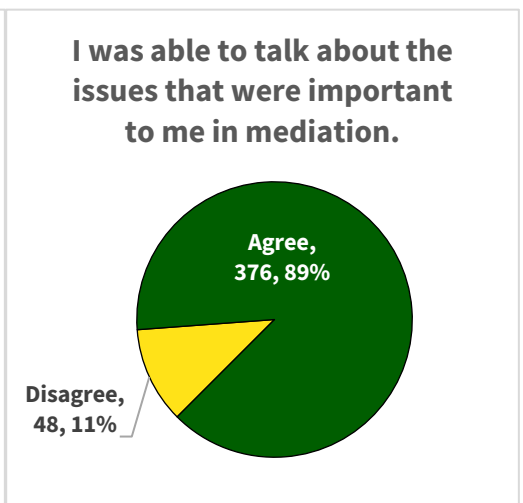
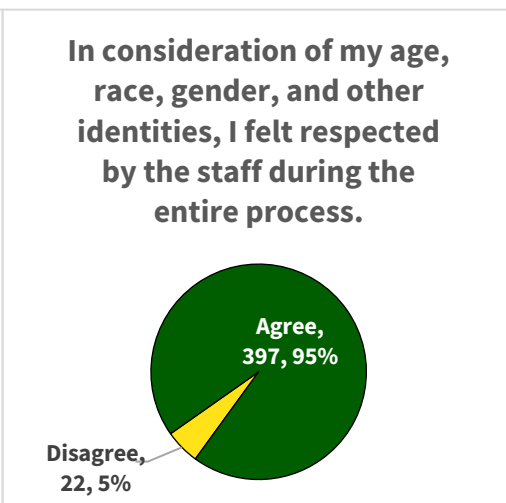
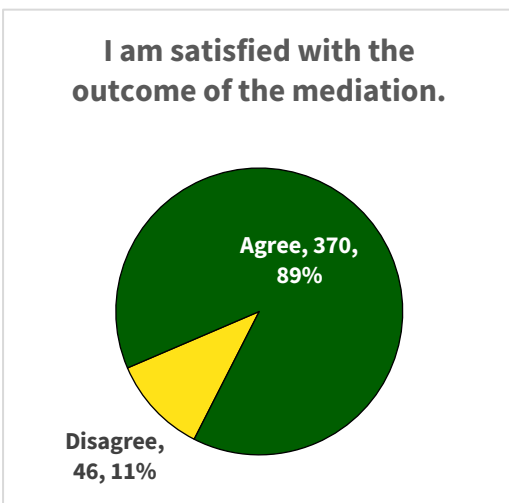
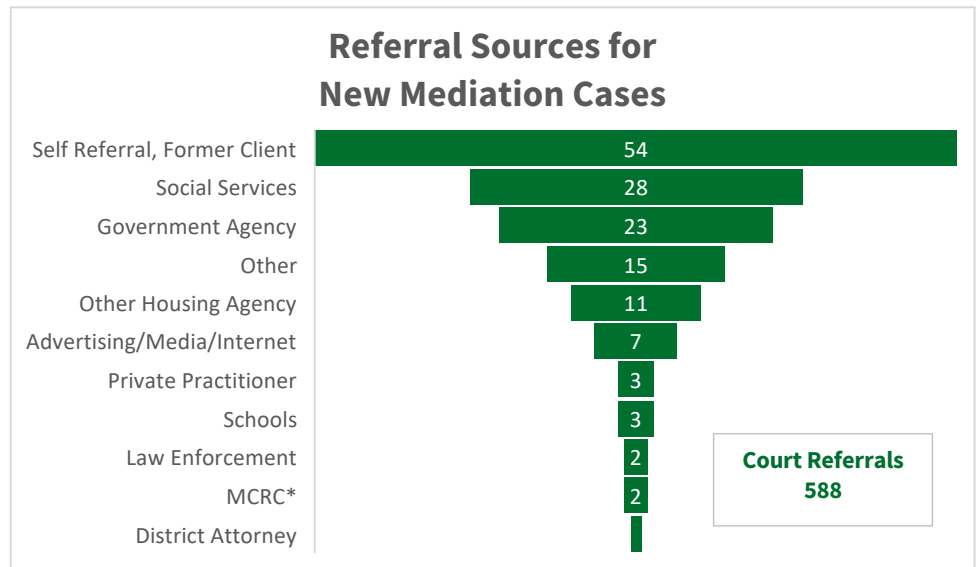
**Eviction Diversion
Resolution Rates**

79%



Eviction diversion detail

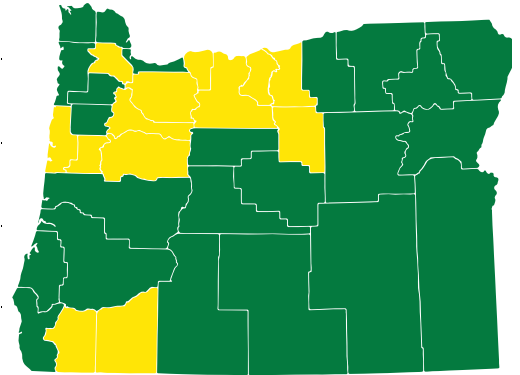
Eviction diversion mediation is well established in two of the five EPMD regions. Due to the fast pace of court processes and the court's restrictions on the collection of certain data, diversion data is more reliant on the survey tools OOCDR uses for all case types. Court referrals will continue to be high, as some courts require mediation prior to the trial.



Eviction Prevention Mediation Demonstration sites

The EPMD Sites cover 13 counties that include rural and urban communities, indicated in yellow on the map. The EPMD Sites and county service areas are:

The Center for Mediation and Dialogue	Washington
Clackamas County Resolution Services	Clackamas
Neighbor-2-Neighbor	Marion, Linn, Benton, Lincoln
Six Rivers Dispute Resolution Center	Hood River, Wasco, Sherman, Gilliam, Wheeler
Resolve Center for Dispute Resolution and Restorative Justice	Jackson and Josephine

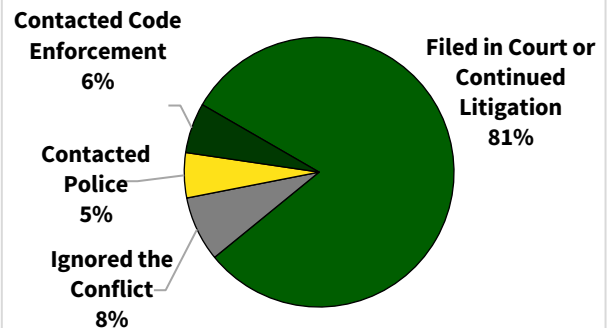


All EPMD Sites are part of Resolution Oregon – the network of community resolution centers that provide cost-effective and complementary avenues for justice to all community members throughout Oregon.

Eviction Diversion Case Study
Helping to Create Access to Language Justice

A housing provider filed an FED for not receiving payment of rent. It quickly became clear that the renter and housing provider had had limited communication up to that point. The housing provider did not speak Spanish or have their written communications translated into Spanish. With the aid of a Spanish interpretation service, the mediation established that the renter had submitted the rent on time, but the records were stolen during a break-in at the rental office. With communication restored, the renter was able to resubmit rent to the housing provider, and the housing provider agreed to send letters in Spanish. Housing is stabilized and constructive communication pathways are open for future conversations.

If mediation services had not been available, how would you have dealt with the conflict?



Committee for Community Involvement
Work Item Tracker: March 2023 Updates

Current Items

Date	Item	Assigned	Update
February 2023	Plan for the next Community Leaders meeting . Include meeting new Commissioner	CCI/PGA	Discussion expected at next CCI meeting
February 2023	Send CPO/Hamlet leaders a link showing email lists CPOs/Hamlets can sign up to receive .	PGA/Holly	
January 2023	Determine a project CCI and PGA can partner on to help CPOs engage with their communities	CCI & PGA	<i>February:</i> PGA selected CPO web page as first project. 4 CCI members volunteered for content workshop with web staff
November 2022	Determine CCI's role re: follow up to the assessment report on County community engagement	CCI & PGA	<i>February:</i> Consultant answered questions about completed assessment report on County community engagement
November 2022	Investigate how CCI can help the County and ABCs with community engagement framework	CCI & PGA	<i>February:</i> Consultant answered questions about completed assessment report on County community engagement
November 2022	Develop use of CCI Email Address	CCI & PGA	CCI email address now receiving public comments; Need plan to get more
October 2022	Discuss the purpose of CCI and recommend revisions as needed	CCI	<i>February:</i> Consultant answered questions about assessment & recommendations on County community engagement, including CCI & CPOs. CCI follow up discussion expected at March meeting
October 2022	Develop CCI 2023 work plan	CCI	Work to be scheduled after review of assessment report on County community engagement
October 2022	Create CCI 2023 annual report to present to the BCC	CCI	Work to be scheduled after review of assessment report on County community engagement
August 2022	Pursue prioritizing CPO code enforcement complaints	CCI	Proposed to be part of the CCI 2023 annual report to the BCC
May 2022	Encourage monitoring of land use application for inactive CPOs	CCI, Brent, Barbara, Bill	CCI Task Force reported active CPOs have agreed to monitor applications for inactive CPO areas of Estacada, Rockwood, Canby, South Canby, Sandy.

Current Items continued

Date	Item	Assigned	Update
April 2022	Investigate equipment for hybrid community meetings	PGA	PGA to survey CPOs about interest, capabilities for conducting hybrid meetings. CCI to review survey before distribution. <i>February:</i> PGA reported survey draft not completed yet

Completed/Archived Items

Date	Item	Assigned	Update	Completed Date
November 2022	Provide updated list of Active/Inactive CPOs from CPO/Hamlet audit	PGA	Stacy provided a list of four CPOs in danger of becoming inactive. Holly and Stacy reaching out to establish contact and help CPOs as possible	January 2023
November 2022	Provide Resolution Services statistical report to answer CCI questions about program effectiveness	Resolution Services	Report provided in December 2022 by Abigail Bowman	December 2022
September 2022	I-205 Tolling and engaging the community	CCI	Discussed; the decision to toll has already been made.	October 2022
September 2022	Consultant Bill Flood asked general questions related to the County's community engagement program	CCI	Bill Flood provided his email address for members to share feedback	September 2022
July 2022	Close CCI recruitment on 7/31 and interview applicants at next CCI meeting	PGA	Karen Bjorklund was recommended by CCI in August and approved by the BCC in September	September 2022
July 2022	Add action item section on agenda ahead of public comment	PGA	Added to agenda	August 2022

Committee for Community Involvement
Tracker for Public Comment Questions, Requests, Concerns

Questions, Requests, Concerns brought up in Public Comment Segment

Date	Public Comments	Follow Up
January 2023	Sparkle Anderson & Elaine Newland/Far West CPO asked how to have CPO meetings, and remain recognized by County, in the absence of pressing land use applications	<i>January:</i> CCI members gave feedback. Holly/PGA to follow up
August 2022	Karen Bjorklund raised the issue of who is listed as the contact for the inactive CPO Land Use notifications.	<i>August:</i> Chris shared that the contact has recently been updated with a relevant staff contact.
July 2022	As follow up to Coalition for Communities of Color presentation at June Community Leaders Meeting, Karen Bjorklund asked if CPOs could be notified when the Coalition will begin its main project work with the County, as some CPO leaders have expressed interest in reaching out to the Coalition.	<i>July:</i> Chris Lyons said PGA would check on that <i>August:</i> PGA reported that if CPOs would like to reach out to the CC directly, they can.
July 2022	Brent Parries reported CPOs asking if Code Enforcement can prioritize CPO/Hamlet complaints	<i>August:</i> Item added to Work Item Tracker <i>October:</i> Proposed to be part of CCI 2023 annual report to the BCC