

leadership.oregonstate.edu/pcosw

Meeting minutes

Start time	Topic
11:00am	<p>Welcome & Introductions</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Attendance: Marjorie Coffee (via WebEx), Cari Maes, Whitney Archer, Brittney Nefcy, Cynthia Lopez, Joy Jorgensen, Meredith Williams, Lauren Skousen, Yvette Spitz, Mary Chuinard, Kelly Chandler, Todd Cross, Brooke Kaye, Maria Davila-Ash, Urmila Mali, Erica Mercier, Christina Schaaf, Goran Jovanovic, Debbie Colbert, Barbara Muraca • Approvals <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ October minutes were approved ○ Treasurer’s report was approved
11:10 am	<p>Presentation: Nicole Hindes, Assistant Director, Human Services Resource Center on HSRC programming and potential partnering opportunities</p> <p>Nicole spoke about the impacts of basic needs insecurity on student success and about the many services provided by the HSRC, which is primarily funded through student fees.</p> <p>She shared a PowerPoint presentation with the group, which is attached. Most of the information she shared is contained there; what follows are a few additional notes from the presentation and Q & A.</p> <p>OSU is unique, was one of the first institutions to provide such a robust amount of services and is a national model.</p> <p>Food security programs are a strength for the program. This is the 10th year of the food pantry. Food pantry gives students food for 3-5 days based on family size.</p> <p>There is shopping style distribution on certain days but otherwise anyone meeting income requirements can come by the center and pick up food from the pantry. You do not have to be OSU staff or student to receive this benefit. They do not ask for proof of income.</p> <p>They have a step-by-step set of images on their website of what it looks like to visit the food pantry to help orient people who are new to it.</p> <p>The food assistance application is online and open the first week of the term. Students need to apply each term. It helps the Center screen for additional things such as long-term laptops/tech needed and several other issues as well. The Center collects a wealth of data through the online application.</p>

This year they hired a basic needs navigator who provides one-on-one case management for students. This person has helped students access a lot of additional aid. He also helps with WIC applications.

The textbook lending program is one way to get students in the door and thereby have an opportunity to introduce them to additional services at the Center.

They also help students with applying for the Oregon Health Plan, travel subsidies and shower/laundry services.

HSRC is trying to become more relational through offering interpersonal contact with the case manager and other programs including partnership with city of Corvallis on homelessness issues, volunteering opportunities, and class-identity based programming.

Faculty involvement is increasing and they offer a basic needs statement for faculty to include on syllabi. Faculty were emailed before the beginning of the term regarding the statement for syllabi but based on comments from PCOSW members there could be more ways to get the word out.

The center's goal is to get the statements on 5-10% of syllabi as one of many ways to get the word out about HSRC.

Question: Can students receive a notice about HSRC services when they register? Syllabi are getting really long and crowded.

Question: First year students are mostly in the dorms and generally have food access that year through dining programs. Would the first year be a good time to let all students know about the services available for future years?

Response: True, first year students are probably not going to be housing and food insecure. Usually it is after accumulating a balance, depleting savings, and encountering other issues that they may need assistance.

Question: Does the Center participate in housing fairs for students?

Response: They haven't had the staff to participate yet.

Comment: PCOSW has funding, for example travel scholarships, could the Center help students access that resource.

Question: Does the center help students learn how to manage money and food as well as giving food assistance?

Response: Yes. The food assistance application helps them learn about why students are food insecure and they help, for example, students with food allergies by offering them cooking classes. There are also students in certain programs who loaded up and/or overwhelmed with coursework and do not have time to cook. Cooking classes are popular and have more people signed up than they can include because of staff

time available. In order to scale up, more resources are needed. Next year they will hire a full-time person to take the food programs on.

Comments offered regarding the @eatfreeOSU Twitter account, if you tweet that you have leftovers: Allow extra time after event before catering picks up food in case you have leftover food to offer to students. You can also provide ziplock bags to help students carry the food.

Question: Could PCOSW members help with tabling at, say, the housing fair? If table staffing is needed by volunteers?

Response: HSRC is planning to hire work study students both to help with this type of work and also to help make them SNAP eligible (work study can help with SNAP eligibility)

Question: [Regarding the two rooms from University Housing & Dining set aside for HSRC to temporarily help students in need of housing.] Are the two rooms in UHDS enough, and if not what do they do if/when the rooms are full? Also regarding the university's current standard not allowing people living in their cars. What are the options for those students?

Response: If folks are staying in cars that you are aware of, you can suggest they visit the Center for a harm reduction conversation which will include ideas of where to stay that are safer places and how to reduce risk/trauma potential. It's hard because there are not great options.

The two rooms have been booked every night this term. The rooms are needed more and more, the trend is growing. They can't be offered to folks if their children need housing as well. They have looked into hotel rooms for temporary housing of families with children and that's an ongoing conversation due to risk factors – if OSU pays for a hotel room for a week for a student and their family, is the university held responsible for any damage, what level of risk is there for OSU?

Question: Is there any way to change standard policy about sleeping in cars?

Response: It is always preferable for students stay on campus where public safety is available.

Question: Can construction engineering and other relevant programs help build places for students to live temporarily?

Response: Yes, those conversations are happening. Eugene's tiny home community for the homeless. Harriet Nembhard in Engineering is on a planning grant for an EMPOWER research center (Engineering Research Center for EMpowering People to achieve Optimal Well-being through Engineering Research), maybe this is a way to create opportunity.

Question: Are the services offered by the HSRC explicitly for students or do they ever help faculty or staff with similar needs?

Response: They try not to ask about users' roles. The food pantry is part of a foundation account. Because it is part of the Linn-Benton food share, they don't

discriminate and non-students have participated. Similarly, SNAP is available to all, and they can help anyone with applications. The textbook lending program is also available to all, including campus students who can use books and pay a minimal shipping cost. The cookbook library is similarly available to all.

Question: Can textbooks in the lending program be accessed via the library?

Response: Yes. A [textbook search](#) is also embedded in the HSRC website.

Question: Can students in need of housing stay in homestays with families? Like international students.

Response: They wanted to look into that. Faculty and staff have offered rooms. But since international student homestays were shut down for risk reasons, they are less likely to do it for low income students. The current climate is that they are really being asked to look at risk.

Question: Could they do risk management/assessment of a home where a room is being offered to minimize risk?

Response: Possibly there is a way to do that. There are folks with extra rooms in their homes.

Question: The faculty organized a spice drive. Is there a potential for PCOSW to do something like that to help?

Response: When folks ask HSRC if they can do a food drive, Nicole asks them instead to steer donations to their foundation account because it's more cost effective for them to buy the food directly. If people still want to donate something, they can organize donations of spices, cleaning supplies, baby supplies. Folks can email HSRC@oregonstate.edu if they would like to do that.

Question: Do they offer diapers and other items for children?

Answer: Yes

Comment: WIC (Women, Infants and Children food and nutrition service) does not pay for diapers.

Comment: It is remarkable what this program does with such a small amount of resources.

Nicole: [Poverty action \(PA\) week](#) starts next week. Follow link to see list of events.

Question: Can you remind us of all of the resources that are actually available at the center?

Response: There is a kitchen, shower, laundry, textbook library, food pantry, study spaces, and lounge spaces. Students can also use refrigerator.

Question: Sometimes students are referred to resources but they cannot be served right away. Is there enough time/space for the HSRC to serve all students who are referred there? What expectations should we give students when they are referred to the center?

	<p>Response: They try to help everyone who walks through the door. Over 500 students came through in the first week to check out a textbook, and a great many the second week as well. They have yet to run out of food in the pantry. Miguel the case manager usually has time in the day to fit someone in but advisors and others who refer students can also call ahead if they are worried a student being served.</p> <p>The food assistance application is generally just open the first week of the term, but they make exceptions for students who have need and didn't know about it.</p> <p>Nicole invited the group to visit the HSRC anytime.</p>
12:00pm	<p>Budget update by Brittney</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Brittney went over the current budget numbers including amounts awarded and how much is remaining in each budget category. She has created a Google spreadsheet which can be accessed by all PCOSW members. • There was a discussion of the various data storage options used by the Commission including Canvas, Box, and Google Docs. Could we streamline the storage and just choose one option? <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Canvas may be a good umbrella; documents from Google and Box can be shared on there. We do not use it much now for the larger group but this could be changed. ○ Consider shifting to group ownership of all PCOSW files and documents so if one person leaves, the materials are still available. ○ It would be good to set some standards this year
12:12 pm	<p>Subcommittee Work: PCOSW Fall Executive Summary Contribution</p> <p>Formulate 2-3 bullet points to express your subcommittee's goals this year What challenges and/or questions do you have at this stage? What resources and/or support do you need to achieve these goals?</p> <p>Reception is a week from tomorrow. Please RSVP. If folks want to carpool, email Cari. Parking isn't very plentiful at the president's house.</p> <p>The purpose of the reception is to share the landscape of our work ahead of time. We might not have all of a subgroup's priorities identified but we can provide initial ideas. Whitney & Cari will put together an executive summary. There will not be a formal dialogue at the event but President Ray will have read the summary and be able help direct the commission towards resources & ideas.</p> <p>Talk with Whitney and Cari if you have not identified a committee yet and they will help connect you.</p>
12:30 pm	Adjourn