



Contra Costa Council on Homelessness FULL MEMBERSHIP MEETING

The Contra Costa Council on Homelessness provides a forum for communication and coordination about the implementation of the County's Strategic Plan to prevent and end homelessness, and for orchestrating a vision on ending homelessness in the County, educating the community on homeless issues, and advocating on federal, state, and local policy issues affecting people who are homeless or at-risk of homelessness.

MINUTES

**Friday, October 16, 2015 10:00am – 12:00pm
ZA Room, 30 Muir Road, Martinez, CA 94553**

1. Welcome and Introductions

- a. Call to order by Teri House

2. Medi-Cal Enrollment Services

- a. Adam Down, Mental Health Services Division, presented on the new resources available for enrolling clients in Medi-Cal opening the door for dental, mental, and physical health care
- b. Beginning in October, two full time certified Medi-Cal counselors will serve underserved and hard to reach communities (i.e., post release populations, low income communities, people experiencing homelessness, etc.) by assisting in Medi-Cal enrollment
- c. The counselors will be going to community festivals, service sites, and government access points to assist potential clients and will also do free site visits upon request
- d. The counselors can also serve as the point of contact for the client by accepting mail to ensure the delivery of the physical Medi-Cal card
- e. The program will continue until at least June 30, 2016 but has the option of continued funding

3. Supportive Services for Veteran Families (SSVF)

- a. Laura Sharples, SHELTER, Inc., and Natalie Siva, Berkeley Food and Housing, gave an update on the supportive services available for veterans through their organizations' SSVF partnership with each other and the East Bay Community Recovery Project
- b. The partnership uses a housing first model and provides case management, employment, and legal services
- c. Their out reach teams serve the entire community and their access points use a no wrong door approach
- d. Clients qualify for services regardless of discharge status as long as they completed one day of active duty.



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4. Zero: 2016 Update

- a. Jaime Jenett, CoC Planning and Policy Manager, reported on our efforts to house veterans experiencing homeless by the end of 2015 and the chronically homeless by 2016 so that our community is at functional zero for these two subpopulations
- b. Functional zero means that any point in time, the number of veterans and people newly experiencing chronic homelessness will be no greater than the respective current monthly housing placement rates
- c. The Zero: 2016 Leadership Committee developed the following strategies and has accomplished or will accomplish targets to achieve functional zero:
 1. Change the local culture to engender collective responsibility
 - a. Passed a Resolution with the Board of Supervisors supporting the campaign
 - b. Held clergy events across the county communicating the goals of the campaign and urging community members to get involved
 - c. Planning to utilize November's Homeless Awareness Month status to highlight the campaign's goals and accomplishments
 - d. Website is available at cczero2016.org
 2. Identify new housing resources and maximize existing housing inventory
 - a. Developed a flyer for landlords providing information on housing options
 - b. Aligning with coordinated entry efforts to increase housing stock throughout the community by establishing housing locators and landlord liaisons
 - c. Urging landlords identified through the clergy events to start using available housing towards ending veteran and chronic homelessness
 3. Optimize comprehensive and sustainable services and system to end homeless
 - a. Assisting in the development of a coordinated entry system that will restructure how people experiencing homelessness will interact with our system of care
 - b. Setting up a preference for people experiencing homelessness on the Housing Authority of Contra Costa County's waitlist so they have first access to available units
 4. Increase use and communication of data to drive change
 - a. Plan to develop a list using the HMIS system that will identify clients by name
 - b. Identify how clients are entering and exiting the system of care



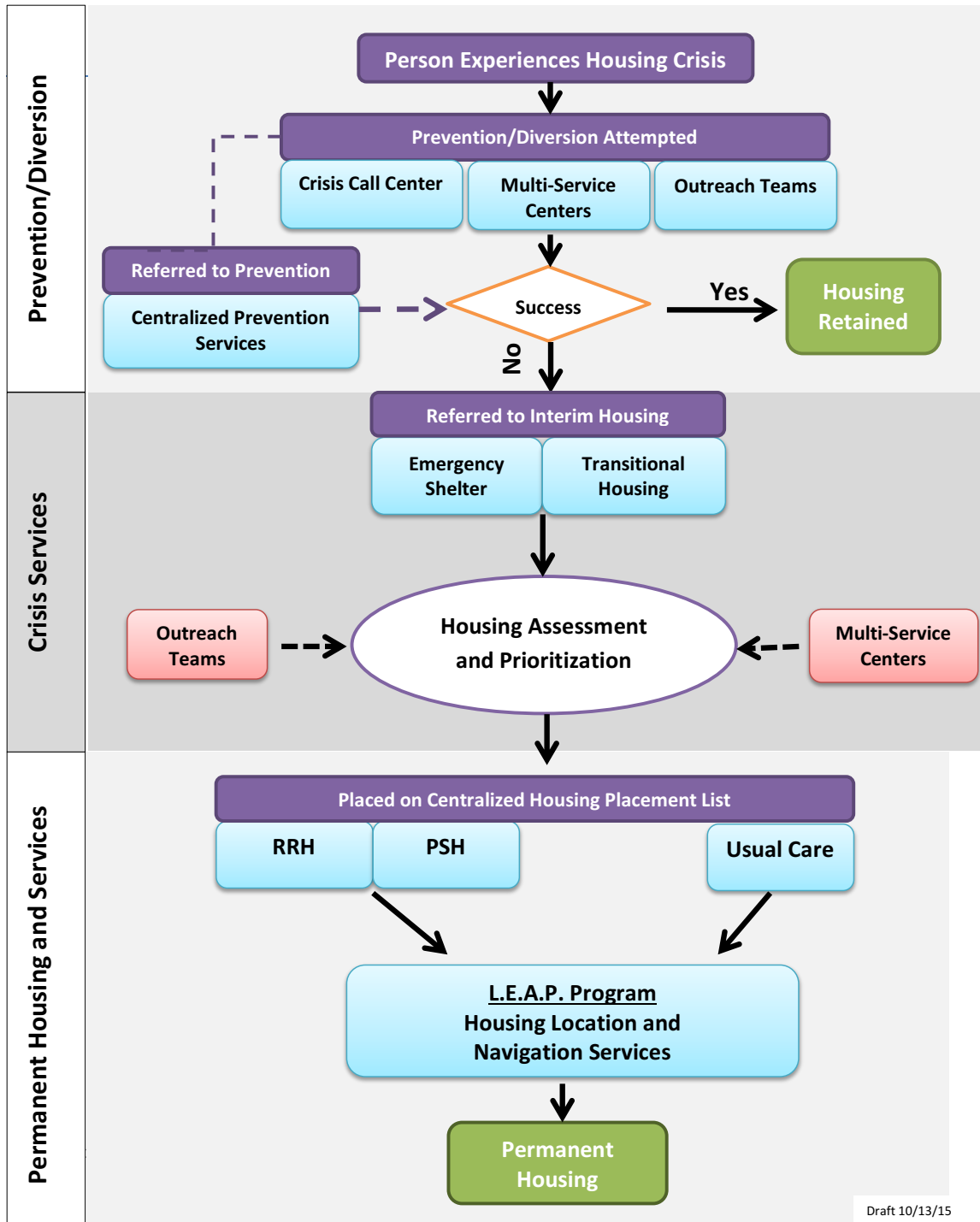
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- d. Currently on target to take down the homeless veterans population, but more effort needs to be focused on the chronically homeless population
 - i. Take Down Targets: [PIT Count Data] x [Multiplier Identified by Community Solutions (specific to each community)]
- e. Future activities
 - i. 10/28: Veteran ACTION Camp
 - ii. November: presentations to the city and town councils
 - iii. California Apartment Association outreach
 - iv. Homeless Preference finalization

5. Coordinated Entry Update

- a. Lavonna Martin, Homeless Program Chief, presented on the coordinated entry efforts underway
- b. As the community has successfully built new programs to fill the gaps in our system of care, programs have become disorganized and disjointed leading to consumers being confused on how to access the services they require
 - i. Currently, multiple waitlists are being maintained requiring consumers and providers to sign up on various systems
 - 1. This process is laborious and inefficient
- c. The Coordinated Entry Committee was developed to streamline access to homeless services in our community
 - i. Selected a uniform assessment tool (Vulnerability Index Service Prioritization Decision Assistance Tool or VI-SPDAT) to standardize the way clients are assessed at intake
 - ii. Developed a Housing Placement Committee to determine the best placements for people that are currently experiencing homelessness that utilizes a universal waitlist
 - 1. Allows the community to prioritize the people that are high risk and/or vulnerable
- d. See next page for the Contra Costa Coordinated Entry Model
- e. Future activities
 - i. Fair Market Rate (FMR) Study will be conducted over the next several months to assess if our rate was improperly lowered for this fiscal year
 - 1. A similar study was conducted three years ago and resulted in an increase in our FMR with back pay for the losses endured
 - ii. Landlord Engagement Assessment and Placement Program is being developed to increase housing stock by bringing together consumers, providers, and landlords
 - iii. Next Coordinated Entry meeting is on Monday, November, 9 from 2-3:30 pm in the Homeless Program Conference Room
 - 1. Meetings are 2nd Mondays of the month

Contra Costa Coordinated Entry Model





6. CoC Program Competition 2015

- a. This competition determines HUD's annual funding for homeless housing and services available for 450 CoCs nationally
- b. Determines who will receive around 10 million dollars in renewed federal funding and offers an opportunity for 1.5 million in bonus project funds to increase the housing stock in the community
- c. The competition also brings in a little over 300,000 in CoC planning funds for:
 - i. Planning compliance with HEARTH's requirements
 - ii. Developing policy and program objectives from HUD
- d. The total funding eligibility is \$12,248,990
 - i. A solicitation for new projects with a summary of the local process was posted to the Council on Homelessness website and disseminated to the listserv
- e. Eligibility is determined through local and national competitive processes
 - i. The local process ranks renewal and new projects in the community into two tiers
 1. Tier 1 projects will receive funding
 2. Tier 2 projects will receive funding based on their individual scores and the community's score on the national competition
 - ii. The national process changed substantially from previous years making the Contra Costa's competitiveness unpredictable, however, our strategic plan aligns with HUD's goals which are mirrored in the application

7. Nuts and Bolts

- a. Homelessness Awareness Toolkit
- b. Organizing open houses with service providers to highlight work being done in the community
- c. Contra Costa Health Services is hiring a community health worker
- d. Trinity Center will be hosting a winter shelter and needs to hire temporary staff for the duration of the project
- e. SHELTER, Inc. is hosting a Homelessness Awareness Event for November

8. Pin It

- a. Next full membership meeting: January 15, 2015, 10-12pm
- b. Next Executive Board meeting: November 3, 2015, 3:30-5:00pm