



# CONTRA COSTA COUNCIL ON HOMELESSNESS MEETING MINUTES

*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. The Council provides advice and input on the operations of homeless services, program operations, and program development efforts in Contra Costa County. Items may be taken out of order based on the business of the day and preference of the Council.*

**Date, Time:** Thursday, August 3, 2017 1:00pm – 3:00pm

**Location:** ZA Room, 30 Muir Road, Martinez, CA 94553

## **Council Member Attendance:**

**Present:** Gabriel Lemus (Chair), Teri House (Vice Chair), Gary Kingsbury, Cecelia McCloy, Doug Leich, John Eckstrom, Alejandra Chamberlain, Diane Aguinaga, John Barclay, Stephanie Bachelor, Dan Sawislak

**Absent:** Tracy Pullar, Anne Struthers, Brenda Kain, Miguel Hidalgo-Barnes, Joseph Villarreal

**Staff Attendance:** Lavonna Martin, Jaime Jenett, Juliana Pooley, Contra Costa Health Services (H3); Amanda Wehrman, Erica McWhorter, HomeBase

**Public Attendance:** Paula Bonnell, Alyssa Fumar, J.R. Wilson, Rob Miller, Carey Kachurka, Kathryn Lee, Bob Andrade, Bradley Lindblom, Michael Fischer, Deanne Pearn, Fadi Elhayek, Leslie Gleason, Joy Hedgepath, Jill Ray, Samaa Gad, Sarah Thomas, Colleen Isenberg, Dawn Morrow, Michael Pitts

## **1. Welcome and Introductions**

- Call to order by Gabriel Lemus, Chair

## **2. Approve Minutes (Action Item)**

- Motion
- Statement of Motion:
  - We move to adopt the minutes from the July 6th Council on Homelessness Meeting.
- *Discussion:*
  - *The Council reviewed the minutes from the June 1st Council meeting*
  - *The Council moved to approve.*
- *Procedural Record:*
  - *Motion made by: Teri House*
  - *Seconded by: Stephanie Bachelor*



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- *AYES: Gabriel Lemus (Chair), Teri House (Vice Chair), Gary Kingsbury, Cecelia McCloy, Doug Leich, John Eckstrom, Alejandra Chamberlain, Diane Aguinaga, John Barclay, Stephanie Bachelor, Dan Sawislak*
- *NOES: None.*
- *ABSTAINS: None.*
- *ABSENTS: Tracy Pullar, Anne Struthers, Brenda Kain, Miguel Hidalgo-Barnes, Joseph Villarreal*
- *Motion Carried*

### 3. Provider Presentations

- Bay Area Rescue Mission (BARM)
  - Presented by Carey Kachurka, Programs and Projects Manager
  - Additional services and special events
    - Food and household items
    - Backpack giveaways for children and students
    - Holiday meals and food boxes, Christmas party and toy drive
    - Block parties
  - Large cohort of volunteers available and needed to offer services and expertise
    - If interested in a tour or to volunteer
    - See pamphlets and Carey's card
  - Discussion:
    - How long do clients stay?
      - Emergency shelter: 1-2 months or longer with case manager
      - Long term program: 12 months or up to 3 years (if working, going to college, etc.)—individualized based on their circumstance but want to be sure they are successful when they leave
        - i. Numbers vary usually 70-90 in men's and 40 in women's program
        - ii. Represents about half of the program numbers
    - Sign-ups for next event at 123 MacDonalD Ave.
    - How to access services
      - Do not need referral
      - Women's shelter prefers calling to see availability since space is limited; but walk ins will try to accommodate too
      - Men can walk in; currently men's numbers are down a bit and can take more (unclear why fewer people
    - Total capacity about 160, but depends on set up and if families in space
    - Long term program requirements
      - Attend classes (can get college credit)



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- i. Various offerings: career pathways workshop, financial preparedness, parenting, stress management, wellness health fairs (with massages and acupuncture)
            - On site
            - Service opportunity: helping people learn skill to become employable again (administrative, culinary arts, etc.)
        - Can call numbers on flyer to place people
        - No residential requirement to accept persons
        - What are next steps for persons with mental health needs who do not have capacity or ability to maintain going forward?
          - Give resources
          - Will try to work with persons
          - Will refer to GRIP, or other places like Brookside
- Catholic Charities
  - Presentation by Kathryn Lee, Data Quality Manager and Interim Program Manager
  - Catholic Charities Contra Costa Program being reorganized
  - One time rental assistance, limited case management
    - Housing clinic in Concord on Chestnut Ave. (1<sup>st</sup>, 2<sup>nd</sup>, 3<sup>rd</sup> Wednesdays in August 2017)
    - Transition to more substantial intake services (with housing/eligibility screening and appointment services) in September 2017
  - Objectives and Goals:
    - Improving coordination and connections between clients and CalFresh
    - Exploring doing referrals for housing counselor to be in Richmond regularly
    - Connect Catholic Charities with CoC, reconnect with homeless services providers, and help provide additional housing related services to County
  - Contact Kathryn about updates or progress of program restructuring
  - Q&A:
    - Is the Catholic Charities rental assistance and housing clinic ending?
      - Trying to avoid that
      - Get about 100 calls for rental assistance per week between Contra Costa and Alameda counties (about 50/50 from each County)
      - Want to do more than just give them a referral or send them to the housing clinic
      - Wants to give immediate help



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- How many persons are you serving out of 100 phone calls per week? And how do you decide who to serve?
  - Only about 10% gets served
  - Decide by eligibility requirements and what kind of funding available
  - Funding requirements can also be limiting (often requires one time or one month emergency assistance)
- Invited to give another update when things change

### 4. Stand Down on the Delta Update

- Presentation by J.R. Wilson
- August 11-14th
- Stand Down Program: homeless and at risk veterans brought to fairgrounds for 4 day event for different services (hair cuts, legal services, dental, medical and more)
  - Estimate about 400 attendees from around the Bay Area this year
  - Theme: Summer of Love
  - Goal to address question of County having resources, but why are vets not accessing them? Want to build community via Stand Down
  - All participants are pre-registered and will get tie-dyed shirts
- Services (35) and Resources
  - Dental (same day dentures and maintenance)
  - Clothing Store (with White Pony Express, and AT&T)
    - Will receive voucher for use in the store
    - Vision was for kids and adults to feel like they could shop and not just getting giveaways
  - Library (Contra Costa Library)
    - Get access to internet
    - Get books
    - Can check out books
    - Can get books to keep
  - Both Alameda and Contra Costa provided veterans legal services
    - Treatment court
    - Traffic court
  - Have enhanced fencing around the event (Brentwood Fencing Company donated hardwood panels for use)
  - Transportation (complimentary)
    - Concord providing 8 buses at pick up sites to bring vets to event
    - Drivers will take kids to school too during the event
  - Security available
  - Resource/Services (coordinated by SHELTER, Inc.)—45!
  - Have separate men's and women's areas
  - Offerings for children



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- Field trips: fishing (keep poles and get 2 day license), skating rink, library
  - Other activities
  - Food (Chef comes out to provide food for participants)
  - Get badges for participants to make available to tent leaders so can watch out for issues like diabetes, etc.
- Elyssa F. Medical Services and Triage Coordinator (provided additional information about medical services available)
  - Clinic setting—large portion of the event
    - Dental, vision, medical, hygiene, etc.
  - Goal to make sure veterans are safe
  - Health screens, collect data for future use (referrals, outpatient services, VA etc.)
  - Assist with getting participants re-enrolled in VA system
  - Host clinics, workshops, etc.
  - Get screened, check medications, offer services as health component (anything they want to be seen by nurse or doctor for?)
  - Protocols for safety and security, privacy (HIPAA compliant)—aware and vigilant of risk of providing services to persons from streets and all over community (work to maintain safety and security)
- Still accepting donations of all types
- Q&A
  - Medical Triage available
    - No diagnostic testing, long term oxygen, illicit drugs
    - Vaccinations available
    - Mental health screening and referrals available
    - Referrals to local urgent care
  - VA will be present to provide one time care and help with re-enrollment
  - Because clinic setting harder to provide maternity and pediatric-related capabilities—referrals available; maybe some light touch assistance if physician or staff has capacity but no invasive diagnostics
  - Did great job last year from law enforcement perspective

### 5. 2017 CoC Program Local Competition (Action Item)

- Presented by Amanda Wehrman, HomeBase
- Why is this important?
  - Funds a lot of CoC projects: site based, rental assistance, leasing, HMIS, services and team through CE system (CARE centers and CORE teams)
  - Annual funds available: \$12,753,390 plus additional bonus and planning funds
- Overview of 2017 NOFA Release for HUD CoC Funding
  - Permanent housing bonus is slightly larger this year
  - 2 new project types: DedicatedPLUS and Joint TH-RRH



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- Additional flexibility in project types and for eligible populations
  - Some questions about how these would work in practice or what starting these programs would mean or impact in terms of bed count down the road
  - Slightly more funding protected in Tier 1, 94% compared to 93% in 2016
  - Tier 2 scoring by HUD for national competition no longer considers project type
- Screening tool report out
  - CoC Providers Committee recommended changes to the new project scoring tool
    - Put RRH and PSH on equal footing—have same point range
    - Put new project types worth slightly less as there is uncertainty over impacts
  - HomeBase recommendations:
    - Not recommending communities make switch wholesale to Dedicated PLUS this year for renewals, get some more guidance from HUD in coming year
    - May be worth having the flexibility, so consider a new project
  - New project scoring tool now better mirrors scoring tool already approved for renewal projects
- Discussion:
  - Why are we treating PSH and RRH equally this year for new projects? Is this HUD guidelines or local considerations?
    - This is due mostly to local considerations because there is local demand for both PSH and RRH that greatly exceeds community capacity for both
    - No longer enough to weigh in favor of recommend favoring one type over another
  - If community makes switch where PSH is at risk of being pushed into second tier, can we identify which projects have big investment in PSH? (because historical investment into PSH is important)
    - This new scoring tool is for new projects only—that risk is not as applicable here
    - Can the Review and Rank panel ask whether there is other funding going into the RRH project as a consideration for how to score the project (and its need for CoC funding)? (Want to weigh whether it is worth prioritizing something that already has other funds dedicated to it)
      - This can be made more explicit in supplemental questions for providers
- Statement of Motion:



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- We move to adopt the revised new project scoring tool as recommended by the CoC providers Committee for the 2017 CoC program local competition.
- *Discussion:*
  - *The Council reviewed the scoring tool and recommended changes*
  - *The Council moved to approve.*
- *Procedural Record:*
  - *Motion made by: Stephanie Bachelor*
  - *Seconded by: Doug Leich*
  - *AYES: Gabriel Lemus (Chair), Teri House (Vice Chair), Gary Kingsbury, Cecelia McCloy, Doug Leich, John Eckstrom, Alejandra Chamberlain, Diane Aguinaga, John Barclay, Stephanie Bachelor, Dan Sawislak*
  - *NOES: None.*
  - *ABSTAINS: None.*
  - *ABSENTS: Tracy Pullar, Anne Struthers, Brenda Kain, Miguel Hidalgo-Barnes, Joseph Villarreal*
- *Motion Carried*
- Formation of 2017 Local Competition Review and Rank Panel
  - Needs 3-5 non-conflicted council. Members to serve on panel for program competition
  - R&R panel orientation: Thursday 8/17, 9-11am
  - R&R (provider) interviews: Thurs. 8/31, all day
  - Panel Volunteers: Teri House (Vice Chair), Cecilia McCloy, Stephanie Bachelor (tentative due to vacation on 8/17), John Barclay
    - Reach out to those Council Members who are absent today

### **6. Policy and Advocacy Opportunities (Action Item)**

- Presented by Erica McWhorter, HomeBase
- Context:
  - Release of Grand Jury Report Findings and Recommendations encouraged Council to explore other methods of sustainable funding opportunities
  - Evaluating funding advocacy options means reviewing current funding streams and the future of those funds
    - Estimated impact incredibly difficult to predict because of multiple variables, and insufficient guidance and data on future federal spending
- Some Sustainable Funding Options
  - Taxes and Bonds
    - Complex and labor intensive
    - Very few County-led initiatives requesting money from voters



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- Requires significant research and evaluation of what voters are likely to support and how taxes and bonds will be repaid
- Revenue generating regulatory schemes are also possibilities
  - Regulatory framework for Cannabis
    - Regulatory scheme pending in Contra Costa
    - Can look to other jurisdictions for ideas about what it may look like
    - Possible opportunities to leverage partnerships or build initiatives within the existing state framework and funding set asides
  - Governor's legislative package for affordable housing development
    - Pending in the state legislature
    - Also possible opportunities to leverage partnerships or build initiatives to take advantage of this directly relevant funding scheme
- Advocacy Options:
  - Remember the mission and the role of the CoC: advisors to the BoS
  - Create a dedicated group to regularly review and consider policy and advocacy opportunities
  - Develop consistent, targeted talking points in line with community perspective
  - Outreach: TV, Radio, Print and Social Media, Flyers at Partner or Strategic Locations
  - Put it in writing—educational materials, written letters in support or opposition to BoS to extent Council deems appropriate/necessary
  - Build a Coalition
  - Develop an Initiative with Coalition Partners
- Recommendations:
  - Dedicated **Policy & Advocacy Committee** to review issues, develop strategic approaches, recommend action for the Council and its members
  - Consider the issue and the best method to achieve the desired results (outreach versus letter in support or bringing bond to ballot)
  - Strategy and Timelines: for each issue, have a strategy and timeline for development and implementation (resources, partners, capacity)
- Q&A/Discussion
  - Should we send a letter to the Board of Supervisors endorsing the Grand Jury report recommendations?





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- The BoS looks to department heads to help formulate the BoS response to Grand Jury reports; H3 is developing a response, which doesn't have a lot of room in the response structure
- There is more opportunity to consider the recommendations with the Family & Human Services Committee
- Should look into other ways to frame our advocacy besides the Grand Jury Reports
- At September Council meeting, will consider other opportunities to engage around the Grand Jury Reports, informed by the recommendations of the Policy and Advocacy Committee
- Motion
  - Statement of Motion:
    - We move to establish a Policy and Advocacy Committee.
  - Discussion:
    - *The Council discussed the benefits and objectives of establishing a Policy and Advocacy Committee.*
    - *The Council proposed to discuss within the committee issues, including how to address the Grand Jury Reports, and develop an advocacy strategy for sustainable funding for their homelessness reduction efforts.*
    - *The Council moved to approve.*
  - **Procedural Record:**
    - *Motion made by: Stephanie Bachelor*
    - *Seconded by: Doug Leich*
    - *AYES: Gabriel Lemus (Chair), Teri House (Vice Chair), Gary Kingsbury, Cecelia McCloy, Doug Leich, John Eckstrom, Alejandra Chamberlain, Diane Aguinaga, John Barclay, Stephanie Bachelor, Dan Sawislak*
    - *NOES: None.*
    - *ABSTAINS: None.*
    - *ABSENTS: Tracy Pullar, Anne Struthers, Brenda Kain, Miguel Hidalgo-Barnes, Joseph Villarreal*
  - *Motion Carried*
- Motion
  - Statement of Motion:
    - We move to establish an ad hoc committee for Homeless Awareness Month in November (2017).
  - Discussion:
    - *The Council discussed needing a committee to plan and organize Council events and participation in local events during Homeless Awareness Month in November.*
    - *The Council moved to approve.*



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### ○ **Procedural Record:**

- *Motion made by: Teri House*
- *Seconded by: Stephanie Bachelor*
- *AYES: Gabriel Lemus (Chair), Teri House (Vice Chair), Gary Kingsbury, Cecelia McCloy, Doug Leich, John Eckstrom, Alejandra Chamberlain, Diane Aguinaga, John Barclay, Stephanie Bachelor, Dan Sawislak*
- *NOES: None.*
- *ABSTAINS: None.*
- *ABSENTS: Tracy Pullar, Anne Struthers, Brenda Kain, Miguel Hidalgo-Barnes, Joseph Villarreal*
- *Motion Carried*

### **7. Nuts & Bolts**

### **8. Pin It**

- HUD System Performance Measures tabled for next meeting.
- Senior Homelessness Panel Report Out tabled for next meeting.
- Committee updates tabled for next meeting.
- Built for Zero update tabled for next meeting.
- Please send in any ideas for the Quarterly CoC Meeting (October 20, 2017)