



# 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, September 7, 2017 1:00pm – 3:00pm

**Location:** Sequoia Room, 50 Douglas Drive, Second Floor, Martinez, CA 94553

## **Council Member Attendance:**

**Present:** Gabriel Lemus (Chair), Teri House (Vice Chair), Tracy Pullar, Anne Struthers, Gary Kingsbury, Cecelia McCloy, Doug Leich, Miguel Hidalgo-Barnes, Alejandra Chamberlain, Diane Aguinaga, John Barclay, Stephanie Bachelor, Dan Sawislak, Joseph Villarreal

**Absent:** Brenda Kain, John Eckstrom

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

**Public Attendance:** Claude J. Battaglia, Tony Morifitas, Desmond Bittner, Usha Ramachandran, Rachelle Whitfield, Dawn Morrow, Sibby Lee, Rob Miller, Michael Pitts, Joy Hedgepath, Kim Hunter-Reay, Asya Lawrence, Susan Rideout, Linda Scott, Donnise Gibson, Donna Colombo, Vivica Taylor, Valerie Rodriguez, Deanne Pearn, Gary Conner, Horace Lawrence

## **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 August 1<sup>st</sup> Council on Homelessness Meeting.
- *Discussion:*
  - *The Council moved to approve.*
- *Procedural Record:*
  - *Motion made by: Diane Aguinaga*
  - *Seconded by: Gabriel Lemus*



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

### 3. State ESG Recommendations Update (Action Item)

- Update presented by Gabriel Lemus
  - All recommended amounts were increased above their requested amount (except Winter Nights Shelter because actual increase was not in state of California pot—non federal funds)
- Statement of Motion
  - We move to approve the revised federal and non federal funding to be submitted to the Board.
- *Procedural Record:*
  - *Motion made by: Teri House*
  - *Seconded by: Anne Struthers*
  - *AYES: Gabriel Lemus (Chair), Teri House (Vice Chair), Tracy Pullar, Anne Struthers, Gary Kingsbury, Cecelia McCloy, Miguel Hidalgo-Barnes, Diane Aguinaga, John Barclay, Stephanie Bachelor, Dan Sawislak, Joseph Villarreal*
  - *NOES: None.*
  - *ABSTAINS: Doug Leich, Alejandra Chamberlain*
  - *ABSENTS: Brenda Kain, John Eckstrom*
- *Motion Carried*

### 4. HUD CoC Priority Listing (Action Item)

- Presentation by Amanda Wehrman, HomeBase
- Overview
  - Permanent Housing Bonus is slightly larger this year (6% of renewal demand)
  - Two new project types: DedicatedPLUS and Joint TH-RRH
  - Slightly more projects protected in Tier 1 (94% of renewals, up from 93%)
  - Tier 2 scoring no longer considers project type
- Funding available
  - Annual Renewal Demand: \$12,753,390
  - Permanent Housing Bonus: \$765,203
  - Tier 1: \$11,988,187
  - Tier 2: \$1,530,406
  - CoC Planning Funding: \$382,602



## COUNCIL ON HOMELESSNESS MEETING MINUTES

- Local Review & Rank Process
  - Review and Rank Panel of non-conflicted Council members met August 31 to review and rank all renewal and new project applications for the FY2017 CoC Program local competition
  - Reviewed data and narrative responses, and conducted interviews with each agency
  - Scored projects using scoring tools developed by CoC Providers Cmte and approved by Council
- Priority Listing
  - Recommended by the Review & Rank Panel based on rankings of projects using the scoring tools
  - Projects operational less than one year, and HMIS projects, automatically placed at the bottom of Tier 1 by local policy decision after passing threshold review
- New Bonus Project
  - HACCC/H3's High Utilizers of Multiple Systems (HUMS)
    - Brings new units online in system of care (34)
    - MicroPAD units already being tried in other Bay Area communities; Contra Costa site TBD
  - Two other new projects were not ranked
    - FISH Expansion
    - REACH Plus Expansion
- Alternative ranking recommendation by H3
  - Move Contra Costa Tenant-Based Rental Assistance down to straddle tiers
  - Move HUMS up fully into Tier 1
  - Net effect: no change in placement of other projects; TBRA would straddle tiers
  - Rationale: strategic placement allows to begin today getting HUMS project moving and avoids delaying project until HUD announces awards
- Discussion
  - Doug Leich: cannot vote but recommends using alternative ranking because this new innovative initiative is important; we really need TBRA but it is worth it
  - Joseph Villarreal: this is good move because TBRA is used by same population; in worst case scenario there wouldn't be a bad effect and overall it is net positive effect; it is important to get PH county owns and can control
  - This does not take money away from anything in Tier 2
  - Cecelia: reason for initial placement was due to risk that if cannot perform money is lost to county and must go back to HUD; this was concern because of number of projects that had to return money to HUD



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- County has ability to revise application with HUD if indeed county finds it cannot move forward with project as proposed
- Statement of Motion
  - We move to approved and submit to HUD the alternative priority listing as proposed by H3
- *Procedural Record:*
  - *Motion made by: Teri House*
  - *Seconded by: Diane Aguinaga*
  - *AYES: Gabriel Lemus (Chair), Teri House (Vice Chair), Tracy Pullar, Anne Struthers, Gary Kingsbury, Cecelia McCloy, Miguel Hidalgo-Barnes, Diane Aguinaga, John Barclay*
  - *NOES: None.*
  - *ABSTAINS: Joseph Villarreal, Dough Leich, Dan Sawislak, Stephanie Bachelor*
  - *ABSENTS: Brenda Kain, John Eckstrom*
- *Motion Carried*

### 5. HUD System Performance Measures

- Presentation by Dana Ewing, H3
- System performance measures submitted to HUD are different from locally established performance measures
- 7 HUD system performance measure types
  - Length of Time Homeless
    - ES: average 112 days (9 more days than last year)
    - ES and TH: average 154 days (5 days fewer than last year)
    - Local performance measures look by project type and across entire system
  - Returns to Homelessness
    - 16% CoC-wide returned to homelessness
    - In local performance measures this is tool to measure effectiveness
  - Number of Homeless Persons
    - Looks at PIT data
    - 1,730 in 2016 (131 less than previous year)
  - Employment and Income Growth
    - 14% of stayers had increased noncash income (12% less than last year)
    - 31% of leavers had increase in noncash income (26% less than last year)
    - Those who stayed in longer term opportunities did so because they did not have income or increase in income to move on
  - First Time Homeless
    - 1,001 newly homeless (194 less than last year)
      - 73% were newly homeless



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- In system of care smaller number—reflects newly homeless mainly entering system
- Prevention and At-Risk
  - Not asked by HUD yet
- Successful Permanent Housing Placements from Street Outreach
  - 44% from SO had successful exits to PH (only 2 exited to temp setting)
  - 96% of PSH retained permanent housing
- This is foundation for larger evaluation—CoC integrates these measures into our own measures

### 6. PIT Count Ramp Up

- Presentation by Jaime Jenett, H3
- Convening a planning committee (probably only a couple of meetings) with goal to set methodology to bring to board for approval
  - Bigger volunteer recruitment effort
  - Looking at additional sites
  - May push with sites and CORE teams to gather survey data over course of one week (as permissible by HUD)
  - Likely expand volunteer times longer
- Want to capture more data about youth and families
  - Need to figure out new ways to capture this—working with Alejandra Chamberlain/school districts and her team to learn how to capture and target these info sources
- Representation from board members (Stephanie and Doug), youth services manager, AOD, others
- Ideas for additional outreach
  - Do outreach at mental health services on Mondays when persons come pick up their checks
  - Free lunch times
  - Do youth friendly (specific) survey
  - Use community colleges
  - Incentives (particularly for youth)
  - Include outreach to seniors
  - ER, Train Stations, etc.: use flyers and 2-1-1 to do survey for these persons (can self-select)
  - Can do observations at hospitals or logs, even though moved away from observation tallies in recent years, now prefer to do face to face surveys
  - Families/youth: School districts tracking via calls
    - Had counted school district data in the past
    - Next school district-wide meeting on September 20<sup>th</sup>
  - Aligning homeless specific project to PIT day?
    - Perhaps, but in project homeless connect last year half of participants were not homeless (but at risk, previously homeless, persons in



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need)—no longer reaching only intended population; partnering with employment and other services also means attracting wider population beyond literally homeless by HUD standards

- Also outreach to RYSE, Rainbow Center, others
  - How else can we reach this group (including LGBT)?
- If interested, contact Jaime
- Next meeting within next 2 weeks

### 7. Committee Updates

- Presented by Amanda Wehrman, HomeBase and Juliana Pooley, H3
- **Coordinated Entry**
  - **Upcoming Trainings:** putting together a schedule of upcoming trainings for the fall; thanks to the providers for your input on what to prioritize
  - **Housing Security Fund & Prevention/Diversion Needs:** conversations have been underway with the Housing Security Fund Workgroup, Prevention/Diversion Workgroup, and the Oversight Cmte regarding the prevention/diversion gaps in our system, as well as how best to implement our system to address these needs
  - **CE RFP:** the County is in the process of finalizing the next Coordinated Entry RFP, with a tentative release date in late September
  - **Oversight Cmte** has been refining their roles and responsibilities, which will be incorporated into the next round of Policies & Procedures edits later this fall (also on deck: more clarity around grievance policies)
  - **Data/Evaluation Cmte** will be meeting later this month to review a very comprehensive draft of the Evaluation Report to be used to measure success in our coordinated entry system; let Dana know if you'd like to provide feedback
  - **Clarity, our new HMIS,** will go live on September 22nd! Our current HMIS, ServicePoint, will shut down on Friday at 4 pm. As our new system gets up and running, we will be developing a way to use the program eligibility information you all provided to develop an HMIS-based referral process—more to come this fall!
- **Policy & Advocacy Committee**
  - First meeting Friday, Sept. 22 1-3pm at Personnel training room, 1320 Arnold Drive
  - Purpose: explore policy and advocacy landscape and make recommendations to Council for possible actions
- **Homeless Awareness Month**
  - Planning underway for November events; ideas include:
    - Toolkit
    - Speak at public meetings
    - Film event with discussion
    - Volunteer Award



## COUNCIL ON HOMELESSNESS MEETING MINUTES

- Media

- **Executive Director Meeting Review**

- The Executive Directors met on August 18<sup>th</sup>; agenda covered the following topics
- **MHSA Housing & Funding Update:** Jenny Robbins from H3 presented a review of Mental Health Services Act housing and funding in our community
- **Upcoming Training Opportunities:** Jaime Jenett from H3 led a discussion of upcoming trainings related to emergency preparedness, NARCAN, and coordinated entry
- **Coordinated Entry Implementation:** Jaime Jenett from H3 provided an update on coordinated entry implementation
- **System-Level Data on Community Need:** Dana Ewing from H3 presented system-level data to inform community need for this year's CoC Program competition
- **Policy & Advocacy Committee:** Erica McWhorter from HomeBase updated us on the newly formed committee and solicited input on topics of interest
- **2017 CoC Application Brainstorm:** we all brainstormed successes to highlight in this year's CoC application to HUD
- The EDs will meet again later this fall to start to dive into project- and agency-level performance data

### 8. Consumer Advisory Committee Update

- Presentation by Jaime Jenett, H3
- Goal: to better reflect needs of community and get consumer input
- Want more robust info and input on regular basis to review by Council and for Council to direct efforts or CE manager problem solve or enhance CE
- Meetings twice per year (but ongoing process of receiving input)
- How can this committee drive info solicitation?
  - Host community forums
  - Surveys or focus groups at community events
  - Incentives like food
  - White Pony Express (clothing distribution programs, boutiques, tables)
  - Loaves and Fishes
  - Spirit program
  - App or other online medium to encourage honest sharing—at events or on own
  - Emergency shelter sites
  - CORE (one week blitz)
  - PSH sites
  - Upon exit from RRH programming
  - Success stories



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- Website/online
- Different venues for specific populations
- Use Council members to gather info and do surveys; write up narratives
- Photo voice project around homelessness (gallery of stories on homelessness)
- Offer opportunities for many people to get involved (particularly formerly homeless, faith groups, peer/parent support groups, etc.)
- Recruitment is underway; contact Jaime for more information

### 9. Nuts & Bolts

- Ensuring Opportunity Campaign and Multi-faith ACTION Coalition collaborating on program to get Contra Costa County formulating plan to address homelessness
  - Phase 2 of this initiative: series of town halls (one in each supervisor's districts)
  - Sat., Sept. 23, TBD Antioch
  - Sat, Sept. 30, Church of Christ, 1501 Florida Ave., Richmond, 10am-Noon
  - Sat., October 14, San Ramon Church, 902 Danville, Alamo
  - Sat. October 21, Martinez, TBD
  - Sat., October 28, Concord, TBD

### 10. Pin It

- Next Meeting October 5, 2017, Sequoia Room, 50 Douglas Drive, Martinez
- H3 moving to 2400 Bisso Lane, will have new numbers prior to next meeting!