



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, October 5, 2017 1:00pm – 3:00pm

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

Council Member Attendance:

Present: John Eckstrom, Brenda Kain, Doug Leich, Stephanie Bachelor, Joseph Villarreal, Dan Sawislak, Alejandra Chamberlain, John Barclay

Absent: Gabriel Lemus (Chair), Teri House (Vice Chair), Tracy Pullar, Anne Struthers, Gary Kingsbury, Cecelia McCloy, Miguel Hidalgo-Barnes, Diane Aguinaga

Staff Attendance: Lavonna Martin, Juliana Pooley, Dana Ewing, Contra Costa Health Services (H3); Amanda Wehrman, Emily Firgens, Talia Gilbert, HomeBase.

Public Attendance: Jill Ray, Kate Lewis, Melanie Venenciano, Mariana Noy, Thomas Fulton, Kyle Dunson, Natalie Siva, Richard Beal, Nathalie Sterne, Joy Hedgepath, Leslie Gleason, Samaa Gad, Darin Lounds, Susan Haley

1. Welcome and Introductions

- Call to order by John Eckstrom

2. Approve Minutes (Action Item)

- Motion
- Statement of Motion:
 - We move to adopt the minutes from the September 7th, 2017 Council on Homelessness Meeting.
- *Discussion:*
 - *The Council moved to approve.*
- *Procedural Record:*
 - *Motion made by: John Barclay*
 - *Seconded by: Doug Leich*
 - *AYES: John Eckstrom, Brenda Kain, Doug Leich, Stephanie Bachelor, Joseph Villarreal, Dan Sawislak, Alejandra Chamberlain, John Barclay*



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- *NOES: None.*
- *ABSTAINS: None.*
- *ABSENTS: Gabriel Lemus, Teri House, Tracy Pullar, Anne Struthers, Gary Kingsbury, Cecelia McCloy, Miguel Hidalgo-Barnes, Diane Aguinaga*
- *Motion Carried*

3. PIT Methodology (Action Item)

- Overview presented by Dana Ewing
 - The PIT count is generally used to identify how we're doing in serving populations, identify shifts in the homeless population, and to send to HUD to obtain funding
 - Data Sources used in the last two years: 1) HMIS Data 2) Service and Community Site Canvas; 3) CORE Outreach; 4) Centers and Shelter Access Lines. Also using 2-1-1 in the last few years
 - This year, want to focus on 1) Youth – challenge of identifying agencies working with homeless youth. Seeking input from Cali House, Permanent Connections, community programs. New effort: Robocalls to every family in the district to complete survey. Can verify via 2-1-1 how they heard about it. Ask caller if they are experiencing a housing crisis to “press 1” and be automatically connected.
 - Some school districts have been hesitant about confidentiality or targeting families facing homelessness, so the calls will be sent to everyone
 - This year, will also start asking more questions about those “At-Risk,” because many folks identified last year fit into this category. Looking to incorporate some strategies for at-risk populations.
 - Additional modifications for 2018
 - 1) Will be for 3 days not 2 days at community sites 2) Greater coverage at soup kitchens and 3) Need more volunteers. Currently Multi-faith Action Coalition provides a lot of volunteers. Everyone on CoC list gets a notice (1000+), previous volunteers get it, County Firefighters have reached out. Working with schools is difficult because can't take minors. '
- Discussion
 - Q: Are there PIT questions about where individuals access health care? A: Currently don't ask about it as what HUD needs is already lengthy, but can discuss as a CoC.
 - Q: Is there a Planning Committee this year? A: There is one and they have met.
 - Q: Wasn't this a semi-annual count? A: 3 years ago the community committed to doing a full count each year.
 - Q: Law enforcement involved? A: They are already doing a lot and their involvement is being in contact with Outreach team.



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- Statement of Motion
 - We move to approve the proposed PIT count methodology for 2018 which includes 4 points of data collection and specific outreach to youth.
- *Procedural Record:*
 - *Motion made by: Doug Leich*
 - *Seconded by: Stephanie Bachelor*
 - *AYES: John Eckstrom, Brenda Kain, Doug Leich, Stephanie Bachelor, Joseph Villarreal, Dan Sawislak, Alejandra Chamberlain, John Barclay*
 - *NOES: None.*
 - *ABSTAINS: None.*
 - *ABSENTS: Gabriel Lemus, Teri House, Tracy Pullar, Anne Struthers, Gary Kingsbury, Cecelia McCloy, Miguel Hidalgo-Barnes, Diane Aguinaga*
- *Motion Carried*

4. State and Federal Legislative Platforms Recommendation (Action Item)

- Presentation by Lavonna Martin
 - New State package of housing bills recently signed. This is an opportunity to develop specific language on behalf of H3 to the Board to integrate into their platform for 2018.
 - This is a department function (not a request of CoC to approve language). Would like feedback/tweaks to language. So, if things come up in the next year that fit within platform then can make recommendation to Board. Would speed up process to Board to call for action.
 - Recommended Language
 - SUPPORT funding, legislation, policy, and programs that
 - 1) Create an effective crisis response system of services for persons experiencing homelessness, particularly families and transition-age youth;
 - 2) Increase permanent housing with services for persons experiencing or at-risk of homelessness with a chronic disability; and
 - 3) Protect and expand the availability of affordable housing, particularly for the Low and Extremely Low Income population.
- Discussion
 - Point 3) should be “Very Low and Extremely Low Income population”
 - Specifically focused on families and transition-age youth because these are nationally targeted populations. This doesn’t exclude other populations, just puts an emphasis on these subpopulations.
 - Point 1) Says “experiencing homelessness” because of focus on “crisis response system.”
 - What each point targets: Point 1 – Services; Point 2 – Permanent Supportive Housing; Point 3 – Housing



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- “At-risk” in point 2 speaks to money/opportunities to focus on those at-risk (i.e. No Place Like Home)
- Point 1 says “crisis response” to be intentionally vague, so there is the option to focus on other services besides housing, such as health
- Q: Would this be a forum to discuss other policy decriminalization efforts and working on harm reduction? A: Might already have done this. We were doing this as part of the “Stepping Up” Initiative. Lavonna can go back and see if there is already something in the 80+ platforms on the list that addresses this, she will also reach out to Office of Re-entry and Justice.
- Q: Where can these platforms be accessed? A: Board of Supervisors has Legislative subcommittee and their platform is updated every year. Can search through last year’s; current platform is being built and due October 16’ 2017, goes into effect January 20, 2018.
- Statement of Motion
 - We move to approve this language.
- *Procedural Record:*
 - *Motion made by: Joseph Villarreal*
 - *Seconded by: John Barclay*
 - *AYES: John Eckstrom, Brenda Kain, Doug Leich, Stephanie Bachelor, Joseph Villarreal, Dan Sawislak, Alejandra Chamberlain, John Barclay*
 - *NOES: None.*
 - *ABSTAINS: None.*
 - *ABSENTS: Gabriel Lemus, Teri House, Tracy Pullar, Anne Struthers, Gary Kingsbury, Cecelia McCloy, Miguel Hidalgo-Barnes, Diane Aguinaga*
- *Motion Carried*

5. CoC Program Competition Update

- Presentation by Amanda Wehrman, HomeBase
- CoC Applications submitted Sept 27
- Expects to get results back in December and January
- HUMS Bonus project changes: recipient shifted from Housing Authority of Contra Costa to H3 – this makes it easier to execute master lease and implement program. Changed from rental assistance to leasing which is more in line with how Micropad units have typically operated as.
- We’ll be seeking feedback on how to improve NOFA process for next year, so stay tuned on that conversation.

6. Provider Presentations

- Presentations by Natalie Siva, Berkeley Food and Housing; and Tom Fulton, Northern California Family Center
- **Berkeley Food and Housing (Natalie Siva, Road Home Senior Program Manager)**



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- Currently operating SSVF in Contra Costa, Alameda, and Solano since 2013. Will expand programs into Sacramento. Veteran homeless population in Sacramento increased ~50% in the last year so Berkeley Food & Housing will be 3rd grantee in the area.
- Kyle Dunsen will be Program Manager for Richmond and Vallejo Programs, and Natalie will oversee all veteran programs, including newest HVRP program funded through DOL that covers Contra Costa and Solano
 - Homeless Veterans Re-integration Program (HVRP): Any homeless vet can enroll in employment program, which has a job developer and case manager.
 - Q: What is the threshold for veteran status? A: At least one-day of active duty outside of basic training. Like SSVF but can't serve whole household, only veteran (this is the case on Contra Costa, in Solano they have outside funding that allows them to serve the household)
 - Q: Can it be honorable discharge? A: It just can't be dishonorable discharge.
 - Program is meant to get people employed quickly. Have wraparound services
- Also in Contra Costa have Peer Internship Program as part of Roads Home Program. This program hires homeless vets to be outreach team. It is meant to be low-barrier entry to employment. Individuals work through barriers during internship, then go to permanent housing and employment. If it takes longer, the program can sometimes keep people enrolled. All participants leave with permanent housing/employment or get connected with benefits.
- Q: Does the Outreach Team go to encampments? A: Yes, their main focus is outreach to encampments and Vets that are hardest to serve. Spend 60% of funding in Solano; 30% in Contra Costa; and 10% in Alameda. May be shifting more resources to Contra Costa since they are now only one of two grantees.
- In efforts to collaborate, BFHP should connect with Michael Fischer to attend meetings in other counties
- In this transition to Sacramento, BFHP has some open positions.
- BFHP has been involved in the pilot of coordinated entry in Alameda and now part of the county-wide system. They have also been working closely with Shelter Inc. on by-name list efforts in Contra Costa and are using this as a model for other counties they work in.
- Q: Do you coordinate on Stand in Antioch. A: Yes, attend every year.
- Q: Are fliers with SSVF hotline number available in Spanish? A: Yes, can get them in Spanish. Will also get digital version.
- **Northern California Family Center (Tom Fulton, ED)**
 - There are 6,105 people who utilize Contra Costa system of care in a year



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- What about those you don't see? Have some prevention data, but this number reflects those who are literally homeless.
- Estimated number of runaway homeless in 2000 was 1.6-2.5 million. Can use this number to estimate county runaway population – about 5,000
- This program was started in 1996 to place children into foster homes. For many years, 7-8% of youth who participated in the program would end up back on the streets, but they have gradually closed that gap and now have no youth who leave and go AWOL.
- The program has been operating effectively, but they do not have enough foster families to place kids with. Need help from general community to be certified as a foster parent.
- Cases are referred to NCFC, they do intake, and refer kids into receiving homes. They make it clear to families that they are moving kid sfrom street to homes, so everyone needs to participate in mediation services.
- Most referrals come from Child Protective Services; Police; or other programs. Have high incidences of kids coming from Child Protective Services. Have a high number coming from psych emergency.
- Upcoming event on Nov. 4 to train people interested in becoming a foster parent on regular or permanent basis. Hard to get people through process of certification – so they try and take care of as much of the process as possible at the event.
- Information will be posted and distributed digitally.
- Q: Is there anything that your agency is doing to advocate/help for making it easier to become a foster parent? A: Environment to become certified is very hard. Most families they see are generally middle and lower-income families from East or West part of the county (not so much central).

7. Committee Updates

- Presented by Amanda Wehrman, HomeBase, Juliana Pooley, and Dana Ewing, H3
- **Consumer Advisory Committee** (Dana)
 - Initial meeting to discuss committee's purpose, and sent email to recruit more and have had a huge interest.
 - If you have an interest in joining then let them know.
 - Point for Council: this advisory committee is for council members to participate in and to provide council information around what is happening in the community. Recognizing that there should be more representation and voice.
 - Committee will be bringing Council information.
- **Built for Zero** (Dana)
 - Juliana and Dana just went to conference in Denver and came back with new ideas about what to do with data.
 - We have a byname list for vets and chronically homeless, and now with Clairy can build lists for other subpopulations.



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- Built for Zero focused around Coordinated Entry efforts now
- Chronic list steadying out and more consistent – after 9 months it evened out to around 500.
- Numbers on the Vets list are declining – Contra Costa has a great VA rep in our community, so kudos to Tracy and her leadership
 - Strategizing prevention throughout the year because prevention dollars so little (BFHP has \$60k for whole year across 3 communities).
 - We're seeing a lot more newly homeless vets due to rent increases – so prevention will be a focus of this year
- **Coordinated Entry** (Juliana)
 - Data/Evaluation Committee: working on draft evaluation report and providers have feedback. Streamlining data for CoC
 - Focus Groups underway with providers
 - Clarity has launched → next steps include building out eligibility factors to include specific details in system around referrals
 - Coordinated Entry Event on Oct 19 for providers. All CoC Council Members are invited to attend. Talking about last contract year, sharing info from focus groups, sharing successes/challenges, and brainstorming solutions.
 - Make sure info sent out again and specifically to Council members
- **Policy & Advocacy Committee** (Amanda)
 - Met for the first time a few weeks ago
 - Used as orientation meeting to set roles & responsibilities
 - Areas of focus based on previous guidance from Council: 1) Civil Grand Jury Reports on Homelessness and Board of Supervisors response. 2) Cannabis regulatory framework and how to use these new dollars. 3) State Housing Legislative Package. 4) Thinking about how to quantify gaps in homeless system of care (i.e. what's the "ask"?)
 - This group will be making recommendations to the COH

8. Homeless Awareness Month Committee Updates

- Presentation on advocacy opportunities by Iman Novin, H3
- Have a spreadsheet for individuals to sign up to speak at public meetings going on around the county; can sign proclamation and have speaking points; November 7 Board of Supervisors meeting – would be great for Council members to be present– proclamation given as well as landlord and volunteer awards; toolkit ready by 10/16
- Documentary film screenings of *Storied Streets*– Richmond (time and location TBD), Walnut Creek (St. Pauls Church, time TBD), and Quarterly CoC meeting (10/20 at ZA room), \$10 entrance fee going to Housing Security Fund – (no charge for Quarterly CoC meeting)



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- Have nominations open for awards for Outstanding Landlord and Volunteer. Will be reviewing applications beginning October 16, will ask Council to approve recommendations on November 2, awards announced at Board of Supervisors meeting
- Media Outreach: Partner with Health Services Media Team; Film screening press releases and media passes, screen savers for CCHS staff

9. Community Announcements

- Doug Leich – Housing Town Halls sponsored by Ensuring Opportunity Campaign. Next one is on Saturday, Oct 14 at San Ramon Valley United Methodist Church at 10am-12pm. After that is in Martinez on Saturday Oct 21, 10am and final town hall in Concord on October 28 at First Presbyterian Church. Electronic versions of flyers will be distributed.
- Dan Sawislak– RCD got tax credit for St. Paul’s Commons. 45 units with ½ for formerly homeless. This is a great example of how faith communities can help contribute to solving housing crisis.
- Leslie – Partnership between Family Justice Alliance, Shelter Inc, and Stand received .5M to serve needs of DV victims.
- Health, Housing, Homeless Program is moving - Oct 13 is final day in Martinez. Moving to Concord and will send notification with new address and new phone numbers. They will have much more space and are looking forward to inviting everyone to an open house once they are settled.

10. Pin It

- Next Quarterly CoC Meeting: October 20, 2017, ZA Room, 20 Muir Road, Martinez
- Next Council Meeting: November 2, 2017, ZA Room, 30 Muir Road, Martinez