



# CONTRA COSTA CONTINUUM OF CARE MEETING MINUTES

*The Contra Costa Continuum of Care 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.*

**Date, Time:** Friday, January 15, 2016 10:00am – 12:00pm

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

## **1. Welcome and Introductions**

- Call to order by Teri House, Chair

## **2. Assisted Outpatient Treatment (AOT) Program**

- David Seidner, Forensic Mental Health Program Manager, gave a presentation on the Assisted Outpatient Treatment (AOT) program and the services it will provide.
- AOT is civil, court-ordered treatment for persons with serious and persistent mental illness who demonstrate resistance to participating in services.
- A qualified requestor (such as a blood relative, cohabitant, spouse, medical provider, or police officer with a substantial relationship to the individual) are legally able to contact the AOT hotline to make a request for a legal investigation.
  - If the investigation reveals the individual in question to not be fit for AOT, the individual is diverted to mental health care.
  - If the investigation reveals the individual in question to be a good fit for AOT, he or she is assigned to a care team, who must offer the least restrictive intervention first. The team engages in a process of conversations and options for care.
- The Behavioral Health Team is considering the options for making housing available to this population. The AOT team and the CoC will work together to think through housing options, funding, and the AOT population's participation in coordinated entry.

## **3. Mental Health Evaluation Team (MHET)**

- David Seidner, Forensic Mental Health Program Manager, gave a presentation on the Mental Health Evaluation Team (MHET) and the services it provides.
- The MHET is a partnership between the county Police Chiefs Association and the Behavioral Health Division. There are three regional teams (serving the west, central, and east regions of the county) staffed by a police officer and a behavioral health clinician. The MHET provides welfare checks after a psychiatric call for service to the police.
- The MHET is deployed after law enforcement responds to a call about a psychiatric emergency; so the MHET is not a first responder to a crisis. Service



## CONTRA COSTA COC MEETING MINUTES

providers and individual households cannot call the MHET, but can request a follow-up from the MHET after a call to the police for service.

- In the event that a person encountered by the team is homeless, the team offers outreach services. In the event that the person is housed, the team offers resources to the person as well as their household.

#### **4. Homeless Court and Behavioral Health Court**

- Item tabled until April 2016 meeting.

#### **5. Continuum of Care Annual Report**

- Dana Ewing, Evaluator/Planner for Homeless Programs, reported highlights from the Continuum of Care's newly released Annual Report.
- The 2014-15 report reflects a groundswell of support and advocacy and unparalleled changes and progress in the past year. Highlights from the report include:
  - 7,597 individuals were served across the CoC, 5,883 of whom were homeless at the time they were served.
  - 81% of Rapid Rehousing clients exit to permanent housing; only 9% return to homelessness.
  - 97% of Permanent Housing clients retain stable housing for at least one year.
  - The CoC piloted its Coordinated Entry system in 2014-15 and adopted the VI-SPDAT as a system-wide assessment tool. Efforts to fully implement Coordinated Entry will continue in 2015-16.

#### **6. Zero:2016 Campaign**

- Jennifer Baha, Zero:2016 Campaign Coordinator, presented an update on the campaign's 2015 progress and plans for the coming year.
- The campaign has seen an 18% increase in housing placements for veterans from 2014 to 2015.
- In 2016, the campaign plans to dive deeply into housing placements for chronically homeless persons. The leadership committee is working on an action campaign around chronic homelessness.
- Multi-faith ACTION Coalition continues to be an important partner, especially in landlord engagement.
- The campaign has also created a task force to focus on increasing the housing stock.

#### **7. Point-in-Time Count**

- Jaime Jenett, Continuum of Care Planning and Policy Manager, presented an update on the 2016 homeless census taking place January 28-29.
- Contra Costa County CoC's annual PIT count is set for January 27, 2016.



## CONTRA COSTA COC MEETING MINUTES

- The CoC is using a new and improved methodology. Outreach teams will conduct surveys of all persons encountered in encampments, community volunteers will conduct surveys at service sites, and data on sheltered individuals will be captured via HMIS. Flyers will be posted at transit stations, clinics and ERs, and food pantries to direct consumers to call 211 for a phone survey.

### **8. 2016 Vision: Council on Homelessness**

- Discussion tabled until a future meeting, or feedback will be solicited via a survey.

### **9. Nuts & Bolts**

- Shelter Inc. recently opened an application process for a new CEO
- The County Office of Education's homeless program is willing to provide presentations to program staff on education rights for homeless children in grades K-12.
- Lifelong Medical Care recently opened new medical clinics in public housing communities in Rodeo and Pinole, available to clients on Medi-Cal or who are uninsured. They are also working to establish dental care in these communities.
- Contra Costa Interfaith Housing is hosting its annual *There's No Place Like Home* gala on February 8, 2016.
- Contra Costa County Action Team is starting operations next month, providing services to hard to serve individuals.

### **10. Pin It**

- Next Council meeting: January 26, 2016 3:30-5:00pm
- Next CoC meeting: April 15, 2016, 10am-12pm