



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: Tuesday, January 26, 2016, 3:30 pm – 5:00 pm

Location: Housing Authority Offices, 3133 Estudillo Drive, Martinez

Attendance (Council Members): Teri House, Brenda Kain, Kevin Corrigan, Valerie Sloven, Joseph Villarreal, Janet Kennedy

Absent: none

Public Attendance: Gabriel Lemus, Doug Leach, Doug Stewart, Louise Bourassa, Diane Aguinaga, Dan Sawislak, Gary Kingsbury, Lavonna Martin, Dominic Aliano, Leslie Gleason, Beth Schecter, Linae Young, Chrystal Ellis, Guita Bahramipour, Blair Ratcliff, Dana Ewing, Jaime Jenett, Jennifer Baha, Amanda Stempson, Emily Salvaterra

1. Welcome and Introductions

- Call to order by Teri House, Chair

2. Council Governance and Structure Update

- Amanda Stempson, HomeBase, presented an update on the governance and structure of the CoC.
- The CoC's bylaws and governance charter were updated per HUD guidelines, and approved by the county Board of Supervisors. The new members are not yet officially approved and will go through a final process on February 9 with the Family Human Services committee. The primary changes reflected in the new documents include:
 - An expanded roster of 18 seats, with 17 voting members
 - Changes in naming conventions: the group formerly called the Executive Board is now the Council on Homelessness, and the group formerly called the Council on Homelessness is now the Contra Costa CoC
 - The board will now need only to have quorum for the seats that are filled (currently 13 seats are filled, 12 of which are voting seats)
- The Council has an upcoming retreat, taking place immediately before the February Council meeting, on February 23. At the retreat, the Council will engage



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in discussions of its roles and responsibilities, the recent update to the Strategic Plan, and vision and priorities for 2016.

- Council on Homelessness meetings, starting in March 2016, will now take place on the first Thursdays of the month, from 2:00 – 3:30 pm, in the ZA Room at 30 Muir Road in Martinez.

3. Concord Naval Weapons Station Update

- Amanda Stempson, HomeBase, gave an update on progress and advocacy efforts around the base conversion plan for the Concord Naval Weapons Station.
- A collaborative of affordable housing and homeless service providers is organizing to advocate for affordable housing with set aside units for homeless households as part of the developer plan. East Bay Housing Organizations (EBHO) is spearheading the organizing efforts.
- EBHO expects a developer to be selected this spring. After a developer is selected, then their plan will go through a CEQA process, which will likely take a year.
- This item will be discussed in more detail, to provide greater context and any information on advocacy opportunities, at future meetings.

4. Healthcare for the Homeless Update

- Tabled for a future meeting (Healthcare for the Homeless representatives could not attend).

5. Zero:2016 campaign update

- 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. They are still working on final data from 2015 to determine the campaign's overall effectiveness over the year and progress toward functional zero.
- 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. The campaign is also focusing on maintaining an up-to-date by-name list of chronically homeless persons and homeless veterans in the community.
 - The Leadership Committee will be holding an action camp talk about strategies to house chronically homeless persons. They are also holding



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an upcoming meeting to discuss the county budget and upcoming advocacy opportunities.

- The Data Committee has taken up the by-name list effort and is focused on cleaning up HMIS records in order to have a good understanding of inflow and outflow in the CoC.
- Multi-faith ACTION Coalition continues to be an important partner, especially in landlord engagement. The Coalition leads the campaign's Outreach and Engagement committee.
- The campaign has also created a task force to focus on increasing the housing stock.
- Jaime Jenett, Homeless Programs, also gave an update on an initiative to create a Housing Security Fund.
 - The Richmond Community Foundation has agreed to house the fund, with a stipulation that \$10,000 is needed in seed money to start the fund. Homeless Programs staff recently presented to the California Apartments Association regarding the seed funds and is waiting to hear back.
 - Richmond Community Foundation is also looking for guidance on the disbursement of funds and how agencies should access the funds once they become available. Suggestions or comments should be directed to Jaime Jenett.

6. Committee Updates

- Jaime Jenett provided updates from the CoC's committees:
 - **Coordinated Entry:** HomeBase is working one-on-one with prevention providers in efforts to build the prevention and diversion elements of the Coordinated Entry system in the CoC. The Coordinated Entry Committee will reconvene in March.
 - **Performance Measurement:** The Performance Measurement Committee has developed standard measures and targets for emergency shelter, rapid rehousing, transitional housing, and permanent supportive housing. HomeBase is working one-on-one with supportive services and street outreach providers to develop measures for these program types. The Performance Measurement Committee will reconvene in March.
 - **HMIS:** The HMIS Committee is in the process of selecting a new software vendor, making a switch to Clarity Human Services. The



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Council will be asked to vote to approve the new software vendor at the February meeting.

7. Policy and Advocacy Opportunities

- Lavonna Martin, Chief of Homeless Programs, shared with the Council that this will now be a standing agenda item, as one part of the Council's role is to share with the county Board of Supervisors the needs of the community it serves.
- Homeless Preference: The CoC and the PHA are working together to establish a homeless admission preference.
 - An amendment has been approved by the PHA stipulating that permanent supportive housing residents ready to move on from a high level of services to a program with less intensive services will be given a preference for housing choice vouchers or public housing. Homeless Programs staff and the PHA are working together to flesh out the details of the preference.
- Local Ordinances: The City of Martinez has recently tightened restrictions on sleeping in vehicles, trespassing, and camping, and added a restriction on urinating/defecating in public.
 - This is an opportunity for the Council to provide support, guidance, and education to these cities and the county Board of Supervisors about alternatives that don't criminalize homelessness.
 - Jaime will keep track of legislation and changes in local ordinances, that will be brought to the Council.
- County Budget Update: The County Board of Supervisors budget hearings will take place on April 19, for the 2016-17 year.
 - There will be a meeting on Friday, February 5 at 10am to discuss opportunities for advocacy on the 2016-17 budget.
- State Budget Update: "No Place Like Home" Initiative, a \$2 billion legislative package proposed by Senate includes a \$2 billion bond to construct PSH for chronically homeless with mental illness, \$200 million for short-term rent subsidies while PH is constructed/rehabilitated, a "Bringing Families Home" pilot, an expansion of the CalWORKs Housing Support Program, and an increase in SSI/SSP
- Federal Budget Update: Omnibus Spending Bill includes \$2.25 billion in Homeless Assistance Grant funding, a \$65 million increase from last year, most of which covers higher costs for renewals.
 - The bill includes \$33 million for 10 homeless youth demonstration projects, \$60 million for new HUD-VASH housing vouchers.



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- Section 8, Public Housing, CDBG, HOME funding levels are essentially flat.

8. Nuts and Bolts

- Jaime Jenett announced the upcoming Point in Time Count taking place January 28 and 29 in locations throughout the county. A full count of unsheltered and sheltered persons in the county will be conducted, using HMIS, volunteers conducting surveys, outreach teams going to encampments, and a widely advertised call center in partnership with 2-1-1.
- Blair Ratcliff, with the Delta Veterans Group, announced an upcoming East Bay Stand Down at the Alameda County Fairgrounds in September. Planning meetings will begin in February in Danville. Organizers are looking for volunteers and housing resources.
 - The county is partnering with Delta Veterans Group for a Project Homeless Connect event this spring in Antioch.
- Joseph Villarreal announced that the Fair Market Rates have not been given final approval from HUD.

9. Pin It

- Next Council on Homelessness meeting: February 23, 3:30-5:00 pm
- Next CoC Meeting: April 15, 2016, 10 am-12 pm