



# 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, May 5, 2016, 2:00 – 3:30pm

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

**Attendance (Council Members):** Louise Bourassa, Tracy Cascio, Kevin Corrigan, Teri House (Chair), Brenda Kain, Gary Kingsbury, Doug Leich, Gabriel Lemus

**Absent:** Diane Aguinaga, Janet Kennedy, Dan Sawislak, Valerie Sloven, Joseph Villarreal

**Public Attendance:** Shayne Kaleo, Linae Young, Jaime Jenett, Dana Ewing, Emily Salvaterra, Amanda Stempson, Leslie Gleason, Laurel te Velde, Jon Eckstrom, Alejandra Chamberlain

## 1. Welcome and Introductions

- Call to order by Teri House, Chair

## 2. Health Care for the Homeless Update

- Linae Young, Senior Health Education Specialist, provided an update on Health Care for the Homeless' recent efforts.
  - Health Care for the Homeless is hiring four Registered Nurses and four LCSW/psychologists for its new Medication Assisted Treatment program. Anyone who knows a qualified applicant is encouraged to pass on the job posting, available at the PHFE website:  
<http://www.phfe.org/careers.aspx>

## 3. 2016 Point-in-Time Count

- Dana Ewing, Evaluator/Planner, provided an overview of Contra Costa's 2016 Point-in-Time Count Data
  - 2016 PIT Count Data is available at the County Homeless Programs website: <http://cchealth.org/homeless/council/pdf/2016-PIT-report.pdf>



## COUNCIL ON HOMELESSNESS MEETING MINUTES

- Contra Costa saw an overall decrease in the number of homeless persons in the geographic area, both overall and by category (unsheltered, sheltered, and at-risk).
- 110 unsheltered persons, 620 sheltered persons, and 1170 at-risk persons were identified in the count. The number of unsheltered and sheltered persons is reported to HUD, who does not consider persons 'at-risk' to be literally homeless. The definition of 'at-risk' for the purposes of the 2016 PIT is the same as the definition of 'other' in the 2015 PIT.
- Of those who were identified as literally homeless:
  - 9% were veterans
  - 29% had a mental health condition
  - 11% were minors
  - 15% were chronically homeless (based on the new HUD definition)
    - These demographics are self-reported.
    - These demographics have stayed roughly the same as prior years, with the exception of the number of persons who are chronically homeless which has decreased by approximately 50%.
      - From 2015 to 2016, this decrease can be attributed to the change in the definition of chronic homelessness, but there was also a decrease from 2013 to 2015 when there was no definitional change.
- Since 2011, by region, the number of literally homeless persons in West County has decreased by 70%, in Central County has decreased by 60%, and in East County has increased by 30%.
- The number of literally homeless persons in Contra Costa has decreased by 28% since 2011.

#### 4. Committee Updates

- Coordinated Entry: Jaime Jenett, CoC Planning and Policy Manager, provided an update on the Coordinated Entry Committee.
  - The Coordinated Entry Committee has conducted workshops on: prevention and diversion, crisis services, and permanent housing and supports; the committee is preparing for an additional workshop that



## COUNCIL ON HOMELESSNESS MEETING MINUTES

will summarize the learning from the three previous meetings and will inform the upcoming RFP.

- This meeting will be held May 11, 9am – 12pm, at 2425 Bisso, 1<sup>st</sup> Floor Conference Room, Concord. All service providers and interested parties are encouraged to attend.
- Performance Measures: Emily Salvaterra, Policy Analyst, provided an update on the Performance Measures Committee.
  - At the end of last year, the Council approved measures for four program components (ES, TH, RRH, PSH).
  - HomeBase met with SSO and outreach providers to work on developing performance measures, one-on-one, but since then many shifts have happened around those programs within the CoC, so establishing those measures is on hold for now. The intention is to build performance metrics for those program components into the Coordinated Entry RFP, and expand from there.
  - In the meantime, the Council together with the Performance Measurement Committee should establish a protocol for performance review.
    - The Council on Homelessness agreed to a biannual review of system-level performance data and progress toward targets. The data will be distributed in advance of the meeting in which it will be discussed (starting in January 2017, after Coordinated Entry implementation and the HMIS software switch).
  - The Council also discussed establishing a process for project-level performance review.
    - The Performance Review Committee will consider combining with the HMIS Committee, as a more efficient way of gathering to review data and performance and surfacing any issues with either.
    - The committee will review the data on a quarterly basis, on a cycle that fits with the CoC Program Competition.
    - In the case of a need for corrective action based on project performance, the Council recommends establishing a process whereby after two quarters of not meeting targets, the project will receive technical assistance and will submit a report on their intended plan to improve their performance.
    - The Committee will discuss this protocol further as needed.
- CoC Provider Committee (formerly HUD Grantees / NOFA Committee): Emily Salvaterra, Policy Analyst, provided an update on the CoC Provider Committee.



## COUNCIL ON HOMELESSNESS MEETING MINUTES

- The CoC Provider Committee is convening for two upcoming meetings, both taking place at 1350 Arnold Drive, 2<sup>nd</sup> Floor Conference Room, Martinez:
  - May 18, 10:30 am – noon
  - June 9, 2:00 – 3:30 pm
- The goal of these meetings is to debrief the 2015 CoC Program Competition, to set community priorities and prepare for the 2016 Competition. All service providers within the CoC are encouraged to attend both meetings.

### **5. Advocacy Priorities and Council Policy**

- Amanda Stempson, HomeBase, provided a brief overview of Council's role and permissible activities relating to advocacy.
- The Council engaged in discussion about its advocacy priorities and protocol for engaging in advocacy activities.
  - The Council identified the County's role in addressing homelessness as a top advocacy priority.
  - The Council is going to explore its permissible activities related to advocacy on this issue, including providing best practice research and budget analysis, Council members and County staff giving informational presentations, and leveraging partnerships to strengthen its reach.

### **6. Policy and Advocacy Opportunities**

- This item was tabled.

### **7. Triennial Review Board**

- Jaime Jenett, CoC Planning and Policy Manager, distributed copies of the Triennial Sunset Review Report for the Council on Homelessness.

### **8. Nuts and Bolts**

- This item was tabled.

### **9. Pin It**

- Homeless Programs and Health Care for the Homeless staff will be presenting an annual update to the Family and Human Services Commission on Monday, May 9, at 1:00pm, in Room 101 at 651 Pine Street, Martinez.
- The next Council on Homelessness meeting will take place on June 2, at 2:00 pm, in the ZA Room at 30 Muir Road, Martinez.