



CONTRA COSTA CONTINUUM OF CARE QUARTERLY 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, July 15, 2016 10:00am – 12:00pm

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

1. Welcome and Introductions

- Call to order by Gabriel Lemus, Council on Homelessness member

2. Contra Costa County Library Resources

- Ian Richards, Senior Community Library Manager for the Contra Costa County Library, gave an overview of the Contra Costa library system, and what role it plays in connecting persons experiencing homelessness with resources in the area.
- The library is not only a safe, welcoming space that provides access to reading materials, but also provides homeless individuals with the opportunity to develop community, as well as free computer and internet access.
- Through access to the internet, homeless individuals can be connected to resources that can provide them with nutrition, housing, medical, and employment assistance. As society is moving away from using paper, libraries can help provide access to services that homeless individuals may traditionally have difficulty accessing.
- The Contra Costa library system is lowering barriers to getting library cards by modifying photo ID and proof of address requirements.
- If someone can't verify their address, they may not check out materials, but can access the internet and use the computers via a computer access only card. Staff at any location is able to provide this card – even mobile sites.
- Outreach is the biggest challenge; the majority of homeless individuals served are those that comes to libraries (and initiate all contact). Contra Costa Library is available to provide presentations to help familiarize homeless with these services. The packet distributed includes information on requesting presentations
- Another challenge is that currently there is no way to track how effective libraries are at helping homeless; the library currently does not have a way to track individuals who are using the internet to access resources, and it would be helpful to implement a way to do this, so that it can better provide services and understand its clientele (e.g., families who otherwise have limited access to



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educational materials, adults who use the internet to search for employment, etc.)

- Questions and answers:
 - Libraries and managers will be notified that they will be contacted with requests for presentations
 - As to how the community can solve the problem of “verifiable address” for a homeless individual seeking a library card, Ian responded that individuals will need two pieces of any of the following identifying information:
 - A piece of mail
 - A bank card with a photo ID
 - A Veteran Card
 - Any Federal issued ID
 - A California State issued ID, with service center listed as address to receive mail
 - A letter from a service center saying the client receives mail at this location.

3. Contra Costa Coordinated Entry System

- Jaime Jenett, CoC Policy and Planning Manager, and Amanda Stempson, HomeBase, provided an overview of the Coordinated Entry (CE) System in Contra Costa County including an update on the progress and explanation of the system design, an announcement that the Coordinated Entry Request for Proposals (RFP) was released June 29, 2016, and information that suggestions around implementation are being solicited.
- Workshops from April and May this year revolved around designing the CE system as a way to better facilitate client access to services they need.
- To date, referrals and calls from each separate location are uncoordinated and not as connecting people to resources as efficiently as possible.
- Expanding Multi-Service Centers to become Coordinated Access Referral and Engagement (C.A.R.E.) Centers provides an easier flow for clients. Outreach and resources lines will be referring clients into C.A.R.E. Centers to receive additional assessments and referrals, including connection to diversion and prevention services.
- Outreach and C.A.R.E. centers will use the VI-SPDAT tool to assess what level of care is needed and distribution of housing resources will be prioritized using VI-SPDAT scores.
- Questions and Answers:
 - Locations of the CARE Centers will be established through the RFP.
 - Timeline for implementation: RFP awards will be announced in August and get underway this Fall. In order to build out the system, additional dollars will be needed; the RFP has been able to braid different funding streams, but we are still looking for more



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- Many providers will work together to implement the system
- Community input on coordinated entry system implementation:
 - There needs to be a consensus on what information is provided to the public; focus on formulating the same answer (perhaps provide a list of talking points to advise);
 - It is useful to connect with mental health clinics;
 - Make sure social services and hospitals can tell people where to go - post the information with clear dialogue of what services will be provided;
 - The Police Department can try to get information out about the new system - police officers will be provided with this information (in brochure form with FAQs) to forward to others;
 - It would be helpful to get something in the media - not just service providers/police who would get the information out, but civilians who interact with homeless.
 - Advocate for posters in clinics/hospitals and social media;
 - It would be helpful if mental health clinic representatives could have staff come to the meetings to hear directly;
 - Board of Supervisors interested in sharing information via eNewsletters;
 - Street outreach teams should have cards that go with them;
 - For victims of domestic violence, it would be helpful to have something durable with an alternate purpose (e.g. a comb, toothbrush, etc.) that has resource information on it.

4. HUD FY2016 CoC Program Competition

- Amanda Stempson, HomeBase, provided an updated on the FY2016 NOFA CoC Program Competition.
- Contra Costa is slated to apply for close to \$11 million for renewal projects.
- Changes for bonus funding as well as tiering process
- Projects are able to apply for Permanent Supportive Housing (PSH) for Chronically Homeless (CH) individuals and families, and Rapid Re-Housing (RRH) for clients from emergency shelters or victims of domestic violence.
- There is also additional emphasis on HUDs policy priorities, as set forth in the Opening Doors Federal Strategic Plan.
- The Review and Rank process will combine renewal and new projects in one application with order of prioritization; there are two tiers - Tier 1 has increased to 93% of Annual Renewal Demand (ARD), which last year was only 85%, with balance being the remaining 7% for Tier 2; Tier 1 is funded by HUD, and Tier 2 is subject to a national competition with national CoCs, scored according to their own scoring factors



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- This year HUD is placing more weight on local ranking and less weight on CoC score and type of project. The planning grant is not subject to competition.
- Local Competition Process: A Technical Assistance workshop explaining the application process in more detail, mandatory for all providers intending to submit an application for renewal and new projects, was scheduled for later in the day, from 1:00-3:00 pm.

5. Concord Naval Weapons Station

- Amanda Stempson, HomeBase, provided an update on the latest news concerning the Concord Naval Weapons Station base conversion process.
- Review of history as a reminder of the process of the Navy handing off the land to local jurisdiction; teams of service providers were listed, who will one day be able to deliver housing services on the land.
- The selected Master Developer for first phase of development is Lennar
- CNWS Homeless Collaborative is currently working with EBHO Concord Committee regarding advocacy

6. No Place Like Home Initiative

- Tara Ozes, HomeBase, provided an overview of the history of AB 1618, otherwise known as the No Place Like Home (NPLH) Initiative, signed into law July 1, 2016.
- NPLH prioritizes Chronically Homeless individuals with mental illness by using a Housing First approach, and reallocates revenue from the Mental Health Services Act to secure \$2 billion in bond funding.
- \$1.8 billion will be divided between 4 County categories: Los Angeles, Large Counties, Medium Counties, and Small Counties; Contra Costa qualifies as a Large County.
- The grant process includes a noncompetitive portion, where \$2 million will go to counties receiving \$500,000 or an amount calculated based on number of homeless, whichever is greater. Additionally, \$6.2 million will be taken from the Mental Health Services Fund for Technical and Application assistance.
- On June 7, 2017, the Contra Costa Board of Supervisors considered a recommendation by County Administrator David Twa to "Support [NPLH] in Concept," amid concerns over the fiscal impact (both short-term and long-term) of the bond payments to Contra Costa County. The Board convened on June 14th to consider a Letter of Opposition by the Contra Costa Mental Health Commission and adopted official position to "Oppose with Recommendations to Amend".



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- HomeBase has agreed to present an update on the results of that meeting and future implications of NPLH for Contra Costa at the next CoC Quarterly Meeting.

7. Nuts & Bolts

- Announcement of Project Homeless Connect, on October 13th, 2016
 - Services to be provided: The DMV will be issuing California State IDs free of charge. The county will work with the DMV to pay for these.
 - It may be a possibility to coordinate with the Contra Costa Library regarding needing IDs for library cards
 - Volunteers can sign up at <https://goo.gl/forms/wvSHv3JsRKJ2WkKx1>
- Announcement of the 30th Annual Harmony Walk/5k Race, October 29, 2016
 - Nicholl Park, McDonald & 31st Street, Richmond, CA

8. Pin It

- Topics of Interest:
 - Update on Laura's Law implementation; a 6-month report should be released in September.
 - Influx of Elderly who are entering shelters, and are special needs (70s and 80s); a conversation about what can and should be done.
 - Bed bug overview
 - Please notify the Homeless Program at <mailto:homelessprogram@hsd.cccounty.us> if suspect bed bug problem - will coordinate with Tanya to help implement pest management protocols to eradicate; protocols available at <http://cchealth.org/bedbugs/>
 - Update on No Place Like Home Initiative
- Next CoC meeting: October 21, 2016, 10:00am – 12:00pm