



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, October 21, 2016 10:00am – 12:00pm

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

1. Welcome and Introductions

- Call to order by Gabriel Lemus, Chair

2. Ensuring Opportunity Campaign

- Zuleika Godinez, Policy Coordinator, Ensuring Opportunity Campaign, gave a presentation on the Ensuring Opportunity Campaign (EOC) to end poverty in Contra Costa County.
- EOC is a collaborative effort to end poverty in Contra Costa County. EOC advocates for effective policies at the local, state and federal levels and engaged diverse stakeholders to achieve this aim. It also leads and supports bold initiatives in collaboration with others, and reframes and amplifies the conversation about poverty.
- EOC works on a policy advocacy level, rather than a direct service level. The EOC is focused on six policy areas:
 - Economic security
 - Health
 - Housing security
 - Food security
 - Education
 - Safety
- Zuleika discussed the severe shortage of affordable housing in California and proposed short- and long-term strategies to:
 - Address the needs of people who are homeless,
 - Prevent immediate displacement,
 - Expand the supply of market-rate housing, and
 - Expand the supply that is affordable to low income families.
- Housing Impact Fees:
 - Housing impact fees allow the City to charge a fee to market-rate developers to offset the impact that they are having on the affordable housing market. A nexus study must be done to assess the impact first. The fee income is used for affordable housing.
- Incentives for homeowners to build Accessory Dwelling Units:



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- The EOC is evaluating potential partnerships with banks and other entities to develop such incentives.
- Cities are now able to be more lenient with requirements; Concord has started a pilot program to encourage the creation of secondary units and statewide standards for these units.
 - A new category—Junior Accessory Dwelling Units (JADUs), are even cheaper to install.

3. Bed Bugs Prevention and Control

- Tanya Drlik, IPM Coordinator, Contra Costa County, gave a presentation on how to prevent and control the resurgence of bed bugs.
- History and Proliferation of Bed Bugs: First brought to the United States by Europeans, factors leading to the proliferation of bed bugs include:
 - Metropolitan living
 - Increased global travel
 - Changes in pest control
 - Bed bugs have also become resistant to many pesticides, including DDT.
 - Accumulation of belongings
- Poor housekeeping and poverty do not cause bed bugs, but they exacerbate the situation and contribute to proliferation. DIY treatments can cause bed bugs to disperse and will not do any good to eradicate unless they actually touch the bugs.
- Bed Bug Facts: There is no evidence that bed bugs transmit any diseases. Bed bug bites are similar to mosquito bites, as they are allergic reactions to injected saliva. Thirty to forty percent of the population does not exhibit symptoms. No one, not even a medical professional, can identify a bed bug bite from looking at it because reactions vary greatly.
 - Characteristics: Bed bugs cannot fly or jump, but can walk quickly. They harbor in confined spaces and tend to be gregarious. They can travel long distances for a blood meal. They move around more than we thought (e.g., spreading from apartment to apartment).
 - Feeding Habits:
 - Nocturnal - Bed bugs mainly feed at night. Bites are most common on exposed skin. There is potential for infection as a result of scratching.
 - Bed bugs feed primarily on humans, but will attack other mammals. They live all over the world. Their ancestor is probably a bat parasite that fed on cave-dwelling humans. Their life span varies depending on temperature.
 - Behaviors that make bed bugs hard to control:
 - Bed bugs are nocturnal, can hide in cracks and crevices, can easily move through walls and hitchhike on belongings; they can also live long



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without feeding (5-8 months), and their eggs are small and can be glued onto objects.

- Issues of group living situations:
 - Issues that exacerbate infestations in group living situations are the transient nature of group living, hoarding, under-reporting, and lack of awareness.
- Physical controls:
 - Effective uses of physical controls include targeted vacuuming (great for quickly reducing populations, but will not get rid of the infestation); high heat (e.g. “dry” steam); Pest-proofing; and passive traps and monitoring devices (e.g. **ClimbUp**) for furniture with legs.
- Chemical controls:
 - Silica aerogel dust absorbs waxy coating off bugs causing them to dehydrate. It can last 10 years if it stays dry. It must be applied in cracks and crevices.
 - Soapy water can kill bed bugs and can be used to clean beds weekly through a spray bottle (bugs must be picked off by hand).
- Prevention:
 - Metal beds can help because they are easier to clean and provide fewer hiding places; no peeling wallpaper; mattress encasements do not prevent bed bugs, but keep bugs from getting out and make beds easier to inspect - encasing the box spring is a starting place if money is tight; regular cleaning and inspections; and eliminate clutter.
 - However, early detection is the best prevention.
 - When traveling, when you arrive in your room, keep your belongings in the bathtub (bed bugs cannot climb the slippery walls). Luggage without tubes in the back, and light-colored luggage are best.
 - When visiting locations that might be infested with bed bugs, wear light-colored clothing and do not sit on upholstered furniture or beds.
- Professional Services:
 - When hiring pest control, obtain references and go to cchealth.org/bedbugs to learn more.
 - Treatments vary depending on company, extent of the infestation, and type of treatment.

4. Contra Costa Coordinated Entry System

- Jaime Jenett, CoC Policy and Planning Manager, CCHS, provided an overview of the design of Contra Costa’s new Coordinated Entry System, its benefits, and next steps.



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- **Coordinated Entry Access Points:** The new Coordinated Entry System will begin a phase launch in early 2017. One major difference between the old system and the new system is that will only be three main access points: the homeless information line (via 211), the CORE Outreach Team, and the CARE/CARE Capable Centers.
 - Screening and diversion triage for those at risk of homelessness will take place through the 211 line (which works 24/7);
 - The CORE Outreach team will operate 6 days a week and operate from 7 am to 1 am. This team will not be a crisis response team but will focus on outreach with difficult to connect clients in places not fit for human habitation;
 - CARE Centers (one in West County, two in Central County) will provide for basic needs and supplies and have housing navigation supports.
 - A CARE Center in East County is top priority once more funding becomes available, provided there is a site that can accommodate.
 - A Warming Center will do triage, and be a place to sit and rest.
 - More details on serving different subpopulations are to come; eight separate committees have been established to coordinate the pieces and create the tools necessary to push this effort forward.
- **Housing Security Fund:** The Contra Costa Housing Security Fund now has a crowdfunding page to help solicit donations. This fund is designed to help people overcome low level financial hurdles to accessing housing, including fees for rental applications, credit checks and extra security deposits for landlords. The page is tinyurl.com/HousingSecurityFund.

5. CDBG/ESG Consortium Update

- Gabriel Lemus, County CDBG Planner, provided an update on CDBG and ESG, including three-year time period, alignment with coordinated entry and CoC objectives, and new state ESG funding.
- **New State ESG funding:** The Contra Costa Board of Supervisors recently approved State of California (State) Emergency Solutions Grants funds in the amount of \$578,558 for eligible activities in accordance with State ESG Program requirements; all funds will be provided to the County on a formula basis through the State of California.
- **CDBG Three-year Funding Cycle:** All jurisdictions of the Contra Costa Consortium have a non-housing CDBG three-year funding cycle for the FY 2017-2020 program years. All fair housing, Economic Development, and ESG programs that are awarded grants will receive a one-year contra and be eligible for an automatic renewal in FY 2018-2019 and 2019-2020 contingent on the availability of CDBG or ESG funds, the satisfactory accomplishment of contract goals, and



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approval by either the Board of Supervisors or City Council of the awarding jurisdiction.

- Request For Proposals for Housing and Service Programs: All programs seeking ESG and CDBG funds for Housing Program must submit applications by November 22nd, 2016, and applications for Non-Housing programs must be submitted by December 12, 2016. All applicants must participate in coordinated entry.

6. Mental Health Services Act Stakeholder Input

- Warren Hayes, MHSA Program Manager, provided an update on an opportunity to provide input on improving public mental health services in Contra Costa County.
- MHSA Three Year Program and Expenditure Plan: After Contra Costa's current plan was approved by the Board of Supervisors for 2014-2017, there is an opportunity to provide input to the new plan starting in July 2017.
- Areas for Requested Input:
 - Discuss current mental health issue in the community, and strategies to address these issues;
 - Identify new and/or emerging public mental health needs and recommended strategies for meeting these needs;
 - Prioritize previously identified service needs.
- Opportunities for Input:
 - Warren invited everyone to join in upcoming Community Forum, taking place later in the day on November 3. The aim is to engage all stakeholders in developing a three-year MHSA program and expenditure plan starting July 2017.
 - Provide verbal/written input to Contra Costa Behavioral Health Service representatives.
 - Participate in CCBHS sponsored stakeholder committees and workgroups; send an email to mhsa@hsd.cccounty.us
 - Input received before December 31 will be considered in the development of the DRAFT MHSA Three-Year Plan; input received after December 31 will be considered comments on the draft plan.

7. Policy and Legislative Updates

- Tara Ozes, HomeBase, gave a presentation on the latest updates around the No Place Like Home Program, and other federal and state legislative updates.
- No Place Like Home Program: Signed into law in June, the program includes a \$2 billion bond to fund new Permanent Supportive Housing for Chronically Homeless individuals, or those at risk of homelessness, with a mental illness.



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Funding for these bonds will be taken from the tax revenue of Prop 63, Mental Health Services Act (MHSA).

- Program Details: The program contains a partially competitive portion (\$1.8 billion), a partially non-competitive portion (\$200 million), with other money for technical assistance. While implementation is still being developed, the first round of at least 4 funding rounds will award \$263.6 million.
- Budget Act AB 1628: A bond financing mechanism passed in September, empowering the California Health Facilities Financing Authority to issue bonds, with bond revenue going to the Department of Housing and Community Development (guidelines for disbursement to be developed).
- Impact to MHSA: A \$140 million cap was placed on diverted annual funds, limiting the amount that can be taken from a county in a given year.
 - More information on a county-by-county analysis is forthcoming. So far, additional reporting requirements have been outlined for the Department of Health Care Services regarding MHSA expenditure plans.
- Advisory Committee: A 14-seat Advisory Committee is to be established this Fall (some assigned, some to be appointed) to advise on guidelines, funding distribution, and homelessness statewide.
 - Some representatives from Contra Costa may consider applying.
- Preliminary Timeframe:
 - Fall 2016: Implementation guideline research, stakeholder outreach, development of Advisory Committee.
 - Winter 2016: Framework paper released, and opportunity for public comment.
 - Spring/Summer 2017: Guidelines developed/completed, NOFA completed.
 - Fall 2017: Validation process
 - December 31, 2017: NOFA released (pending validation)
- 2016-2017 budget: The NPLH legislative budget package also included funding for other housing and service programs, in alignment with the housing first approach.
 - \$45 million will go toward Rapid Rehousing from the HCD budget, part of the federal Emergency Solutions Grant (ESG) expansion.
 - \$22 million for 2 family housing programs, Bringing Family Home and the CalWORKS Housing Support Program, both funded through the California Department of Social Services.
 - \$45 million for SSI outreach to individuals with disabilities experiencing homelessness.
- Other State legislation:
 - SB 1380: On September 30, the Housing First bill was signed into law, requiring departments administering state programs targeted to end



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homelessness to incorporate the core components of Housing First into their programs by July 1, 2019. It also establishes the California Homeless Coordinating Council.

- AB 801: Success for Homeless Youth in Higher Education Act, requires priority admission preferences to students who are homeless.
- AB 1995: Requires community college campuses that have shower facilities to grant access to students who are homeless.
- AB 1761: Establishes an affirmative defense for human trafficking victims who are prosecuted for non-violent crimes that their trafficker forced them to commit.
 - Effect: Greater chance that charges can be dismissed.
- Policy Update – Changes to Social Security Administration (SSA) Rule on Acceptable Medical Evidence:
 - The Social Security Administration recently published a Notice of Proposed Rulemaking in the Federal Register seeking public comment on proposed changes to the Rule on Sources of Acceptable Medical Evidence.
 - While current acceptable sources include physicians and psychiatrists, the SSA seeks comment on expanding the Rule to include Physician Assistants and possibly Licensed Clinical Social Workers.
 - This proposed rule expansion is attributed to the realization of the trend that most people no longer receive medical care strictly from physicians, but from other medical professionals; this is especially those who are low-income or experiencing homelessness.
 - Opportunity to Comment: The SSA is accepting comments until November 8, 2016.

8. Nuts & Bolts

- Contra Costa 2016 Homelessness Awareness Toolkit: Jaime Jenett encouraged invitees to visit the Toolkit, located at <http://cchealth.org/homeless/council/pdf/Homeless-Awarenes-Toolkit.pdf>; additionally, everyone is invited to the next Board of Supervisors meeting, November 8th.
- Winter Shelter Opening: The Winter Shelter will begin on November 12 at the Armory in Walnut Creek and is already full. The waitlist is also full.

9. Pin It

- Next meeting will be January 20, 2017.