



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, November 3, 2016, 1:00 pm – 3:00 pm

Location: ZA Room, 30 Muir Drive, Martinez

Council Member Attendance:

Present: Diane Aguinaga, Louise Bourassa, Tracy Cascio, Alejandra Chamberlain, Teri House (Vice Chair), Brenda Kain, Doug Leich, Gabriel Lemus (Chair), Dan Sawislak, Valerie Sloven, Joseph Villarreal

Absent: Gary Kingsbury

Staff Attendance: Jamie Jenett, Lavonna Martin, Dana Ewing, Contra Costa Health Services; Tara Ozes, Amanda Stempson, HomeBase

Public Attendance: Jennifer Baha, Stephanie Batchelor, Richard Beal, Brett Beaver, Peter Brooks, Emily Downers, Leslie Gleason, Joy Hedgepath, Shayne Kaleo, Caroline Sison, Vivica Taylor, Joseph Voelker, Linae Young

1. Welcome and Introductions

- Gabriel Lemus, Council Chair

2. Approve Minutes (Action Item)

- Motion
- Statement of Motion:
 - We move to adopt the minutes from the October 4th Council on Homelessness Meeting.
- Discussion:
 - The Council reviewed the minutes from the October 4th Council meeting. Proposed amendments to the minutes to include Brenda Kain as present.



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- The Council moved to approve as amended.
- Procedural Record:
 - Motion made by Dan Sawislak
 - Seconded by Doug Leich
 - AYES: Diane Aguinaga, Louise Bourassa, Tracy Cascio, Teri House (Vice Chair), Brenda Kain, Doug Leich, Gabriel Lemus (Chair), Valerie Sloven, Joseph Villarreal
 - NOES: None
 - ABSTAINS: None
 - ABSENTS: Gary Kingsbury
 - Motion Carried

3. Homeless Awareness Week

- Jaime Jenett, CoC Planning and Policy Manager, Homeless Services, gave an update on activities and advocacy efforts underway for Homeless Awareness Week (Nov. 12-20).
 - Homeless Awareness Toolkit: The Toolkit has been posted to the Contra Costa Health Services website. It has hyperlinks to important events, information on advocacy, and information on how to donate to the Contra Costa Housing Security Fund: <http://tinyurl.com/HousingSecurityFund>.
 - To access the Toolkit, please visit <http://cchealth.org/homeless/council/pdf/Homeless-Awarenes-Toolkit.pdf>
 - Together We Give: Pamela Singh, a member of the Zero: 2016 Outreach and Engagement Committee, is organizing a “Together We Give” event on November 19th for community members to donate needed items to homeless services providers.
 - Services Providers will have an opportunity to bring supplies to distribute to consumers.
 - Council Member Presentations: On Tuesday, November 1, Council members presented in multiple city council meetings to spread information and resources about ending homelessness, with emphasis on housing Veterans as Veterans Day draws near on November 11.

4. Continuum of Care Annual Report

- Dana Ewing, Evaluator/Planner, CCHS, gave an update on the efforts of the CoC towards preventing and ending homelessness in Contra Costa in 2016.
 - FY 2015-2016 CoC Demographics: Data from the once-yearly PIT Count and year-round Homeless Management Information System (HMIS) service data have shown that demographics for race, ethnicity, age, and other demographics haven’t changed much in last year.



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- PIT data has decreased; though it is always challenging to compare year to year, this is the best indicator of what is happening in county.
- 5-year Increases in Sub-Populations Served: There has been a 90% increase in Seniors 62 years and older. This increase is likely due to crossing the threshold of becoming a Senior and becoming Chronically Homeless (CH).
- Performance Measures: FY 2015-2016 is the second year of rolling out new Performance Measures.
 - Performance Measures for Emergency Shelters, Rapid Rehousing, and Permanent Supportive Housing for this year have all been met or exceeded.
- Annual Report: The Annual Report will be posted Nov. 4th as one of many products of homeless awareness week, as well as a fuller Performance Measures report.

5. Coordinated Entry Update (Action Item)

- Jaime Jenett, CoC Planning and Policy Manager, Homeless Services, reported out from the Coordinated Entry (CE) Kick Off meetings for discussion of and action to establish the Coordinated Entry Oversight Committee and the responsibilities of the Council and subcommittees.
 - Progress with CE Development: The Coordinated Entry Kickoff planning meeting took place on October 19th -20th, and comprised a day and a half boot camp to place nuts and bolts in the CE system for tightening later, bringing homeless services providers into the same room to discuss plans with HUD Technical Assistance provider Michelle Valdez to prepare to go live in January.
 - Feedback from participants and Council remarked on broad participation and good buy-in from Kickoff participants.
 - Identifying CE Committees: During the Kickoff, participants mapped the work flow of the new Coordinated Entry System, and created 8 new committees to be staffed with volunteer Kickoff participants to serve as committee members.
 - Short term Committees include the Planning & Implementation Committee and the Policy & Procedures Committee, while the longer term committees include the Communications and Data & Evaluation / System Performance Committee.
 - a. The Planning & Implementation Committee is comprised of the following sub-committees: Emergency Shelter Referral, Prevention & Diversion Tool Development, Rapid Rehousing Referral, and Housing Waitlists.



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- Oversight Committee (Action Item): The above committees report to the Oversight Committee, which makes final recommendations directly to the Council on Homelessness, facilitated by the yet to be appointed Coordinated Entry System Manager.
- Proposed Roster: The proposed roster represents a cross-section of types of providers from cities within the County, to ensure recommendations include broad insight.
- Motion
- Statement of Motion:
 - We move to approve the establishment of the Coordinated Entry Oversight Committee, which will report to the Council on Homelessness with recommendations and track the activities of the subcommittees.
- Discussion:
 - The Council discussed the potential duties and members of the Coordinated Entry Oversight Committee, as well as its relationship to the Council on Homelessness and subcommittees; the Oversight Committee will report to the Council with recommendations regarding subcommittees for final approval.
- Procedural Record:
 - Motion made by Doug Leich
 - Seconded by Diane Aguinaga
 - AYES: Tracy Cascio, Teri House (Vice Chair), Brenda Kain, Doug Leich, Valerie Sloven, Joseph Villarreal
 - NOES: None
 - ABSTAINS: Louise Bourrassa & Gabriel Lemus
 - ABSENTS: Gary Kingsbury
 - Motion Carried

6. Zero:2016 Update

- Jennifer Baha, Zero: 2016 Coordinator, Homeless Services, provided an update on Zero:2016 campaign progress.
 - The Zero: 2016 Campaign is an initiative sponsored by the Council on Homelessness, and is a nationwide collaboration with other communities endeavoring to find solutions for Veteran and Chronic Homelessness.
 - The Campaign will start focusing on the Coordinated Entry process, working on developing good data systems, and having a common By Name List in Contra Costa, to prioritize resources for these populations and strengthen collaboration.
 - Housing Security Fund:
 - As housing for consumers can be difficult to secure, with boundaries like credit reports, utility deposits, security



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deposits, arrears, the Multi-Faith ACTION Coalition (MFAC) and the community developed the Housing Security Fund (HSF).

- a. The HSF is a mitigation tool to encourage landlords to participate by involving the Coordinated Entry System, which if referring a consumer for the Fund from the System, will reassure the landlord that the System will be involved in the process.
 - b. Mitigation funds have very rarely been tapped into to reimburse damages, but the reassurance alone that it provides is the main encouragement.
 - Donations can be made to the HSF through the crowdsourced site, which has raised over \$4,700 already. The goal is to raise \$50,000 by the end of December. All housing service providers will be screening so appropriate cases are suggested for this pot of money. While \$50,000 is the goal, the Fund must have minimum of \$10,000 to disburse this money.
 - MFAC has done additional outreach, making a push starting now to grow the Fund so when providers are ready, they will have enough money. The Contra Costa Housing Security Fund can be found at <http://tinyurl.com/HousingSecurityFund>
- Coordinated Entry – Support through Zero: 2016:
- Community Solutions have established 2 Collaboratives – one for Veterans, and one for Chronically Homeless. Only 14 out of 75 communities have been invited to participate in the Chronically Homeless Collaborative; the criteria for participation were that the community needed good data and to be further along in Coordinated Entry than other communities, and Contra Costa was invited.
 - a. Veterans Collaborative: More than 100 Veterans are on By Name List, and the goal is to reduce this by 25% by December.
 - b. Chronically Homeless Collaborative: The hope is to reduce the incidence of Chronic Homelessness by 10% by December. The Campaign is still in process of cleaning up data, and will be able to share more on the number next meeting.

7. Health Care for the Homeless/Consumer Advisory Board Update

- Linae Young, Health Care for the Homeless, gave an update on HCH program developments.
 - Consumer Advisory Board: HCH is starting to gather information from clients in the Concord shelter regarding feedback about topics to help prepare consumers when leaving emergency shelters.



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- Governing Board: It is now mandated by the Health Resources & Services Administration that, as of this month, health centers must have their own governing board. HCH is in the process of recruiting members, and the site will be up by end of this week. Those interested should contact Linae Young at Linae.Young@hsd.cccounty.us.
- Medical Outreach: HCH is collaborating with Project Hope to gather information about local community sites to reach out to those who may need medical services. Medical outreach is done on Wednesday, and HCH is interested in more information to locate consumers.

8. MFAC Update

- Doug Leich, Multi-faith ACTION Coalition, provided an update on MFAC activities.
 - MFAC Thanksgiving Service: On Sunday, November 20th, the Multi-Faith ACTION Coalition will be hosting a Thanksgiving Service with dinner provided, and an opportunity to commit to confronting poverty. The offering from this service will go to the Housing Security Fund.
 - Project Hope - Memorial Service: Coinciding with National Homeless Awareness month, on Friday, November 18th, Project Hope will hold its annual memorial service to celebrate the lives of homeless men and women who die on the streets. Lunch will be provided in part by Loaves and Fishes and the Church.
 - Specific Donations: For information on specific donations, please contact Shayne Kaleo at skaleo@ankabhi.org.

9. Policy and Advocacy Opportunities

- Tara Ozes, HomeBase, provided an update on No Place Like Home and other state legislation.
 - 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. 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



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- 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.
 - a. Not to be confused with federal ESG or state ESG; stay tuned for more information on several NOFAs yet to be released.
 - \$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 homelessness to incorporate the core components of Housing First into their programs by July 1,



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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.
 - a. Effect: Greater chance that charges can be dismissed.

10. Nuts & Bolts

- Lease Training for Consumers: Contra Costa Interfaith Housing is exploring lease training and information sessions for consumers new to lease agreements.
- Innovative Sleeping Bags: Pony Express would like to explore the efficacy of foil-insulated, bubble wrap sleeping bags. Already being used in Ireland, among the advantages are inexpensiveness, and staying drier and warmer in wet, cold weather.
- New Construction Groundbreaking: Resources for Community Development announced the new construction of a 58-unit development for families in Walnut Creek, and is the first “cap and trade” funded project to start construction in the county. Groundbreaking takes place on November 4 at 1515 Riviera in Walnut Creek.
- Homeless Awareness - CCCOE Press Release: The Contra Costa County Office of Education will release a statement on November 4 concerning recent Board approval of a resolution to recognize the issue of homeless youth; the school districts reported that 3,000 children and youth are living in a homeless situation in Contra Costa County, including children ages 0-5 and grades K-12.
- School District PIT Count: Results of the school district count revealed 348 families experienced homelessness in October. Staff have been placed in Monument Crisis Center for two days a week to monitor and exchange information for homeless families, looking at food, shelter and clothing; additionally, the Crisis Center will be expanding the pantry to Concord High School.
- Concord City Council: Tuesday evening, Teri House spoke before the City Councils of Antioch, Pittsburg, Redwood City, and the Antioch women’s club; Teri collecting supplies for homeless women, collection barrels at city hall,



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and ten bags of men's clothing.

11. Pin it

- Potential Topics:
 - What is the process for creating Affordable Housing? Panel of Affordable Housing producers to speak.
 - May be better to present this topic for discussion at the next CoC meeting in January.
 - The Definition of "Homeless": Separate definitions for HUD and CCCOE, with possible consequences.
 - Homeless Security Fund on Social media: Community Education & Information unit is sharing this information on the Health Services site. There is no Council social media preference, but individual member sharing is possible. Updates at the next meeting.