



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, February 1, 2018 1:00pm – 3:00pm

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

Council Member Attendance:

Present: Anne Struthers, Cecelia McCloy, Doug Leich, John Barclay, Joseph Villarreal, John Eckstrom

Absent: N/A

Staff Attendance: Lavonna Martin, Jaime Jenett, Contra Costa Health Services (H3); Amanda Wehrman, Erica McWhorter, Emily Firgens, HomeBase

Public Attendance: Chris Wood, Louisa Lehmann, Stephanie Stoubli, Claude J. Battalia, Jenny Robbins, Shelby Ferguson, Jill Ray, Tim Richardson, Jessica Osborn, Joshilyn Houli, Sonia Mack, Sarah Thomas, Wayne Calhoun, Deann Pearn, Wendy Wells, Shade Pinkis, Araceli Garcia, James Rordal, Marc K Woodson, Teri House, Dan Swaislak, Alejandra Chamberlin, Miguel Hidalgo-Barnes, Gabriel Lemus.

1. Welcome and Introductions

- Call to order by Doug Leich

2. Approve Minutes (Action Item)

- Motion
- Statement of Motion:
 - We move to adopt the minutes from the December 12th Council on Homelessness Meeting.
- *Discussion:*
 - *The Council moved to approve.*
- *Procedural Record:*
 - *Motion made by: Anne Struthers*
 - *Seconded by: Joseph Villarreal*



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- *AYES: Anne Struthers, Cecelia McCloy, Doug Leich, John Barclay, Joseph Villarreal, John Eckstrom*
- *NOES: None.*
- *ABSTAINS: None.*
- *ABSENTS: Brenda Kain*
- *Motion Carried*

3. Approve Council Nominations (Action Item)

- Presented by Doug Leich, Council on Homelessness
- The Nominating Committee recommends the following nominees:
 - Affordable Housing Developer: Dan Sawislak, Executive Director, Resources for Community Development
 - Behavioral Health Representative: Miguel Hidalgo-Barnes, Program Manager, Hume Center
 - City Government: Teri House, Consultant, City of Antioch
 - Consumer, Candace Collier, Student and Community Health Support Worker
 - Educational and Vocational Representative: Alejandra Chamberlain, Youth Development Services Manager, County Office of Education
 - ESG: Gabriel Lemus, CDBG Program Planner, Contra Costa County
 - Homeless Service Provider: Deanne Pearn, Executive Director, Contra Costa Interfaith Housing
 - Public Safety #1: Sergeant Bradly Lindblom, San Pablo Police Department
 - Public Safety #2: Chief Majit Sappal, Martinez Police Department
 - Reentry Services Representative: Patrice Guillory, Network Manager, Healthright 360
 - Veteran Administration Representative: Tracy Pullar, Homeless Program Manager, VA Norther California Health Care System.
- Motion
- Statement of Motion:
 - We move to recommend these nominees.
- *Procedural Record:*
 - *Motion made by: Joseph Villarreal*
 - *Seconded by: John Barclay*
 - *AYES: Anne Struthers, Cecelia McCloy, Doug Leich, John Barclay, Joseph Villarreal, John Eckstrom*
 - *NOES: None.*
 - *ABSTAINS: None.*
 - *ABSENTS: Brenda Kain*
- *Discussion*
 - All the Candidates were well qualified to serve.
 - There were 25-30 applications for 11 slots.



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- The next steps in the approval process are to send the nominees to the Family and Human Services Committee for discussion. The nominees will then go to the Board of Supervisors for consent.
 - The March Council of Homelessness meeting will be moved to later in the month to allow the full board to participate.
- *Motion Carried*

4. CoC/ESG Program Awards

- FY 2017 ESG Program Awards Presented by Gabriel Lemus
 - Funds are administered by Contra Costa County on behalf of the State
 - The first round was over \$500,000 because it is a combination of 2 years (so \$250,000 available for FY2018)
 - The state approved the RFP and the County's recommendations but the contracts have not come to the County yet to allow for the County and its sub recipients to begin incurring expenses under those contracts.
 - Now it is a waiting game for the contracts, which is frustrating but they are seeking ways to improve for next year
 - This has happened with other state contracts before, so it is not unusual.
- CoC FY2017 Program Awards Overview Presented by Amanda Wehrman, HomeBase
 - HUD awarded over \$2B nationwide in CoC money.
 - Contra Costa received over \$700K more than asked for
 - We are excited that the HACCC's High Utilizers of Multiple Systems (HUMS) project was funded to support MicroPAD housing to serve up to 32 homeless frequent utilizers of County systems, including 17 chronically homeless.
 - This project also received additional funds (~\$200K), so the County might add to the number served. Support services are attached to the project.
 - Reviewed a breakdown in funding by projects and by project components.
 - Over the years, more dollars have gone toward PSH.
 - With the remaining dollars covering CE, HMIS, RRH, and Planning.
 - All projects except the last project in tier 2 was funded (Anka's Project Coming Home – Addressing Addictions to Alcohol PSH, \$581,873)
 - Discussion
 - The additional HUD funding is tied to the projects and determined by HUD.
 - The FMR last year was bigger than it was in most communities but this year's funding increase was more significant.



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5. PIT Count Debrief

- Presented by Jaime Jenett, H3
- HUD requires that we take a snapshot of the number of people experiencing homelessness in our community each year. We do an inventory of everyone who is in the shelters. In addition, we have staff at service sites and volunteers doing surveys.
 - This year asked more detailed survey (not required by HUD).
 - Won't have the data for months.
- Accomplishments:
 - 6 community trainings
 - 21 community sties with 40 time slots
 - 7 homeless service sties
 - Senator Steve Glazer participated.
- New Developments
 - Designed 2 new fliers: A youth flier and an adult flier. Put these up at BART stations, Amtrak, Community agencies, public spaces.
 - Asked people to call 211 with a housing or homelessness related issue.
 - They were a resource for non-English speakers (211 had operators ready to help with this)
- PIT Partners
 - Had a number of partners, including working with police in Antioch, Concord, and Richmond to survey people while on their beats.
 - Other Partners included: 110 Community Volunteers, Community Homeless Providers, Richmond Fire Department, 50+ staff, Local HUD office staff, Mental Health Department: MFT Interns, Rainbow Community Center: MFT Interns, Public Defender's Office: Social Work Interns, Office of Education, Pittsburg and Mount Diablo Unified School Districts.
- PIT Experiments
 - The benefit of it being an off year for a HUD requirement is that we got to pilot new stuff
 - New Sites
 - CalWorks by Name list for CORE teams
 - Community Colleges: DVC and Contra Costa College
 - DVC: encountered 13 literally homeless
 - Contra Costa College on Wednesday didn't encounter as many but also a day that has a lot of other services open.
 - New Partners
 - Community Connect Staff
 - Police Officers
 - Rainbow Community Center MFT interns
 - Changes to the Survey
 - More contextual questions



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- Family structure questions – added question about whether there are any children who slept somewhere else last night.
 - Schools
 - Robo calls at Pittsburg USD and texts at Mt. Diablo.
 - Flyers at all school districts through homeless liaisons.
- Next Steps:
 - Enter Data
 - Dana will put together a report (TBD on when that will be ready)
- Discussion and Q&A
 - Kudos to our county for trying new creative ideas. And anyone sitting in the audience with ideas, please email Jaime.
 - There are a number of churches doing programs that feed people and they took surveys with them. Trying to capture those not formally connected with our system of care.
 - Do you do Pads?
 - Winter Nights Shelter participates.
 - Anyone who accessed our warming center was captured in our community.
 - Do you do anything to try to count the number of those who are undocumented?
 - We know we're probably undercounting those who aren't documented.
 - It's also not a disqualifier for our services so that's one of the reasons we don't ask that questions specifically.
 - Any anecdotal since of changes from previous years?
 - We we're really surprised by DVC
 - Also, this year, there are 6 CORE teams and have a much better sense of where people are. Have capacity and know where people are better than we did last year. Hypothesize that it might be higher this year.
 - Are you working with schools to get data?
 - HUD wants to know if on that one night are you homeless. So, we try to get at it different ways.
 - One of the thing that came out of this is doing a youth PIT count and tying it to other youth events.
 - We took a lot of care this year to ask things we don't usually ask. We had 4 additional questions. We asked questions to get at why people are in Contra Costa. We wanted to dispel the myth that people don't want housing.
 - Had the ability to ask if housing were available would you accept X and went down the list of types of housing.
 - Allows us to think about how we further develop our system.



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- Added a question about what are your short-term goals. Volunteers all had our outreach cards, to give out info on resources to direct them to work on those.
- With that question were there any trends?
 - Don't know – talk about it in future months.
- Audience interest in a youth count. Keep in mind block grant jurisdictions – is something we could support with administrative funds.
- What are the 20 locations that you counted at and how did you pick them?
 - Dana was the point persons for the site. Had a long list of where people might be. Did all the Loaves & Fishes sites. Did all the libraries. As well as a number of churches doing meal programs.
 - A few sites where we thought it would be a great spot but they said they don't get that many people experiencing homelessness.
 - If you have ideas let Jaime know. We only did two nights and few days. But let me know about any weekend activities.
 - Didn't go that far south because didn't hear that they see that many people experiencing homelessness. But CORE Teams go everywhere.
- The Concord PD who wanted to conduct the survey themselves, thanked us so much for the opportunity. They said that their officers don't get to hear the reasons why individuals are out there and never have the time to really listen to their stories.
- Need to address issue of how individuals can get access to permanent addresses to apply for benefits/programs and access bathrooms.
 - There are CARE sites (4) and they can use this for permanent addresses.

6. Council Retreat

- Presented by Erica McWhorter, HomeBase
- The Council Orientation is an opportunity for everyone to get an idea of who you're serving with and what your motivations are. It is also an opportunity to get orientated to Contra Costa (County strategic plan, what the county is doing, federal strategic plan) and review the various federal streams.
 - Discuss role and responsibilities
 - Discuss 2018 Action Plan
- Are there any additional topics or ideas you have of things you'd like to see done early on? You can submit emails to us.
 - Important to have a document that simply lays out what are the agencies part of the CoC are and what each one does.
 - A visual of this information would be nice. Like an org chart or a service map.



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- A Timeline of when do things come up throughout the year that you want members to participate at. Like council meetings, nominees of new members, review of applications – the things that require more involvement and how to prepare for that.
- Go over various funding programs and the cycles of when these funds become available, what they go towards, what the cycles are for each jurisdiction.
- Notice/discussion If there's going to be big events
- For the service mapmaking, be sure that we're taking a broad view and not just looking at CoC members. I'd also be interested in regional data comparisons and how we compare to other communities.
 - Helpful to get some context to where we stand.
- Who's in charge in each city/city points of contact and who is working there.
- The jeopardy game (or some type of game)
- Research into land available and people who build affordable housing for the homeless.
 - Council has a number of committees and partners who can be pulled into those discussions. There's also a policy and advocacy committee that's open to the public. We welcome people to come in and talk about how to research these things.

7. Policy Updated

- Federal and State Budget Overview Presented by Emily Firgens, HomeBase
 - Federal budget outlook remains uncertain with the CR funding the government through February 9.
 - As part of the CR passed at the end of January, the Children's Health Insurance Program (CHIP) was reauthorized through 2023.
 - States like California were running out of CHIP funds after the program's authorization expired in September 2017.
 - Federal Tax Legislation Passed
 - Changes state and local tax (SALT) deductions and caps them at \$10,000. This cap could mean that high income earners (those utilizing SALT deductions) may be more enticed to move out of state to avoid paying high state income and property taxes, lowering state revenue.
 - Potential workaround: Senator Kevin de Leon has proposed creating a California charitable fund that taxpayers can donate to.
 - Also concerns about effects new tax code will have on affordable housing development. Speculation that the lower corporate tax rate will make the affordable housing tax credits less valuable.



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Projects that 235,000 fewer affordable rental homes will be built in the US over the next 10 years as a result of these changes.

- The legislation also removes the penalty for not having health insurance, which could have ramifications on the number of insured, premium increases, and costs to state and local health systems.
- Governor Brown released his January budget proposal, which does not take into consideration the revenue effects of the changes to the federal tax code. The Proposal:
 - Increases rainy day fund contributions
 - Allocates \$245M of SB2 (the Real Estate Transaction Fee law) to fund affordable housing and homeless programs
 - Provides HCD with \$3M to implement the housing package
 - Anticipates the housing bond passing and allocates \$277M of the \$4B bond to multifamily housing for low-income families.
 - Little to no change in funding levels for other anti-poverty programs.
- Governor Brown will release an updated proposal in mid-May that will account for the potential effects of federal tax reform.
- California Homeless Coordinating and Financing Council
 - Created in 2016 as the state's version of USICH. Goal is to help coordinate state's homeless programs and assist state agencies in moving toward Housing First.
 - They've met twice (fall of 2017) and in January 2018
 - Areas of focus include: Working with State Agencies to ensure their homeless programs are Housing First compliant; Creating a list of all homeless programs and services in the state; Scoping out a potential statewide HMIS.
 - The Council is very much interested in engaging with providers and local government and hearing about what they need/know.
 - We will keep the COH updated about opportunities to engage with the Council on their work.
 - Discussion
 - Two seats for a CoC representative but Contra Costa applied
 - Concerns over statewide HMIS
 - Regionally would be interesting (and could be interesting on state level too)—good to know how people are moving and getting placed into permanent housing and how they could work together. Also, could help assess how best practices be applied, dollars are utilized, what the impact of having more dollars is, and how we can better share resources.



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- Not all communities collect info the same way beyond the HUD data elements
 - HMIS is one way to manage and compare data
 - Is it a waste of a lot of money for large statewide database?
Where is the money coming from?
 - On homeless side dollars don't necessarily follow people but stay with the big community who funds sending people to other places to live
- Concord Naval Weapons Station Update Presented by Erica McWhorter, HomeBase
 - CNWS is still happening but it's a long process
 - The plan is coming together – Phase I includes 145 homeless units (1100 affordable units of affordable housing); Phase II and III include tournament parks and a university.
 - Community Advisory Committee Meetings – Monthly
 - Next 2/5 there's a joint planning committee. Learning about smart cities.
 - Questions:
 - Are those 1100 units a mix of at and below AMI?
 - This hasn't been settled. 1100 homes include affordable homes for purchase. These numbers are wiggly.
 - The number of homeless units seems low?
 - The proposal has been for 120-240 homeless units (145 includes Habitat numbers and is on the low end).
 - No conversations about number of units during Phase II.

8. Call for Council Meeting Topics

- Presented by Erica McWhorter, HomeBase
- Meeting topic ideas include:
 - There are all these other systems of care (Martinez hospital is one) that have so much knowledge of people, forensics and incarceration, why can't we talk to these people? How can the Council engage these other relevant systems? Better systems coordination.
 - Alternative housing options.
 - Council pulls info, case studies at different stages, lessons learned, state regulations, how to get it purchased.
 - Building smarter housing, shelters
 - Panel discussion from some of our neighboring counties who could show what some of the best practices are in what they're doing.
 - Closest to CoCo is San Mateo
 - Have one or two of those come over and share what they're doing, what they're best practices are.



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- Interested in seeing how much other communities are willing to share.
- Defer to staff, provide panel with 4 or 5 questions that each could answer. Have them tell us what their 3 or 4 big successes are. And funding?
- Concord has recently contracted with Episcopal Services (co-housing with seniors); Revisit JADUs, ADUs issues – Martinez is trying to move forward on it.
 - Where we're at and where we're getting hung up.
 - This year there's more legislation coming to simplify the process.
 - Richmond did one last year; can look at that and what's coming down the pipeline.
- Would be interested to hear from some of the cities on the state of homelessness.
 - There are a few cities who have developed their own homelessness taskforces.
 - Bring back what's happening in the cities
- The Section 8 101 was really helpful last year. Go even more in-depth on that.
- Teach faith-based organizations how to host supportive services → Another area to look into to room & board
 - Like a train the trainer
- We will send out an email for people to send ideas.

9. Committee Updates

- Tabled for next Council meeting.

10. Community Announcements

- Youth Homelessness Demonstration Project NOFA released on January 17, 2018.
 - HUD will be awarding \$43M across 11 communities in this second round of YHDP funding.
 - Applications are due April 17, 2018
 - The County as the collaborative applicant is applying for this funding.
- February Executive Directors Meeting: Tuesday, February 13, 2018 from 10am-12pm
- New Health Services Director started today (February 1, 2018)

11. Pin It

- Next Council Meeting: TBD March 2018