



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, August 2, 2018, 1:00pm – 3:00pm

Location: Department of Probation, 2nd Floor, 50 Douglas Drive, Martinez, CA 94553

Council Member Attendance:

Present: Candace Collier, John Eckstrom, Gabriel Lemus, Dan Sawislak, Deanne Pearn, Bradley Lindblom, Miguel Hidalgo-Barnes, Teri House, Doug Leich, Patrice Guillory, Alejandra Chamberlain, John Barclay, Manjit Sappal, Tracy Pullar, Cecelia McCloy

Absent: Joseph Villarreal

Staff Attendance: Lavonna Martin, Jenny Robbins, Contra Costa Health Services (H3); Erica McWhorter, Amanda Wehrman, HomeBase

Public Attendance: Paula Bonnell, Kim Jinnett, Mayo Lunt, Linda Jacob, DeVonn Powers, Lila Samady, Stephanie Stovall, Megan Crain, Lisa Osborne, Usha Ramachandran, Theresa, Karr, John Walden, Claude J. Battaglia, Dave Thompson

1. Welcome and Introductions

- Call to order by Doug Leich

2. Approve Minutes (Action Item)

- Motion
- State of Motion:
 - We move to adopt the minutes from the July 12, 2018 Council on Homelessness Meeting.
- *Discussion*
 - *The Council moved to approve.*
- *Procedural Record:*
 - *Motion made by: John Barclay*
 - *Seconded by: Bradley Lindblom*
 - *AYES: Candace Collier, John Eckstrom, Gabriel Lemus, Dan Sawislak, Deanne Pearn, Bradley Lindblom, Miguel Hidalgo-Barnes, Teri House,*



COUNCIL ON HOMELESSNESS MEETING MINUTES

Doug Leich, Patrice Guillory, Alejandra Chamberlain, John Barclay, Manjit Sappal, Tracy Pullar, Cecelia McCloy

- *NOES: None.*
- *ABSTAINS: None.*
- *ABSENT: Joseph Villarreal*

3. Committee Updates (Action Item)

- Erica: Standing committees updates are included in the packet of materials – will call attention to specific items as needed
- **Ad Hoc Committee on Funding Opportunities**
 - Erica: the Council reach consensus to create this committee at the July meeting
 - Now, need to solicit volunteers to join membership of this new meeting
 - Purpose is to increase the number of state funding opportunities relevant to CoC
 - Helps determine local priorities and make recommendations to Council and Board of Supervisors about pursuing funding opportunities
 - Lavonna: It's not about the Council writing grants or pursuing directly— it's about strategic thinking around, for instance, the multiple opportunities coming down from the state; more focused on planning and strategy
 - Erica: Yes, and will likely have some overlap with what the Policy & Advocacy Committee is doing
 - Ceil: folks were interested because of this one-time funding event coming down from the state—what can we do with this money?
 - This might meet just a few times this year and then never again
 - Teri: might also explore funding outside of the state level—e.g., redevelopment; maybe there are ways to tap into funding we're not doing
 - Lavonna: this would be staffed and coordinated by H3
 - Would appreciate a committee to work with around the strategic process—many of these funding streams require a community process, and that's where the strategy comes in
 - Need to make sure we're in alignment with our Strategic Plan
 - This is extremely timely—I need an ad hoc yesterday
 - Candace: what does the commitment look like? Meeting as needed?
 - Lavonna: as an example of what's happening right now, and this might happen once a year, right now there's are five opportunities coming down from the state through the end of the year, some of it one time, some of it ongoing dollars—we need to



COUNCIL ON HOMELESSNESS MEETING MINUTES

have a plan on how our community is bringing all of this together in short order

- Now asking for plans to be submitted as early as September (we were just notified yesterday)
- Would love to have members who are interested right now for the state-driven funding to partner around that
- Ceil: I think it would be anywhere from any other week to at least once a month to get everything going, and then could be quarterly after that
 - Teri agrees
- Patrice: this coincides well with the ad hoc committee on subpopulations—there is also funding coming down from the state for housing the formerly incarcerated, for example
 - As we begin to investigate these subpopulations, we should also identify funding opportunities that would coincide
- Lavonna: want to be clear about the objectives of the committee if we're working as a community forum
 - There may be additional questions, advocacy—that may be fine, but want to make sure we bring these things back to the full board without doing double duty
 - Ceil: first item would be these state funding opportunities
 - Some of these initial meetings will be narrowly focused to meet these deadlines—will direct priorities to meet the funding opportunity requirements
- Motion
 - State of Motion:
 - We move to approve the appointment of the following members to serve on the Ad Hoc Committee on Funding Opportunities: Teri, Dan, Candice, Deanne, Patrice, John E., Alejandra, Kim Jinnett, Stephanie Stovall, Kyle, John Warden
 - *Discussion*
 - *The Council moved to approve.*
 - *Procedural Record:*
 - *Motion made by: Ceil McCloy*
 - *Seconded by: Patrice Guillory*
 - *AYES:* Candace Collier, John Eckstrom, Gabriel Lemus, Dan Sawislak, Deanne Pearn, Bradley Lindblom, Miguel Hidalgo-Barnes, Teri House, Doug Leich, Patrice Guillory, Alejandra Chamberlain, John Barclay, Manjit Sappal, Tracy Pullar, Cecelia McCloy
 - *NOES:* None.
 - *ABSTAINS:* None.



COUNCIL ON HOMELESSNESS MEETING MINUTES

- *ABSENT: Joseph Villarreal*
- **CoC Program NOFA Appeals Panel**
 - Erica: we are in need of one more Appeals Panel member for this year's CoC Program local Review and Rank process
 - Meeting will be Aug. 23rd
 - Manjit volunteered to serve as the additional Appeals panelist
- **Youth Action Council (YAC) Report Out**
 - Presentation by Christa Mayes, YAC member
 - Service learning projects allow youth to support each other—looking for suggestions on additional projects
 - Reached out to Rainbow Community Center to get help with improving their thrift store
 - Joining on upcoming clean-up events as well
 - YAC believes in care-based outreach
 - Recently met with Los Medanos College after a number of homeless youth were identified—will be on-site during their student orientation to share information about homeless services for youth and older students
 - Conducted focus group at Calli House to get feedback on CCYCS outreach materials, including posters and brochures are effective and youth-friendly—got great feedback, and working to update by end of August

4. 2018 Youth PIT Count Update

- Presentation by Christa Mayes, YAC member, and Araceli Garcia, CCYCS
- We know that our data is not accurately representing youth in our committee—excited to be rolling out a youth-specific Point-in-Time (PIT) Count
- Dates will be August 27 – September 9th
- Focused on Unaccompanied Minors and Transition Aged Youth (18-24)
- Online and in-person surveys are being finalized, will be available soon
- Partner agencies share link/conduct surveys with clients – can share in whatever way you think will be most effective, and can provide training on survey or send volunteers to your site to do in-person surveys
- Partners include community colleges – Diablo Valley College, Los Medanos College, Contra Costa College
 - Will be on-site at community colleges week of Aug 27th
- YAC was very involved in designing this as a youth-led event, and will be involved in the survey collection
- Teri: Loaves and Fishes might also be an entry point
- Jenny: we're looking at TAY (18-24) but are also interested in understanding family homelessness



COUNCIL ON HOMELESSNESS MEETING MINUTES

- There's still an opportunity for the community to weigh in—will dedicate half of our next H3 Meeting to this (e.g., identifying other hot spots, champions, partnering with Behavioral Health, faith-based community)
- Youth don't access our typical entry points, so we're pulling in everyone
- This isn't mandated by HUD, so we can be more creative in how we're getting our data (e.g., online, by phone)
- H3 Mtg. at 2425 Bisso Lane, goes out to full listserv – August 7, 1-3 pm
- Alejandra: is there an opportunity to go younger?
 - Unless we actually go into the schools, we won't be able to fully capture homeless youth, even 18 years old
 - Jenny: we started with minors, families, and TAY, but it's hard to get into the schools—looking for inroads, but it's been a hard nut to crack
 - Starting with the Homeless Liaisons, want to do a robocall
 - Cheli: perhaps we can be more strategic about this for future years of the count
- Teri: will we involve CORE Teams, police, etc.?
 - Cheli: yes, CORE Teams are involved, facilitating more of the street outreach
 - Jenny: is not just a count, but also combining with service partnership, embedding CORE, navigators, CE, CCYCS staff to get information out
 - Want to carve out shelter beds if need be
- Public: where can we go to review the survey? Will questions look at conditions that exacerbate homelessness/keep them in homelessness?
 - Cheli: will be posted on H3 website and other partner websites soon
 - Jenny: will be modeled off of our regular PIT survey but also looking at best practices in youth surveys from around the country
 - Jenny: also collecting some of the other data through regular outreach
 - Cheli: will include a question about what kind of housing/services do you need/would you be interested in committing to in order to move out of homelessness
 - Krista: TAY have been invisible—we want to get a better understanding of how many are out there, what services they need
- Public: CoCo Kids, CPS would be good programs to partner with
- Jenny: we applied for YHDP—didn't get it (only 11 communities selected nationally), but we're still implementing the ideas that came out of that community planning process
 - 25 more demonstrations expected later this year, and we will be reapplying

5. Racial Equity CoC Quarterly Meeting Report-Out and Discussion (Action Item)

- Presentation by John Barclay and Erica McWhorter



COUNCIL ON HOMELESSNESS MEETING MINUTES

- John B. facilitated the 7/20 CoC Quarterly meeting
- Presentation by Will Dominie from Bay Area Regional Health Inequities Initiative (BARHII)
 - Discussed the BARHII framework
 - Discussed inequities across Bay and in Contra Costa (Health, housing, services, income)
 - Many of these inequities happen upstream (up to 60%)
 - When people have to spend so much money on housing and basic needs, other things suffer (like health)
 - Homelessness in Contra Costa caused by addiction, low wages, rising rents, evictions, etc.
 - Explained the difference between equality and equity
- Possible solutions to homelessness/displacement:
 - Protection of low income renters
 - Preservation of affordable housing
 - Production of more affordable housing
- Regional conversations across counties are critical.
- Council's Subpopulations Committee sounds promising!
- Contra Costa County Homeless System of Care Data:
 - Recidivism is low once people are housed across Contra Costa
 - Coordinated Entry impacts who goes into Permanent Supportive Housing
 - Needs to collect more information on how Contra Costa is housing people, who is being housed, and which programs are working
 - Also need to address the disparities, such as access to different programs and safety nets
- Got a lot of good community feedback on what we should be focused on—what are the things we can do with this information?
- Seeing some improvements, but still big gaps—trying to dig into the “why”
 - Disparities in who is accessing which services
- Doug: there are some good maps by census track that look at life expectancy in the Bay Area—can see differences, equity is an issue
- Public comment: want to see more meetings on this topic—good for all of us to get clarity and better understanding of what is going on, what needs to change
- Discussion of potential action:
 - Lavonna: thank you for the incredible community participation—and, this is just the start, it's important that we dig deeper
 - We can no longer be happy with aggregate data—need to understand if individuals are being impacted differently
 - Subpopulation Committee can be a place to dig deeper into the data, have these conversations, challenge us as we're putting out information about digging deeper so we can create appropriate interventions to address this



COUNCIL ON HOMELESSNESS MEETING MINUTES

- We need to be clear as a system of care about what we want to see—and how we have a space for that conversation
- Then we can drive our programs to meet these goals
- Step one: what do we want to see? Will look at baseline information, but what are our goals so we can head in that direction?
- Teri: funders are funding a whole host of services, not just homeless—there are many reports that look at race and ethnicity, but we don't tie those countywide statistics into what we know in the homeless system of care, understand how impact flows up and down
 - Lavonna: as a Council, we need to better understand what is upstream so we can better place our advocacy efforts; and as providers, what do we have control over
- Patrice: as we institutionalize this, should look at the approach of the Office of Reentry and Justice—created a taskforce and series of recommendations regarding disproportionality in their contact with the local justice system—the Board of Supervisors has approved a body to continue to this work, which sets a precedent to look at this issue
- Deanne: really interested in the data—our conversations need to be grounded in the data, not anecdote
- Lavonna: the beauty of this Council, the reason we have representation from across the community, is that we all play a role in ending homelessness in our community—we have an opportunity to talk to law enforcement sitting at the table, think about what is happening upstream, what can we do to impact/change things that need to change? We have an opportunity to understand how education system is impacting youth... Every time I come here, I love to see the unique perspectives of the Council that allow us to talk through this voice and lens, to address an issue from various perspectives
- Stephanie: need to look at areas where people are being housed, and the impact that has on our youth regarding safety
- Candace: as a former foster youth, thinking about equity, it was very hard to find housing as an 18-year-old... Would like to see a discussion of how to increase equity for youth with childhood adversity, parental incarceration, foster care involvement, other barriers
 - Erica: yes, and youth are disproportionately people of color and LGBTQ

6. STAND! For Families Free of Violence Provider Presentation

- Presentation by Usha Ramachandran and Lisa Osborne, STAND!
- About Us
 - Founded in 1977 as Battered Women's Alternatives
 - Changed name to STAND Against Domestic Violence in 2000



COUNCIL ON HOMELESSNESS MEETING MINUTES

- Merged with Family Stress Center in 2010 and changed name to STAND! For Families Free of Violence
- STAND! is a founding member of the Alliance to End Abuse (formerly the [Zero Tolerance for Domestic Violence Initiative](#)), a cross-sector organization working to help solve domestic violence, sexual assault, and child abuse.
- Domestic violence, child abuse, elder abuse, and animal abuse often co-occur in families.
- As the only comprehensive family violence reduction agency in Contra Costa County, STAND! assists more than 10,000 clients annually by providing FREE (with one exception for DV Treatment Program) comprehensive services through 3 distinct but intersecting branches:
 - Changing the Future
 - Saving Lives
 - Rebuilding Families
- Youth Education Support Services (YESS) – teen dating violence (TDV) prevention in middle/high schools
- You Never Win With Violence (YNWWV) – one-time workshops for youth on TDV and sexual harassment
- Expect Respect/Promoting Gender Respect (PGR) –support groups for girls/boys focusing on healthy and violence-free relationships
- Adult Ally Trainings – TDV trainings for those who work directly with youth
- Youth Against Violence (YAV) – leadership program
- Speaker’s Bureau
 - Volunteer program
 - Community education/ presentations providing education on the cycle of violence and STAND!’s services
 - Tabling, flyering and outreach at community events
- Crisis Line: 888-215-5555
 - 24/7/365, serves >100 languages
 - Trained staff and volunteers discuss safety plans, community resources, and support
 - Screening and enrollment for:
 - STAND! Support Groups
 - Restraining Order Clinics
 - Shelter and Transitional Housing Programs
 - Other services/resources
 - If someone calls 211 with a DV crisis, they get referred to STAND!
- Rollie Mullen Center
 - Emergency Shelter accommodates 24 beds.
 - A safe place where clients can stay for up to 12 weeks
 - Comprehensive wrap-around case management services.



COUNCIL ON HOMELESSNESS MEETING MINUTES

- Therapy and counseling by STAND! clinicians, appointment and drop-in services.
- Daily meetings, covering topics on DV education, parenting, vocational, wellness & self-care.
- Rainbow Room provides trauma-informed preschool setting & after school homework club for both RMC/TH clients.
- Domestic Violence Liaisons
 - DV Liaisons are staff located out in the community. They serve walk-in clients and referrals from the CL
 - They facilitate 28-week DV Support Groups in English and Spanish. Participants access support groups through the crisis line or through the DV Liaison directly
 - They also provide Restraining Order Clinics and Legal Advocacy. Clients receive direct support to navigate legal services, attend court dates, and complete paperwork.
 - DV Liaisons are based out of:
 - 1. STAND! Office: Antioch, Concord & Richmond
 - 2. Family Justice Center/ Restraining Order Clinic
 - 3. Employment & Housing Services Departments (EHSD): Antioch, Brentwood, Hercules & Pleasant Hill
 - 4. Court Houses, Richmond Police Department & Kaiser
- Transitional Housing
 - Up to 18 months of temporary housing where survivors can heal, build self-sufficiency, and create a safe home.
 - Accommodates 7 families.
 - Clients receive case management, vocational services, therapy, counseling and legal advocacy.
 - Apartment units are furnished with donated, gently used furniture, all of which they can take with them to their permanent housing.
 - If client has an income, rent set at 1/3 of their income.
 - 30% of all money paid will be given back to the client upon exit.
 - This is no longer HUD funded
- Child Abuse Treatment (CHAT)
 - Free counseling services for children who have experienced domestic violence and/or who are victims of abuse and who are not eligible for assistance through the California Victims Compensation Program (CaIVCP).
 - Treatment can be provided for as long as the child needs it or until they turn 18/graduate high school
- Volunteers
 - Donation management; seasonal processes
 - Volunteer-to-volunteer support
 - Continued Education sessions



COUNCIL ON HOMELESSNESS MEETING MINUTES

- Administrative support and projects
- Clean-up days

7. Policy and Advocacy Discussion and Decision Points (Action Item)

- Doug: how can we best position the Council to respond to pending legislation in a timely matter?
 - Lavonna, what the Council did last year was to recommend legislative platforms that are now a part of their legislative package
 - This process will come back to the Council again soon
 - It's a matter of the Council identifying what they want to see happen and H3 staff writing a message to legislative staff at the CAO to please support legislation as it comes up
- **SB-918 Homeless Youth Act of 2018**
 - Presentation by Doug Leich
 - Creates an Office of Homeless Youth within the Housing and Community Development Department, which will set goals to end youth homelessness, identify gaps in services statewide, collect key data, provide technical assistance to local jurisdictions, and administer grants to support homeless youth.
 - Passed through Senate to Assembly.
 - Passed through Assembly Committee on Human Services to Assembly Committee on Appropriations (June 27th).
 - Lavonna: the Board did support this legislation with the small change that the money be passed through the CoC—however, this change was not included in the current version of the bill, which means that nonprofits can apply directly
 - This will require a more concerted effort for community coordination and strategy
 - Dan: how can we take action as a Council regarding the various bonds coming down?
 - Lavonna: we can have that ready for the next Council meeting
 - Doug: we also have a Policy & Advocacy Committee at the end of this month

8. Community Announcements

- Monument Impact: we're part of a collation in Concord called Raise the Roof, working on tenant protections in Concord, looking at a just cause ordinance



COUNCIL ON HOMELESSNESS MEETING MINUTES

- Lost rent control two years ago, but pushing for other tenant protections
- City Council hasn't been very favorable to this so far
- Candace: a program that helped me immensely as a foster youth, Volunteers of America, is having a Pick-a-Pack event for low-income families, youth, and foster youth in the Bay Area to get a backpack of school supplies; they also offer other supports and connections – August 11th, 11-12, RSVP at 925-228-0200
 - Email pushed out to full CoC listserv today

9. Adjourn Meeting – Doug Leich

- Reminder: next meeting will be August 27th instead of first Thursday of September to accommodate the CoC Program NOFA timeline requirements