



# 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, May 3, 2018 1:00pm – 3:00pm

**Location:** Department of Probation, 2<sup>nd</sup> Floor, 50 Douglas Drive, Martinez, CA 94553

## **Council Member Attendance:**

**Present:** Candace Collier, Cecelia McCloy, John Eckstrom, Gabriel Lemus, Dan Sawislak, Miguel Hidalgo-Barnes, Deanne Pearn, Bradley Lindblom, Teri House, Joseph Villarreal

**Absent:** Anne Struthers, Doug Leich, Patrice Guillory, Alejandra Chamberlain, Tracy Pullar, John Barclay, Manjit Sappal

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

**Public Attendance:** Contessa Tate, Lourdes Martinez, John Warden, Diana MaKieue, Jamika Spruell, Felix Jackl, Shelby Ferguson, Stephanie Stovall, Brandon Bratcher, Nathalie Sterne, Jenny Quijada, Mayo Lunt, Malaine Venencian, Claude J. Battaglia, Jenny Robbins, Eric Griskatt, Phil Herndon, Matt Summers, T. Lenderman, Veronica Fleming, Gail Dacatun, Ricardo Rodriguez, Christa Allen

## **1. Welcome and Introductions**

- Call to order by Cecelia McCloy

## **2. Approve Minutes (Action Item)**

- Motion
- State of Motion:
  - We move to adopt the minutes from the April 5, 2018 Council on Homelessness Meeting.
- *Discussion*
  - *The Council moved to approve.*
- *Procedural Record:*



## COUNCIL ON HOMELESSNESS MEETING MINUTES

- *Motion made by: John Eckstrom*
- *Seconded by: Bradley Lindblom*
- *AYES: Candace Collier, Cecelia McCloy, John Eckstrom, Gabriel Lemus, Dan Sawislak, Miguel Hidalgo-Barnes, Deanne Pearn, Bradley Lindblom, Teri House*
- *NOES: None.*
- *ABSTAINS: None.*
- *ABSENT: Anne Struthers, Doug Leich, Patrice Guillory, Joseph Villarreal (late), Alejandra Chamberlain, Tracy Pullar, John Barclay, Manjit Sappal.*

### 3. Approve CES Policies and Procedures (Action Item)

- Update to Policies and Procedures with updates pertaining to new phases of CES
- Last fall the Policies and Procedures and Oversight Committees reviewed Procedures, made edits, and submitted recommendations to Council
- Updates to policies are as follows:
  - Clarified roles and responsibilities of CE Oversight Committee
  - Created grievance and complaint policy section
  - Updated language to reflect new phases of implementation (e.g., housing location)
- Questions:
  - Ceil McCloy:
    - How often does Oversight Committee meet?
      - a. Oversight Committee meets monthly
    - How does community give feedback to Oversight Committee?
      - a. Annual evaluation with focus groups
      - b. Many stakeholders participate in meetings
    - How often is it reviewed?
      - a. At least annually
  - Gabriel Lemus:
    - Are there any changes to Oversight Committee members?
      - a. Updates to some qualifications
      - b. Ad Hoc Nominating Committee approved at last Council Meeting will recommend changes to membership for Council approval in June
- Motion
- State of Motion:
  - We move to adopt the updated Coordinated Entry Policies and Procedures, with the changes recommended by the CE Oversight Committee.
- *Discussion*



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- *The Council moved to approve.*
- *Procedural Record:*
  - *Motion made by: John Eckstrom*
  - *Seconded by: Bradley Lindblom*
  - *AYES: Candace Collier, Cecelia McCloy, John Eckstrom, Gabriel Lemus, Dan Sawislak, Miguel Hidalgo-Barnes, Deanne Pearn, Bradley Lindblom, Teri House*
  - *NOES: None.*
  - *ABSTAINS: None.*
- *ABSENT: Anne Struthers, Doug Leich, Patrice Guillory, Joseph Villarreal (late), Alejandra Chamberlain, Tracy Pullar, John Barclay, Manjit Sappal.*

#### **4. CORE Outreach Survey Results Presentation**

- Presentation by Shelby Ferguson, H3.
- Introduction by Jenny Robbins
  - UC Berkeley MBA Candidate in Programs Administration
  - She's been interning with H3 doing great work supporting
  - Intern program is open and active!
- Created and implemented variety of surveys to evaluate programs qualitatively and quantitatively
- CORE Surveys
  - Police departments requested help gathering info around homelessness
  - Met with law enforcement monthly to figure out how to address unanswered questions
  - Received over 100 completed surveys
  - Used surveys to gather info and create reports
- Reports in progress and will be sent to law enforcement and presentation give to County Board of Supervisors
- Results
  - 93% already engaged with CORE
  - 66% have family or grew up in the city they slept in the night before
  - 54% grew up in County
  - 84% grew up in California
  - 86% felt safe sleeping in the city they usually slept
  - Responses about what led to Respondents' homelessness:
    - 34% Substance abuse
    - 27% Rent too high
    - 25% lost a job
    - 24% illness/health
    - 15% divorce/separation



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- 13% mental illness
- 13% domestic violence
- 10% low paying job
- Additional complexities of homelessness
  - 50% did not feel safe and loved by parents or caregivers growing up
  - 76% experienced verbal abuse at some point in their lives
  - 63% experienced physical abuse at some point in their lives
  - 34% experienced sexual abuse at some point in their lives
  - 30% reported parents or caregivers having a mental health condition while growing up
  - 39% reported their parents or caregivers abusing drugs or alcohol growing up
- Ended with person centered question about how people feel
- Q&A from Council and Audience:
  - Dan Sawislak: very interesting, would like to have presentation and see data
    - Results will be posted on H3/Council website
  - Ceil McCloy:
    - How did you survey people? Can you talk about the process?
      - CORE team conducted surveys
      - Everyone they encountered in the field offered opportunity to do survey but was voluntary
      - Shelby researched questionnaire, supported rollout
  - Bradley Lindblom:
    - Where was this done?
      - All 6 CORE teams did surveys, so sampling done across the counties
      - For city specific CORE teams, there was more capacity to do surveys
  - John Eckstrom:
    - Can we incorporate this into HMIS? How do we see whether these answers (needs) look different from those who are part of system or engaged with CORE and those that have not yet been served?
      - Can be done as part of intake, which goes into HMIS
      - Can talk about this at CoC Provider Committee Meeting (with HMIS Committee)
      - Challenge with HMIS is to ensure consistency in data collection and will limit in obtaining open ended questions
  - Audience:
    - Will research be available on the website?
      - Yes, this presentation will be posted online
    - How much time was spent in Richmond and San Pablo?
      - One CORE team in West County



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- People were surveyed wherever the CORE team was working as part of their day to day work in the community
- Where they surveyed was not necessarily where they were from
- Can filter data by geographic region or city
- Will this be done again?
  - Some of the questions of the survey will be incorporated into the intake form
  - Goal is to institutionalize this and do it annually or biannually

### 5. Quarterly CoC Meeting Report Out

- Presentation by Erica McWhorter, HomeBase
- April quarterly CoC meeting was focused on Best Practices in Employing People Experiencing Homelessness
  - Provided lots of information about the employment process
  - Illustrated the significant connection between housing and employment
  - Demonstrated need for expanded partnerships
- Panelists:
  - Antoine J. Wilson, Equal Employment Opportunity Officer, Risk Management, Contra Costa County
  - Barbara Vargen-Kotchevar, Personnel Services Supervisor, Human Resources Department, Contra Costa County
  - Lila Blanchard, Career Advisor, Rubicon Programs
  - Maureen Nelson, Administrator, America's Job Center of California of Contra Costa County, (formerly known as the One-Stop Career Centers)
  - Michelle Wade, Program Manager, Job Training and Placement Program, Opportunity Junction
- Ideas to coordinate and streamline access:
  - Processes for employment (from program entry to placement) builds individual capacity through supports and case management (workshops, training programs, orientations)
  - Some processes are lengthier than others
  - Some utilize peer supports
  - Working with people where they are to help them understand and follow through with the process
- Various population and issue focus points to reduce barriers to service participation:
  - Reentrants and criminal justice record expungement (County, Rubicon)
  - Prioritizing shelter if housing an issue (Rubicon)
  - Benefits support and direct linkages (America's Job Center)



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- Motivational interviewing techniques to assist in identifying barriers and issues (Rubicon)
- Specific assessments for barriers and workplans to address barriers (Opportunity Junction)
- Leverage funding streams and partnerships to help overcome barriers, i.e., Food Bank and hot meal provision, Homeless Court, Clothing closets, child care, drop in services, self-service, online courses, etc.
- Addressing housing as a barrier to employment:
  - Try to manage by working with housing partners
  - Complete homelessness may be significant barrier to program participation—work on housing then on employment
  - Shepherd’s Gate TH for women (Opportunity Junction)
  - Shelter Inc, BALA (America’s Job Center)
  - STAND!, Monument IMPACT, Men and Women of Purpose and other CBOs (County EEO)
  - Advocate on behalf of clients for extended stays, provide longterm supports (3 years) to break cycle of poverty; leverage funding and programs to support with down payments, move-in costs, etc. to support stable housing
- Takeaways from the panel:
  - Providers very interested in getting the word out about their programs and services
  - Providers very interested in partnering and collaborating to link people with services and supports that match their needs (most providers seemed aware of some of the resources available through the CoC)
  - Providers working with same clients CoC serves, means overlap in service provision, including housing placement and stability (child care, transportation, food, etc.)
  - Experienced resource leveraging (rich source of resources and supports)
  - Shift in America’s Job Center structure: career services contracted out this summer and led by Rubicon in partnership with consortium (including Opportunity Junction and others); locations will shift (closing 3 of 4 centers—Concord will stay open; additional sites open in July)
- Council and Audience Discussion:
  - Were there any providers willing to work on transitioning into employment? The support is here, but need to find a job.
    - Yes, the linkages are in place, but could be made stronger—looking to expand partnerships
    - The County has a program with a lot of advocacy and support to guide applicants through the process to get a County job



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- There were three primary pieces – job training, coaching, and connections to jobs – each of the panelist organizations did one or two, so collaboration is key
- Often work with families that have criminal backgrounds, which affects the ability to find employment—there's a program to clear backgrounds, which is huge to address that barrier to employment
- How can we prioritize when a household is involved in one of these employment programs and is homeless, to help connect them with housing—thinking in particular of Opportunity Junction, who cannot help people with employment unless they are housed?
  - Don't have a specific priority around this currently, but can explore
- The other barrier is families with children in need of child care—they mentioned CoCoKids.org, which is a great resource

### 6. CoC Funding Streams and Providers Update

- Presentation by Erica McWhorter, HomeBase
- *Review slide deck for graphics showing funding streams*
- CDBG map: Richmond is now a part of the County jurisdiction
- Not all HOME, CDBG, HOPWA funds are specific to homeless housing and services
  - CDBG: only 15% can go to public services, including homeless—currently, around \$150k for the County
  - HOME: primarily for construction and rehabilitation of affordable housing, so some households who are placed could be homeless
  - HOPWA: can be homeless, but not all are
  - ESG: all going to homeless outreach, prevention, RRH, emergency shelter
- ESG 2018 allocations came out two days ago, the federal budget was passed, good news for HUD programs
  - Trending upward for most programs
- State ESG is very different
- Discussion: what other service provider information would the Council like to see?
  - Jaime is in the process of scheduling a series of tours of the sites of many of the service providers in the coordinated entry system
  - Would like to see a list of providers, services provided, and funding received—Teri can provide some of this information, and Jaime also has a list in development with checkboxes of different services
    - Also want capacity numbers, subpopulations – tie to the HIC?



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### 7. Committee Updates

- **Coordinated Entry Committees/Workgroups Update**
  - Presentation by Jaime Jenett, H3
  - CARE Center Locations
    - West County: now GRIP at 165 22<sup>nd</sup> Street, Richmond; San Pablo site now just provides AODS
    - Central County: Trinity moved to 1271 S. California Blvd, Walnut Creek
  - Two new resources coming online in coordinated entry
    - Diversion (Hume Center)
      - Divert people from the homeless system of care through counseling and limited financial supports including:
        - (a) Homelessness diversion counseling
        - (b) Family mediation services
        - (c) Landlord/tenant conflict resolution
        - (d) Brief, goal-oriented case management
        - (e) Disbursement of housing security fund
    - Housing Location (Hamilton Families)
      - Marketing to identify landlords and build inventory
      - Community building through programs to promote housing opportunities to rental housing associations, elected officials, faith communities, and other stakeholders
      - Coordinating with housing navigation services to connect clients to housing
    - Housing Security Fund
      - Overview
        - (a)
      - Can business community donate?
        - (a) Yes, donations capability online
      - Recommend presentation of HSF (by Jaime) to Council
- **Policy and Advocacy Committee**
  - Presentation by Jaime Jenett, H3
  - SB 918 established \$60 million in grants for housing, services, and supports for youth experiencing homelessness and create the Office of Homeless Youth within the CA Department of Housing and Community Development to oversee them
  - Letter of Support to Senator Weiner
    - Other signatories: Alameda County, San Francisco
  - Good news: Contra Costa County Board of Supervisors signed on!
- **CoC Providers Committee**
  - Presentation by Amanda Wehrman, HomeBase





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- CoC and ESG funded providers committee meets to recommend changes to local scoring tools and process to be shared at June Council meeting
- Council Role and Timeline CoC Program Process: Local competition
  - Process local community goes through to determine which projects gets funded
- NOFA Overview
  - Common terms and process
  - NOFA Release
  - TA Workshop for applicants
  - Review and Rank Panel
  - Appeals
  - Council Approval of Priority Listing
  - Consolidated Application submitted to HUD
- **Youth Action Council Update**
  - Presentation by Christa Mays, YAC Member, and Felix Jackl, Coordinator CCYCS
  - CA Coalition Youth Summit
    - Spoke with legislators about SB918 and received their support
    - Workshops: self-care, advocacy, life skills
  - Youth Summit for CA Community Colleges
    - Nationwide effort to address youth homelessness from the college standpoint
    - Interesting and doing amazing work
    - YAC Rep Christa facilitated a session with H3 about CE and CCYCS and shared story as TAY
  - Improving ties with CCC, DVC, LMC
  - Working with Y-Plan
    - Recommendations to end youth homelessness
    - Expand services and youth housing to East County
    - Improve all services
    - Add a mental health van (Mobile behavioral health services)
    - Planting gardens
  - Working on future service learning projects throughout the community (for youth)
    - Service learning project: youth go into community and do community service (as many youth as possible, done monthly as part of CCYCS, can be different projects every month)
      - GRIP has beautification projects!
      - Mentor program with younger homeless children (peer support) for ages 14-24



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### 8. Community Announcements

- Reminders for Council:
  - Ethics training
  - Conflict of Interest forms
- Affordable Housing week coming up
- Ground breaking for St. Paul's Commons in Walnut Creek (Trinity Center): 10am-Noon, May 16<sup>th</sup>, 2018
- North Richmond Heritage: interest list opening soon! Housing to be available likely by September
- Antioch SAHA Project: still slots open for seniors and persons with AIDS (contact Jaime or Chris Hess for more information)