



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, December 6th, 2018, 1:30 – 3:30 pm

Location: Concord Library Community Room, 2900 Salvio St, Concord, CA 94519

Council Member Attendance:

Present: Candace Collier, John Eckstrom, Deanne Pearn, Miguel Hidalgo-Barnes, Doug Leich, Bradley Lindblom, Carolyn Foudy, Manjit Sappal, Gabriel Lemus, John Barclay, Teri House, Dan Sawislak

Absent: Joseph Villarreal, Patrice Guillory, Alejandra Chamberlain, Tracy Pullar, Cecelia McCloy

Staff Attendance: Lavonna Martin, Jaime Jenett, Natalie Siva, Jenny Robbins, Dana Ewing, Contra Costa Health Services (H3); Erica McWhorter, Colin Sorensen, HomeBase

Public Attendance: Gregory Austin, Stephanie Stovall, Michael Fischer, DeVonn Powers, Julian Mondragon, Margaret Campos, John Warden, Sanara Gad, Nate Rose, Carey Gregs, Joy Hedgepath, Theresa Karr, Carry Warner, Jill Ray, Ori Tzvieli, George Fulmore, Lindy Lavender, Janet Costa, Manuel Arredondo, Leonard Ramirez, Dawn McFadden, Claude Battaglia

1. Welcome and Introductions

2. Approve Minutes (Action Item)

- Motion
- State of Motion:
 - We move to adopt the minutes from the November 1st Council on Homelessness Meeting.
- *Discussion*
 - *The Council moved to approve.*
- *Procedural Record:*
 - *Motion made by: Deanne Pearn*
 - *Seconded by: Bradley Lindblom*
 - *AYES: Candace Collier, John Eckstrom, Deanne Pearn, Miguel Hidalgo-Barnes, Doug Leich, Bradley Lindblom, Carolyn Foudy, Manjit Sappal*
 - *NOES: None.*



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- *ABSTAINS: Gabriel Lemus, John Barclay*
- *ABSENT: Dan Sawislak, Teri House, Joseph Villarreal, Patrice Guillory, Alejandra Chamberlain, Tracy Pullar, Cecelia McCloy*
- *MOTION APPROVED*

3. Committee Updates

- See packet.

4. Governance Committee Recommendations for Updates to the Council Bylaws (Action Item)

- Deanne Pearn reported out
 - Governance Committee Reviewed the Bylaws
 - Added a Youth Representative Seat into the Council, including a descriptor of who would qualify for the seat. Proposed age is between 17 and 24, in order to allow for older youth (but not too old e.g. 30 years)
 - Changed some language for unaccompanied youth, made the requirements more detailed
 - Also reviewed Governance Charter
 - But this requires further review from County Counsel, so those will come back soon.
 - Looking for approval of the bylaw edits
- Doug Leich: This was not a comprehensive review of the bylaws. This was just pertaining to the section on youth.
- *Procedural Record:*
 - *Motion to approve recommended changes to bylaws.*
 - *Motion made by: John Eckstrom*
 - *Seconded by: John Barclay*
 - Lavonna Martin: This changes the number of members on the board from 17 to 18, correct? Which means that quorum would change?
 - Doug Leich: I don't think it matters whether the number of seats is even or odd, because decisions are made by the majority regardless.
 - In addition, there is a requirement in the changes that the Youth seat be a part of the Youth Action Council.
 - Deanne Pearn: They don't have to start on YAC, but they should be worked into it.
 - Jenny Robbins: The YAC is within our youth system of care, but right now it's only limited to youth using the youth shelter or youth transitional housing. It's still in its infancy.
 - Jaime Jenett: The way it's written, it sounds like the person is required to use CCYS/YAC.



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- Erica McWhorter: Keep the language, as YAC expands we can revisit. But it's important to keep this in place for future grant opportunities.
- Doug Leich: Assuming we approve these changes, they only become effective after approval by the Board of Supervisors. At which point—we'll have a vacancy.
- Jaime Jenett: We'll package nomination of this seat with the other nominations, so we'd probably have this filled by February.
- *AYES: Candace Collier, John Eckstrom, Deanne Pearn, Miguel Hidalgo-Barnes, Doug Leich, Bradley Lindblom, Carolyn Foudy, Manjit Sappal, Gabriel Lemus, John Barclay*
- *NOES: None.*
- *ABSTAINS: None.*
- *ABSENT: Dan Sawislak, Teri House, Joseph Villarreal, Patrice Guillory, Alejandra Chamberlain, Tracy Pullar, Cecelia McCloy*
- *MOTION APPROVED*

5. Ad Hoc Nominating Committee (Action Item)

- Bradley Lindblom discusses nomination process
 - There were 23 applicants for the community seats
 - 2 for ESG seats
 - 5 for Employment and Human Services Department
 - Nominations:
 - Lindy Lavender for Community Member Seat
 - Leslie Gleason for CoC/ESG Grantee Seat
 - Sherry Lynn Peralta for Employment and Human Services Department
 - Dough Leich for Faith Community
 - Manuel Arredondo, Health Care
 - Tony Ucciferi, Public Housing Authority
 - Jaime Jenett: In the past, we have received a lot of applicants that come from agencies funded by the CoC for the community member seat. It may make sense to determine the specific goals/specific voice that the committee would like to see from each seat. This year the committee made an active effort to choose a community member that is not also a connected to a service provider.
 - Community: Are there opportunities for people to join that have lived experience?
 - Bradley Lindblom: We have a consumer seat.
 - Community: But is it representative? She works for Behavioral Health.



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- Lavonna Martin: I appreciate what you're saying—but at this time the consumer seat was not vacant. The committee has to be cognizant of creating a board that is representative of both the population and the system of care. You're right—it's important to consider race, geographical representation, etc. The committee keeps these in mind with their nominations every single time.
- Community: I still don't see representation on the board of those who are most impacted—African American Males.
- Lavonna Martin: Thank you.
- Community: I also want to clarify that there are at least 2 members on the seat that have lived experience with homelessness.
- Doug Leich: Seats are 2 years long.
 - Jaime Jenett: And they are staggered, so different seats are available every year.
- Community: How do you ensure that there are new people on the Council? In a lot of Councils I've seen, people reapply and get their seats back.
 - Doug Leich: You can apply—there was an application out to the community.
 - Jaime Jenett: And 5 of the 6 seats will be new members.
- *Procedural Record:*
 - *Motion to approve ad hoc nomination committees for the Council on Homelessness*
 - *Motion made by: Gabriel Lemus*
 - *Seconded by: Dan Sawislak*
 - *AYES: Candace Collier, John Eckstrom, Deanne Pearn, Miguel Hidalgo-Barnes, Doug Leich, Bradley Lindblom, Carolyn Foudy, Manjit Sappal, Gabriel Lemus, John Barclay, Teri House, Dan Sawislak*
 - *NOES: None.*
 - *ABSTAINS:*
 - *ABSENT: Joseph Villarreal, Patrice Guillory, Alejandra Chamberlain, Tracy Pullar, Cecelia McCloy*
 - *MOTION APPROVED*

6. PIT Count Methodology Recommendations (Action Item)

- Dana Ewing explained changes to PIT Count Methodology
 - Will use GIS Mapping
 - Will only ask HUD questions (as opposed to additional questions)
 - Will use online platform for collecting data, as opposed to dropping pins on Google maps
 - Data will be readily available immediately
 - Will take less time



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- Hard copy surveys for volunteers at community sites
- School districts will be a part, will ask families to take surveys on the phone
- Will use the Mobile App out in the field
- Jaime Jenett explained difference between Volunteer and Staffed Sites
 - Volunteer Sites
 - Church food programs
 - Community Colleges
 - County Health Clinics
 - EHSD Benefits Offices
 - Homeless Service Sites
 - Libraries
 - Lunch Programs
 - Recycling Centers
 - Staffed Sites
 - Bay Area Crisis Nursey
 - Church feeding programs
 - Community Service Bureau (First 5 sites)
 - County Mental Health clinics (interns)
 - County Mobile Clinics
 - First Place for Youth
 - Healthcare for the Homeless
 - Homeless Service Sites
 - Older Adult Mental Health
 - Probation
 - Rainbow Community Center
 - Reentry Providers
 - Rubicon
 - RYSE Center
 - The populations at mental health clinics usually have moderate to severe mental health issues, which would be challenging for volunteers
 - So volunteers will be the ones conducting the surveys in these counties
 - Community: What about parking lots?
 - Jaime Jenett: Every year I send out a volunteer solicitation to see who is willing to serve as a site.
 - We're currently soliciting additional sites from police, community agencies, community volunteers
 - John Barclay: Also look at open spaces and regional parks? Like Mt. Diablo, for example. And railroads
 - Jaime Jenett: Will look into regional parks and railroads.
 - Community: And consider the Salvation Army, Good Will, and 711s...all of these are hot spots for individuals experiencing homelessness.



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- Jaime Jenett: Okay, thanks. We're also reaching out to BART. There will be a CORE BART team that will be live by then.
- Community: What about bus stops?
 - Jaime Jenett: Also an option. A couple of years ago we considered training bus drivers to do the surveys—can look into that again.
- Jaime Jenett: We also have 300 incentive kits. Will be distributing them at community colleges, clinics, and library sites. Bus passes will be given to participants where we don't have incentive kits.
 - All of this information/data gets aggregated into a larger picture.
- Lavonna Martin: Are we still working with 211 so that people can talk share their information that way.
 - Jaime Jenett: Yes.
- Community: When do we contact media?
 - Jaime Jenett: In the past, we have contacted media beforehand, but this occasionally can result in municipalities doing "sweeps" so that they look better. So it skews results. We always do report the results afterward, however.
 - Community: Will there be an online survey?
 - Jaime Jenett: HUD requires a face to face conversation. Even though CORE will have an survey, they will still have to ask these questions face-to-face. Individuals cannot fill these out on their own.
 - Outreach:
 - School Districts
 - Flyer and letter home
 - Flyers
 - Agencies (65+)
 - Hospitals
 - BART Stations
 - Bus Stations
 - Social Media
 - Traditional media
 - Community: Do we ask immigration status? Because that might scare people.
 - Jaime Jenett: No.
 - Teri House: I believe last year we sent flyers to local jurisdictions and City Halls, correct?
 - Jaime Jenett: We'll do that, too.
 - Teri House: And we've also published on NextDoor!



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- Jaime Jenett: Every year we get dinged on our CoC Application because a significant number of our beds are not on HMIS (e.g. Bay Area Rescue Mission). However—they are going to be joining HMIS this year.
 - Teri House: How can we support them in their transition?
 - Jaime Jenett: We can ask and get back to you on this.
 - Community: I have a relationship with Bay Area Rescue Mission, and I know people who would be interested in helping out—let's get in touch.
- *Procedural Record:*
 - *Motion to approve recommended changes to previous PIT Count methodology*
 - *Motion made by: Teri House*
 - *Seconded by: Bradley Lindblom*
 - *AYES: Candace Collier, John Eckstrom, Deanne Pearn, Miguel Hidalgo-Barnes, Doug Leich, Bradley Lindblom, Carolyn Foudy, Manjit Sappal, Gabriel Lemus, John Barclay, Teri House, Dan Sawislak*
 - *NOES: None.*
 - *ABSTAINS:*
 - *ABSENT: Joseph Villarreal, Patrice Guillory, Alejandra Chamberlain, Tracy Pullar, Cecelia McCloy*
 - *MOTION APPROVED*

7. Youth and Family PIT Count Report Out

- Dana Ewing: This was more of a needs assessment. Why a needs assessment:
 - Remain the “hidden homeless’
 - Standard PIT is not capturing this population
 - Service data (HMIS) is not adequate
 - New partnerships and emphasis
- We really need to identify the population and their needs to seek out resources
- Youth Advisory Committee (YAC) worked with H3 to revise the survey
 - And created incentive kits to incentivize survey completion
 - Helped train CORE on how to approach youth and talk with youth to complete survey
- Methods
 - YAC advisors
 - YAC and CORE collected data at traditional CoC service sites, non-CoC sites, community centers, etc.
- Web-Based Data Collection
 - Allowed for anonymity
 - More convenient and easier for surveyors
 - Broader reach
 - Youth-friendly



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- Youth were more responsive to online version instead of in-person
- Youth/TAY Needs Assessment
 - 281 Minors
 - 119 experiencing housing crisis with their parents
 - 183 slept in other setting, such as foster care or with family/friends
 - 3 minors are parents
 - 152 Transition Age Youth
 - 31 TAY living with their adult parents
 - 77 TAY not in families
 - 44 TAY were parents
 - Foster care
 - 47% of minors, 37% of TAY have been in foster care
 - Deanne Pearn: Was the question phrased to identify the number of Minors and TAY that have gone through probation?
 - Dana Ewing: Yes, but it wasn't as large of a number.
 - Top reasons for homelessness:
 - Could not afford rent
 - Dispute with family
 - Domestic violence
 - Low paying job
 - Illness/health condition
 - Services that Minors, TAY would accept if available
 - Housing placement
 - Job training
 - Benefits/Assistance
 - Education services
 - Some TAY identified the transition from foster care as their primary challenge
 - Next steps:
 - Greater partnership with schools and juvenile justice
 - More efforts to collect data
 - School district Data
 - 211
 - Community Connect
 - There will be more reporting out about this data later
 - Pursue best practices
 - Lavonna Martin: Will we be doing another PIT/TAY assessment?
 - Dana Ewing: The main goal for this was collecting data for grants, so a second assessment is not currently scheduled.

8. Coordinated Entry Evaluation

- Dana Ewing: Was challenging to figure out what to measure at first.



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- Point of CE was for people to enter system through 211, CORE, and CARE.
- Key Objectives for Phase I:
 - Communicate CES
 - Identify Non-Active
 - Increase Access
- New initiatives
 - 211
 - Coordinated CARE Center
 - CORE Outreach
 - Housing Navigation
 - Warming Center
- Phase 1 Impact/Successes:
 - There was an 11% increase in adults-only households.
 - 14% increase in adults with disabilities
 - So this demonstrates that the CES system was working—more people were getting connected to the system.
 - 18% increase in number served at CES access points
 - 52% increase in the number of consumers that utilized multiple CES Access Points
 - Means that there was strong communication about the different available access points
 - 2/3 of families and ½ of vets exited to permanent supportive housing
 - Service providers felt like CES was a joint effort
- Phase 1 Challenges:
 - Some subpopulations have poorer housing rates (1/4 or less for Seniors, TAY, LGBTQ, and mental health) compared to families and veterans
 - Significant increases in more vulnerable populations
 - Only 30% of households had a VI-SPDAT in the last year
 - More inflow than outflow
- Full evaluation report
 - Analyzes how people moved through CES
 - Issues related to access
 - Sub-populations use of CES
 - Lessons learned
- Questions:
 - Community: In regard to VI-SPDAT, can they do that over 211, or do they have to go to a warming center first?
 - Lavonna Martin: We're working on making this clearer.
- Jaime Jenett: The report will go on the website soon.

9. Homeless Awareness Month Report Out



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- Jaime Jenett: Was a success, especially the event where people with lived experience came and talked about what it was like to be homeless. Especially valuable for elected people who were present at the events. There were two coffee and conversations events here. Event at Hillcrest Congregational. Two Healthcare for the Homeless events. Healthcare memorial with ANKA. GRIP had some free meals on Thanksgiving. Coat drive and haircuts.
 - Doug Leich: Multi-Faith Action Coalition had a Thanksgiving Service. Instead of asking for funding, we handed out cards for people to send to Homeland Security objecting to their new policies.
- Teri House: Candace gave a great presentation in Antioch—and we also collected supplies.
- Deanne Pearn: Donna Colombo and I presented at a church in Danville.
- Jaime Jenett: All cities except for two have adopted proclamations.

10. Council Goodbye

- John Barclay, Carolyn Foudy, and John Eckstrom, Cecilia McCloy, and Joseph Villareal and are leaving.
- Doug Leich and the Council clapped in appreciation for the outgoing members.
 - John Barclay thanked the Council for the experience, opportunity to serve.
 - John Eckstrom also thanked the Council for the experience.
 - Carolyn Foudy appreciated how much she learned while serving.

11. Community Announcements

- Dan Sawislak: The election was a good result, with Proposition 1 and 2 passing.

12. Pin It

- The next Council meeting is February 7, 2019.
- After a straw vote, people appeared to prefer Concord Library. However, 50 Douglass is more Central for West and Central County, and its parking is better.
 - Therefore, location is TBD.
- Also debating on topic for January CoC Quarterly Meeting.

13. Adjourn Meeting – Doug Leich