

## COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES

**Meeting Date: March 14, 2014**

**Time: 10:00am – 12:00pm**

**Location: 1350 Galindo St., Concord, CA  
(Concord Police Department, 3rd flr training room)**

### **I. Welcome and Introductions**

- a. Lavonna: CCICH is “going green”—all handouts will be posted on the website:  
<http://cchealth.org/homeless/council/>

### **II. HUD CoC Program & HCD ESG NOFA Updates**

- a. Amanda: the HUD grantees and CCICH Advisory Board worked really hard over the holidays to successfully submit the CoC Program consolidated application in early February
  - i. There were voluntary reallocations in light of recent HUD policies
  - ii. The Review and Rank panel ranked all projects in January—the full Priority Listing is available on the CCICH website
  - iii. Two projects fell into tier 2, but they are both PSH, the highest HUD selection priority
  - iv. Conditional funding for Tier 1 renewals may be announced as soon as March 20<sup>th</sup> (45 days after submission)
- b. Amanda: the State of California awards ESG grants, which happens annually
  - i. CA’s allocation this year was over 8 million dollars
  - ii. HCD set aside 30% of funds for rapid rehousing
  - iii. CCICH chose how to spend these funds with a priority ranking list.
  - iv. Awards expected to be announced April 1<sup>st</sup>
- c. Brenda: At the last meeting, in order to align with the consolidated plan, all of the Consortium members except Pittsburg did a renewal process for 2014/15 rather than take new applications
  - i. Applicants submitted brief renewal applications
  - ii. There is a meeting about this and then recommendations go to the board on May 6<sup>th</sup>
  - iii. Funding and planning for 2016-18 will happen later with the kickoff meeting in October; that notice will go out to interested parties list, our listserv, and posted on county website

### **III. Meet Our New HUD Representative**

- a. Lavonna: Today we have our HUD representative for the CoC program, Kimberly Ferguson

- b. Kimberly: I worked for HUD the last 4 years with the HPRP program. I also worked with communities on the Peninsula side in the CoC group of programs. Prior to that, I worked for SF City and County social services projects and oversaw a lot of HUD CoC applications. I also worked for HUD with in Contra Costa for entitlements with the CoC a long time ago. It is exciting to see the change that has happened since then and so many additional bodies in the room. It has been a lot of growth in that time. I am happy to work with people if you have questions, feel free to contact me.

#### **IV. Consumer Subcommittee Update**

- a. Megan: I work with Healthcare for the Homeless and work in the county to get health needs met. I am curious about other advisory boards in other organizations on this issue and to find and ways to collaborate. What other consumer advisory boards out there? If you are interested in participating, I am passing around a sign-up sheet (or email Megan at [Megan.mccabe@hsd.cccounty.us](mailto:Megan.mccabe@hsd.cccounty.us)).
  - i. I am also working on a consumer participation survey, targeting housing barriers. We have consumers giving these surveys; they are administered by formerly homeless people
  - ii. I am also a certified counselor in CA to enroll in healthcare/Medicaid plan
- b. Lavonna: Are you open to going to agencies to complete Covered California applications?
  - i. Megan: Yes, I'm happy to go to organizations. If there are a lot of individuals at one organization, then I can send them a special form to sign up everybody at once.

#### **V. County Housing Element**

- a. Kara Douglas: I'm going to be talking about Contra Costa's Housing Element update as shown on this PowerPoint which will be available electronically.
  - i. California law requires that every jurisdiction have a Housing Element. The Housing Element requires certain components. When I am talking about the county, or Contra Costa County, I am talking about the unincorporated county. Each of 19 cities and towns in Contra Costa has their own Housing Element, but understanding that homelessness effects cross boundaries and local jurisdictions.
  - ii. Because housing issues have effects across all segments. The goals from the state are to try to increase housing supply, housing affordability across sectors, housing types, and encourage efficient development and infill.
  - iii. The Housing Element law changes often, and recent changes require that the Housing Element be certified by the State. If it is no, then we don't get a certain kind of local transportation funding. This is part of funding that comes from local taxes. Additionally, a lot of State grants are tied to

the Housing Element compliance. Also, there are advocacy groups that could sue the County for not having a Housing Element.

- iv. How the Housing Element is designed is that the State comes out with housing need called the big number – and this number is divided into regions of the state. ABAG takes the number and divides into counties. This number is based on projected population growth for each region. For example, Santa Clara, Alameda, and San Francisco Counties have the largest housing need projections for the Bay Area. Part of this is based on size and links to transit.
- v. In Contra Costa, the unincorporated RHNA is a number that has been shrinking each cycle to cycle based on changes in Contra Costa (such as cities annexing additional areas).
- vi. It is important to remember that the Housing Element is a plan, not a mandate. Sometimes jurisdictions will need to reevaluate zoning to accommodate that number. When talking about allocation of housing based on income, very low = 50% of median income or below.
- vii. Part of the Housing Element is that the state requires the County to do analysis of land and look at every unincorporated community. The State has parameters, such as not building affordable housing on low density sites because it is difficult to practically achieve affordable housing on such sites. We were looking at north Richmond for a site but lost the money with redevelopment elimination. In Contra Costa generally, there is a pretty high home ownership rate. This may be because there are not a lot of rental opportunities, such as in lower income groups. We see a big gap in planning for housing for extremely low income. Some of the struggles to meet the goals is that we are not meeting goals for low income. With each new plan, unmet prior goal gets dropped for the new goal. That means that there is a backlog of unmet need that isn't even talked about when the goals are not achieved.
- b. Next steps: Going forward, we are next doing public outreach and gathering input into a draft. We will go to the planning commission with that draft and the final version is due to the State by January 31. The HCD has 90 days to certify this.
- c. For special needs housing, the requirements are broad but can include seniors, disabled specialties. When the redevelopment funds were eliminated, about 1 billion in funding was lost on affordable housing.
- d. John: How are communities consulted for the statutes and requirements?
  - i. Kara: Its actually interesting, one state legislator will have one issue and it gets put into the Housing Element. The Housing Element law could be gutted and rewritten in my opinion.
- e. John: What about the low income workers at fast food or Walmart. They aren't even included on this list. They aren't even close, don't even make as much as people on social aid sometimes.
  - i. Kara: Correct, there is no focus for folks who are not at 30% of the AMI.
- f. John: Do you consult with EBHO?

- i. Kara: There are other non profits we consult with about the housing cycles and elements. There are groups like the regional centers that help us get the data for disabled folks in the community, we get data on homeless people from Lavonna for example so we are aware of the problem.
- g. Lavonna: As part of status update on how many units get built, are you feeding into information about permanent supportive housing that gets build with this group?
  - i. Kara: The geography for what we fund is different from the Housing Element plan. For example, the new senior housing development in Lafayette, with our home and CDBG funds, we support more than what is on this slide because a lot of the programs are build in the cities which aren't the unincorporated areas.
- h. Valerie: Orinda just updated their plan that coincided with a regional plan and there has been a lot of opposition to the growth. Both Orinda and Danville both had a lot of opposition.
- i. Sarah: It's important to consider how to reach out to people that would be interested in this housing. Maybe do some event into that housing.

## **VI. Consolidated Planning**

- a. Terri: The Consolidated Planning is for how money gets spent on housing. For this we need to see the big picture for what is going on in the housing market. Specifically I am talking about multiple programs, as shown on the slides.
- b. All programs start with a budget. When the federal government passes a budget has a direct result on when these programs are funded and can start.
- c. The first set of programs is the McKinney-Vento Homeless funds. In 2014, Congress funded this at \$2.105 billion dollars.
- d. Second, are SAMHSA Homeless Services grants. This includes treatment services and service housing. This is also a competitive grant like McKinney-Vento programs. They are usually administered over a multi-year period, typically 3-5 to accomplish goals. We have found them to be highly effective and cost efficient programs.
- e. The third set of programs are Section 8 Vouchers, which includes Tenant and Project Based Vouchers. These programs have been frozen for many years. They are currently funded at \$19.17 billion. Contra Costa Housing Authority only provides Project Based Vouchers to properties that received funding from HOME or CDBG properties.
- f. The fourth set of programs are VA programs, which are funded at 1.4 billion. This includes supportive services, and HUD-VASH programs.
- g. Finally, the remaining programs are the HUD Formula Programs. These include:
  - i. CDBG: An annual grant formula that comes to cities with populations over 50K. This is probably the most flexible of the funds, and opportunities to do exciting things are huge. This is also governed at the local level. With the funds, the city councils do a lot. The goals are to

provide a wide array of housing. Principally, this is for people at 80% or below income. This cuts off at 80% of median income.

- ii. HOME: The next formula program is the Home Investment Partnership Program. This is a Federal block grant, entitlement grants given to communities without them having to compete competitively for them. Contra Costa jurisdictions are in a partnership to pool their money in the county and by pooling funds we are able to fund something meaningful in the county. Richmond receives its own allocations of funds. This is the largest block grant for affordable housing.
  - iii. HOPWA: This is the Housing Opportunities for People with AIDS. It Provides housing for people with AIDS.
  - iv. ESG: This is the Emergency Solutions Grant and provides assistance to individuals in a crisis.
- h. All programs are all governed by a consolidated 5 year plan. The plan is specific, and gets to the level of detail of how many people will be served. In a lot of ways HUD has communities stick to the plan. The 5 year action plan states how the community will achieve the Consolidated Plan. This creates a follow-up annual CAPER plan/report where it is stated what is accomplished. When we lost the redevelopment plans, it was a huge loss of resources for the plan.
- i. Consolidated Plan Process for 2015-2020 has already started. It starts with a needs determination. A big part of this is citizen participation and consultation.
- j. How to get Funding:
- i. Must produce 5 year Con Plan to get an annual action plan and develop strategic plan and provide info every year.
  - ii. Then it is up to elected officials to approve plans. They will look at the needs, look at inputs, etc.

## **VII. Veterans Gaps Analysis**

- a. Tracy: I am the program manager at the VA and I oversee homeless services. Our services go from Oakland to Sacramento to Redding. I am here to share a relatively new tool. The 5 year plan to end homelessness for veterans was unveiled at end of 2009/start of 2010. There has been concern in Washington that there hasn't been the progress hoped for. Part of this plan consisted of 25 cities on the hotlist, none of which included Bay Area cities. The national VA healthcare system partnered to develop tool for VA on homelessness.
- b. To walk you through this tool, the first step of new VA homeless tool is to assess total number of homeless vets. I have 12 CoCs in my area. As you can see, from the count information, came up with a total of 1400 homeless vets in the region. In order to project how many will become homeless, the tool uses an animalization number of 1.9 percent. Looking at the Chronic number of homeless, about a third are chronically homeless, 25 percent of homeless vets also self resolve. We also found that in virtually every area in California, there were housing gaps for vets.

- c. Lavonna: Is this tool meant for individual agencies or county homeless services such as CoC coordination?
  - i. Tracy: I think that is the ultimate goal and could be modified into this.
- d. Edi: The fed announced they will drop 25% of people off the army roles. This is something that communities need to start taking into account now.
- e. Lavonna: We can use the PIT to get an idea what the annualized numbers are.
- f. John: The average veteran when they leave the army is homeless. They buy a ticket and come back into their community and are homeless. There is a large homeless camp of veterans in northern California – about 300 people that is missed from this count.

### **VIII. Strategic Planning Process/Update**

- a. Amanda: I'm going to be talking about the Ten Year Plan to end homelessness, which was done in 2004. Last year, we started talking about how to go about refreshing the plan with an update.
- b. As this plan is updated, we will do a modular approach, which means look at 5 different areas that need to be updated:
  - i. Housing
  - ii. Coordinated Intake & Assessment
  - iii. Prevention, Services and Other Supports
  - iv. Performance Measures
  - v. Communication
- c. The update process will engage four key stakeholder groups:
  - i. Leadership
  - ii. Program Staff
  - iii. Consumers
  - iv. Targeted Community Groups
- d. The plan development will include data and snapshots of the community and the goal is to have the release of this plan by October 1.
- e. Advisory Board created a Strategic Planning Ad Hoc Committee.
  - i. This committee will meet on the first Thursdays of the month, 10:00 – 11:30 am, at the Homeless Programs conference room from now until the release of the plan in October
  - ii. Sign up for the committee on the sign-up sheet, or by contacting Amanda ([Amanda@homebaseccc.org](mailto:Amanda@homebaseccc.org))
  - iii. Lavonna: The ad hoc committee is really the place where conversations will take place to inform the plan. Understand that you are signing up for that kind of participation. There will be other opportunities to help build the plan and also inform the plan.
- f. Felton: Another group is the religious groups and coordinating with them and getting their input into this process
  - i. Convoy of Hope is hosting an event in Bay Point on April 5<sup>th</sup>, 10 am at Rio Vista Elementary School to connect folks to free services

- g. Amanda: we will be looking at a variety of retrospective data to inform our Strategic Planning process; I'll briefly share some PIT and HIC data to set the context for the work coming up
  - i. PIT data shows an overall decrease in homelessness, with families with children on the rise; also seeing more TAY being counted, due to an improved methodology
  - ii. HIC data shows overall increases in permanent supportive housing, with slight decreases in emergency shelter and transitional housing
    - 1. However, 2013 decreases are due in part to more stringent HUD requirements around documentation of homelessness for the purposes of the count
    - 2. Chronically homeless PSH beds are on the rise
- h. Dana: HMIS can be overwhelming, as there are so many "ifs, ands, or buts." For 2012, a large number of homeless are youth and TAY. We need to look at the data and ask ourselves if we are we serving the right populations. For example:
  - i. Mental health was the most common condition for disabilities.
  - ii. Permanent supportive housing serves a lot of families.
  - iii. Social Supportive services had the most people served. The "Don't know" option for leavers doesn't necessarily mean no data was collected, but that it can't be determined if their exit was a positive or negative thing based on where the individual started. The Total number of people served has gone up.
- i. Lavonna: The strategic planning process will take into account the HMIS data and these trends.
- j. Teri: Having been in the CoC for a long time, having the HMIS data will really help the CoC to be informed about who they are serving.
- k. Lavonna: Its great to have Dana on board as evaluator for Homeless Programs; we are glad to finally have this position filled through CoC planning