



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 1, 2016, 1:00 pm – 3:00 pm

Location: ZA Room, 30 Muir Drive, Martinez

Council Member Attendance:

Present: Diane Aguinaga, Louise Bourassa, Tracy Cascio, Alejandra Chamberlain, Teri House (Vice Chair), Brenda Kain, Gary Kingsbury, Doug Leich, Gabriel Lemus (Chair), Dan Sawislak, Joseph Villarreal

Absent: Valerie Sloven

Staff Attendance: Jamie Jenett, Lavonna Martin, Contra Costa Health Services; Meadow Robinson, Amanda Wehrman, HomeBase; Jennifer Baha, Zero:2016

Public Attendance: Stephanie Batchelor, Spencer Silva, Ellie Shirgul, Nathalie Sterne, Pein Brosh, Anne Struthers, Brett Beaver, Leslie Gleason, Miguel Hidabobanes, Usha Ramahandran, Paula Bonnell, Ryan Thomas Brown, Guita Bahramipour, Nikki Beasley

1. Welcome and Introductions

- Gabriel Lemus, Council Chair

2. Approve Minutes (Action Item)

- Motion
- Statement of Motion:
 - We move to adopt the minutes from the November 3rd Council on Homelessness Meeting.
- Discussion:
 - The Council reviewed the minutes from the November 3rd Council meeting.



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- Brenda Kain: suggestion that we don't print the minutes in hardcopy as the members receive the previous minutes by email.
- The Council moved to approve as amended.
- Procedural Record:
 - Motion made by Doug Leich
 - Seconded by Joseph Villarreal
 - AYES: Diane Aguinaga, Louise Bourassa, Tracy Cascio, Alejandra Chamberlain, Teri House (Vice Chair), Brenda Kain, Gary Kingsbury, Doug Leich, Gabriel Lemus (Chair), Dan Sawislak, Joseph Villarreal
 - NOES: None.
 - ABSTAINS: None.
 - ABSENTS: Valerie Sloven
 - Motion Carried

3. Homeless Awareness Month

- Jaime Jenett, CoC Planning and Policy Manager, Homeless Services, gave an update on activities and advocacy efforts from November.
 - Update on activities and advocacy efforts (presentation to the Board of Supervisors):
 - City Council Visits: Council members attended as planned. City Councils wanted to know more about how to coordinate with homeless service providers; plans to follow up and have regular meetings in interested jurisdictions are underway.
 - Various Merchandise Drives: Council members contributed to drives that acquired hundreds of pounds of merchandise for distribution to a variety of organizations.
 - Together We Give: Three sites were set up on November 19 for community members to attend and donate goods to homeless service providers. The event was a success.
 - Coordinated Entry: A series of provider trainings were held to get providers ready for what is to come.
 - White Pony Express and the Antioch School District have been connected.
 - Increase in awareness in furnishing the FISH program.

4. Point-In-Time Count Planning Update

- Jaime Jenett, CoC Planning and Policy Manager, Homeless Services, gave an update on the planning efforts underway for the 2017 PIT Count, including youth.
 - Various PIT Count Tools: surveys (volunteers, staff, 211), outreach intake, observation tools, HMIS data.
 - Data Collection Sources: residential programs (HMIS and non-HMIS), outreach teams, services sites (HMIS and non-HMIS), other: rapid



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rehousing programs, schools, foster care system, homeless hotline, libraries, flyers to call 211 at BART/transit stations.

- Schools: school systems capture data differently, for example data is captured according to grade (as opposed to age). West Contra Costa Unified School District, Mount Diablo, and Antioch have the largest number of homeless families. Volunteers are encouraged to inquire within these populations to determine if families who were identified as homeless at one point in the school year, still are. Services for homeless families are offered through the school year so it doesn't account for whether or not there has been a change in homelessness for the families.
- Unsheltered Homeless: a suggestion was made about working with code enforcement officials/police to try to locate individuals staying in motorhomes or vehicles to include them in the PIT count. Council is informed that new outreach teams have received training and are knowledgeable about typical encampment sites.
- Timeline: conversation about whether the data should be collected over two or three days (to be determined).
- Next Steps: Internal planning meeting with take place in December and a PIT Count day will be set. Volunteer recruitment will occur via email late December and early January. Trainings for volunteers will occur one week before the count.

5. Coordinated Entry Update

- Jaime Jenett, CoC Planning and Policy Manager, Homeless Services, reported out on the progress made by the Coordinated Entry committees and workgroups.
 - All Coordinated Entry committees have been formed, most have met, the rest will meet in the coming week or two.
 - Oversight Committee: is reviewing timelines, developing a work plan and determining scope of work. This committee will be the liason between Coordinated Entry and the Council on Homelessness. It is meeting twice in December to review progress and recommendations by all committees/ workgroups and will bring any action steps to the Council in January.
 - Communications Committee: is responsible for drafting overview/info sheet, graphic, client flyer, and client card.
 - Policies & Procedures Committee: will be reviewing key decision points around policies and procedures being drafted.
 - Data Evaluation Committee: will be reviewing HMIS data flow and drafting an evaluation toolkit.
 - Workgroups are also in place, developing workplans and processes.



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- Prevention/Diversion Workgroup: is reviewing sample prevention/diversion screening tools and provider feedback.
- Rapid Re-housing Referral Workgroup: is developing work plans and processes.
- Emergency Shelter Referral Workgroup: is reviewing commonalities around admission criteria to develop tool.
- Housing Waitlists Workgroup: is reviewing draft communications and outreach to providers.

6. Zero:2016 Update

- Jennifer Baha, Zero: 2016 Coordinator, Homeless Services, provided an update on Zero: 2016 campaign progress.
 - Working to support efforts to create a robust Coordinate Entry system.
 - Developing and tweaking “by-name” lists in both veteran homeless and chronic homeless communities.
 - Housing Security Fund: the organization is focused on raising money for the fund which cannot be distributed until \$10,000 is accumulated. The fund will help eliminate barriers to housing including providing financial support for rental deposits, utility deposits, etc.
 - \$1,000 raised in November
 - \$6,839 (to date with only 22 donations)
 - Housing Security Fund can be found at:
<https://fundraise.richmondcf.org/campaign/help-end-homelessness-in-contra-costa/c99297>

7. Health Care for the Homeless/Consumer Advisory Board Update

- Tabled

8. MFAC Update

- Doug Leich, Multi-faith ACTION Coalition, provided an update on MFAC activities.
 - Multi-faith ACTION Coalition sponsored a Thanksgiving service at Temple Isaiah. There were 150 attendees and the theme was “shared commitment to help those in need.” A keynote speaker spoke on racial justice and \$1,600 was raised for Housing Security Fund.

9. Policy and Advocacy Opportunities

- Amanda Wehrman, HomeBase, provided an update on Federal and state legislation and policy.
- Federal Legislation:



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- H.R. 6378 - PATH Fairness Act of 2016: Would amend the Public Health Service Act to revise the amount of minimum allotments under the *Projects for Assistance in Transition from Homelessness (PATH)* program, a federal grant program providing assistance to individuals who are homeless with serious mental illnesses.
- H.R. 6310 - Homeless Veterans Services Protection Act of 2016: Would amend title 38 of the U.S. Code to waive the minimum period of continuous active duty in the Armed Forces for receipt of certain benefits to homeless Veterans.
- State Legislation & Policy:
 - California Emergency Solutions Grants (CA ESG) Program – Notice of Public Comment Opportunity:
 - Public comments will be accepted in writing until 5:00 pm on December 16, 2016, and can be submitted by sending them to ESG@hcd.ca.gov.
- No Place Like Home Initiative:
 - Will provide funding for construction and rehabilitation of permanent supportive housing for homeless individuals with mental illness. Majority of the funds are competitive and a small portion of the funds are non-competitive. The amount available to counties will be based on the PIT Count, although it is not clear what the definition of PIT Count is for these purposes – ex. could be the CoC PIT numbers or a different definition of PIT (ex. Including mental health clients as well as homeless).
 - A technical advisory workgroup is working to tackle how the process will be rolled out. The initiative hopes to have an RFP out by winter 2017.

10. Nuts & Bolts

- Mental Health Services Act Housing Funds: \$1.7 million dollars has been returned to the community specifically for housing – development, operation, reserves, rental assistance, etc. Funds will be dispersed under an RFP process (late winter, early spring 2017).

11. Pin it

- Changing dates for next meeting: Jan 20th (same day as the next CoC quarterly meeting) – to be held after the quarterly meeting.