



Contra Costa Council on Homelessness Meeting MINUTES

Thursday, May 7, 2020
 1 pm – 3 pm
 By videoconference

Council Member Attendance: Candace Collier, Dan Sawislak, Deanne Pearn, Doug Leich, Leslie Gleason, Manjit Sappal, Sherry Lynn Peralta, Gabriel Lemus, Lindy Lavender, Patrice Guillory, Shawn Ray, Teri House, Tony Ucciferri, Alejandra Chamberlain, Manuel Arredondo, Dan Peddycord, Tracy Pullar

Absent: None

Staff Attendance: Gregory Austin, Cassie Hourlland, Lakisha Langston, Jamie Klinger, Erica McWhorter, Jaime Jenett, Lavonna Martin

Public Attendance: Miguel Becerra, Irma Bodden, George Fulmore, Carey Gregg, William Goodwin, Lily Harvey, Sean K., Theresa Karr, Lauren Larin, Bertha Lopez, Michelle Mankewich, Dawn Morrow, Mariana Moore, Kaitlin Noel, Sean R., Jill Ray, Art Rogers, Bill Scheinman, Rosina Shipman, Samantha Quinn, Amanda Wehrman, Nancy Williams, John Eckstrom

Time	Agenda Item	Presenters	Desired Outcome
1:04 PM	Introductions	Lindy Lavender, Acting Chair	Call to order.
1:09 PM	Approve Minutes (ACTION ITEM)	Lindy Lavender, Acting Chair	Review and adoption of minutes from the March 5, 2020 Council meeting.
<p>Motion: To approve minutes from March 5th, 2020 CoH meeting. Jaime Jenett noted three minor changes to the minutes from posted draft.</p> <p>Procedural Record:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Motion made by Doug Leich and Seconded by Teri House • AYES: Candace Collier, Dan Sawislak, Deanne Pearn, Doug Leich, Leslie Gleason, Manjit Sappal, Sherry Lynn Peralta, Gabriel Lemus, Lindy Lavender, Patrice Guillory, Shawn Ray, Teri House, Tony Ucciferri, Alejandra Chamberlain, Manuel Arredondo, Dan Peddycord, Tracy Pullar • NOES: None • ABSTAINS: None • ABSENT: None <p>MOTION APPROVED</p>			
1:14 PM	ESG Funding Recommendations (ACTION ITEM)	Gabriel Lemus, DCD	Possible action to approve recommended ESG funding allocation.

Gabriel Lemus reviewed ESG recommendations. Review and Rank (R&R) Committee received 7 applications under the County ESG program and recommended funding for 6: Adult Interim Housing Program, Calli House Youth Shelter, CORE (CC Health Services H3); Homeless Prevention & RRH (Shelter, Inc.); Rollie Mullen Emergency Shelter (STAND!); and Trinity Center.

Motion to move to accept recommendations for County ESG funding as listed on slide 5 of the agenda packet.

Procedural Record:

- Motion made by Tony Ucciferri and Seconded by Deanne Pearn
- AYES: Candace Collier, Dan Sawislak, Deanne Pearn, Doug Leich, Manjit Sappal, Sherry Lynn Peralta, Gabriel Lemus, Lindy Lavender, Patrice Guillory, Shawn Ray, Teri House, Tony Ucciferri, Alejandra Chamberlain, Manuel Arredondo, Dan Peddycord, Tracy Pullar
- NOES: None
- ABSTAINS: Leslie Gleason
- ABSENT: None

MOTION APPROVED

State ESG Recommendations. Projects recommended for funding are the following: RRH & Homeless Prevention Program (SHELTER, Inc.), Mountain View Family Emergency Shelter (SHELTER, Inc.), CCHS CORE Outreach (CC Health Services), Emergency Shelter (STAND!), Trinity Center Emergency Day Shelter (Trinity Center), and Program Administration (Contra Costa Conservation and Development Department).

Motion to move to accept recommendations for State ESG funding as listed on slide 6 of the agenda packet.

Procedural Record:

- Motion made by Teri House and Seconded by Doug Leich
- AYES: Candace Collier, Dan Sawislak, Deanne Pearn, Doug Leich, Manjit Sappal, Sherry Lynn Peralta, Gabriel Lemus, Lindy Lavender, Patrice Guillory, Shawn Ray, Teri House, Tony Ucciferri, Alejandra Chamberlain, Manuel Arredondo, Dan Peddycord, Tracy Pullar
- NOES: None
- ABSTAINS: Leslie Gleason
- ABSENT: None

MOTION APPROVED

1:24 PM	Election of CoH Chair and Vice Chair (ACTION ITEM)	Lindy Lavender, Acting Chair	Possible action to elect new Chair and Vice Chair of Council.
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Doug Leich’s term has ended and he will not reapply. Reviewed Chair responsibilities. Tony Ucciferri nominated Lindy Lavender as the new CoH Chair. Lindy Lavender accepted the nomination.

Procedural Record:

- Motion made by Doug Leich and Seconded by Leslie Gleason
- AYES: Candace Collier, Dan Sawislak, Deanne Pearn, Doug Leich, Manjit Sappal, Sherry Lynn Peralta, Gabriel Lemus, Patrice Guillory, Shawn Ray, Teri House, Tony Ucciferri, Alejandra Chamberlain, Manuel Arredondo, Dan Peddycord, Tracy Pullar, Leslie Gleason
- NOES: None

- ABSTAINS: Lindy Lavender
- ABSENT: None

Vote Results: Lindy Lavender, Council of Homelessness Chair

Lauren Larin clarified that the agenda allowed the Council to vote on the new CoH Vice Chair. Lindy Lavender reviewed the Vice Chair responsibilities. Lindy Lavender nominated Sherry Lynn Peralta as the new CoH Vice Chair. Sherry Lynn Peralta accepted the nomination.

Procedural Record:

- Motion made by Lindy Lavender and Seconded by Deanne Pearn
- AYES: Candace Collier, Dan Sawislak, Deanne Pearn, Doug Leich, Manjit Sappal, Gabriel Lemus, Patrice Guillory, Shawn Ray, Teri House, Tony Ucciferri, Alejandra Chamberlain, Manuel Arredondo, Dan Peddycord, Tracy Pullar, Lindy Lavender, Leslie Gleason
- NOES: None
- ABSTAINS: Sherry Lynn Peralta
- ABSENT: None

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Vote Results: Sherry Lynn Peralta, Council of Homelessness Vice Chair

1:44 pm	Policy Recommendations (ACTION ITEM)	Doug Leich, Sherry Lynn Peralta, Erica McWhorter, H3	Discussion of pending bills and sign on letters with possible action to approve a recommendation for support to the County Board of Supervisors and County Administrators offices.
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Erica McWhorter provided background on the policy recommendations for Board of Supervisors (BoS) and the roles of the CoH and County Administrator’s Office (CAO). Homebase will support letter/recommendation process.

Doug Leich introduced the recommendations and reviewed the revised letter for budget request addressed to State officials. Doug Leich also reviewed AB3300 Homeless Housing and Services Act, which addresses California’s homelessness crisis.

Erica McWhorter reviewed the provisions in the BoS legislative platform, which are relevant to the motion.

Leslie Gleason asked if the 55% of funds allocated for CoCs and counties permitted use for emergency shelter as Trinity Center received significant funding from the City of Walnut Creek, which will have financial challenges.

Erica McWhorter clarified that this bill is in contrast to what the Governor had been advocating, as this bill is much more comprehensive and sets realistic expectations on CoCs and communities around how funding should come down, the structure of funding, and accountability aligned with what is already in place.

Motion to recommend that BoS take a position in support of both the April 20, 2020 Budget Request for Housing & Homelessness letter to the Governor and legislative leaders and Assembly Bill 3300, the Homeless Housing and Services Act.

Procedural Record:

- Motion made by Doug Leich and Seconded by Sherry Lynn Peralta
- AYES: Candace Collier, Deanne Pearn, Doug Leich, Manjit Sappal, Gabriel Lemus, Patrice Guillory, Shawn Ray, Teri House, Tony Ucciferri, Alejandra Chamberlain, Manuel Arredondo, Lindy Lavender, Sherry Lynn Peralta, Leslie Gleason
- NOES: None

- ABSTAINS: None
- ABSENT: Dan Sawislak, Dan Peddycord, Tracy Pullar,

Motion Approved

2:04 PM	CoH Member Check-In	Lindy Lavender, Acting Chair	Roll call by Council members to share updates related to COVID-19 response.
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- Manuel Arredondo: From a public health standpoint, there is a disproportionate impact of homelessness impact on low income and undocumented communities. There is an increase in need for case management and behavioral health services.
- Teri House: The Cities of Antioch, Pittsburgh, Concord, Walnut Creek, and Contra Costa County received an additional allocation of CBDG-CV funds. City of Antioch’s normal allocation of CBDG funds were \$810,000 and the CBDG-CV funds for Antioch are \$500,000. Other jurisdictions got some sort of proportion of their normal allocations. Part of these funds will be allocated to rental and food assistance. Contra Costa County, Antioch, and Concord enacted their own rental moratoriums, so the County’s moratorium mostly affected the unincorporated cities. Teri will develop and share a list of agencies that received CBDG-CV and ESG funds after entities approve allocations.
- Leslie Gleason: Trinity Center continues basic operations in sanitary and safe conditions and following social distancing. They are seeing more people than they typically would (at least 86% increase in number of clients requesting services). Some people come just for basic needs that they cannot access through other means. They will be moving to a new space in their old property (no set date as of now). In lieu of physical gala, they will host a virtual gala on Friday.
- Leslie Gleason also provided an update on additional resources and how other agencies are responding to COVID-19. Service providers are meeting weekly, and some of the new resources that were discussed in the most recent meeting were: Catholic Charities, Shelter, Inc., and the HUME Center. There is additional funding, with slightly different eligibility and less documentation needed for rental assistance, diversion, rapid response, and Season of Sharing. The conduit for much of these funds is 2-1-1.
- Candace Collier: No updates.
- Alejandra Chamberlain: From an education perspective, they have communicated with homeless liaisons of all 18 school districts, as there will be layoffs in the next Fiscal Year to Mount Diablo’s homeless liaisons and potentially Antioch (not confirmed yet, but should go to the board). They are still working with liaisons to make sure children and families have hotspots and laptops. Alejandra encouraged participants to send her referrals for families in need of hotspots, Chromebooks, or laptops.
- Gabriel Lemus: Contra Costa County is receiving supplemental CBDG and ESG funds from the CARES Act. CBDG funds will be approximately 50% of usual allocation (\$2.7 million). County plans to use CBDG funds to focus on three core activities (food security, rental assistance, business community). The ESG funds are over 3 times the amount they usually get (\$1.3 million). The County plans to use ESG funds to primarily fund hotel/motel sheltering that H3 is undertaking for emergency shelters. Gabriel Lemus provided a clarification on the County’s eviction moratorium: It covers all residents of County, incorporated cities as well. However, if a city has a stronger moratorium than the county’s, theirs takes precedence.
- Sherry Lynn Peralta: EHSD offered the Season of Sharing emergency release funds through San Francisco Chronicle and worked with Catholic Charities East Bay to distribute the funds. More information is available on the EHSD website. The funds support housing subsidies (up to \$3K per individual/family). EHSD received many calls for this project and many of them are from Spanish-speakers only. EHSD has received support from the SSRRT Social Service Rapid Response Team (SSRRT), which has bilingual social workers. EHSD has played a role with the eviction moratoriums and made recommendations to BoS, which were approved unanimously by BoS.
- Doug Leich: The Multi-Faith ACTION Coalition (MFAC) has continued to meet via Zoom and is doing advocacy work, including the state legislations that were discussed earlier. Doug mentioned that Mariana Moore

(Ensuring Opportunity) highlighted the advocacy efforts of many organizations, including MFAC, in supporting the eviction moratoriums and rent freezes that were enacted in different cities and by the BoS.

- Deanne Pearn: Hope Solutions is continuing to work on housing homeless people in a safe way. They housed 52 households during the last 6-8 weeks. They are also providing services to clients in PSH. The mental health and ongoing support needs of the community are acute, and they are providing different types of support for mental health.
- Tony Ucciferri: Contra Costa County and Pittsburgh have adopted the majority of available HUD waivers, which allows families to self-certify incomes and inspections. This has benefited clients, as it has relaxed timelines and has frozen most inspections (except emergency and new inspections). The waivers are going on until July 31st and then will be reevaluated. Eviction moratoriums apply to HUD funded participants but rent freezes do not. Expenses have increased dramatically from rental subsidies, but HUD has made funding available to housing authorities to make up for gaps. Tony stated that they do not expect to see households being displaced or people losing housing as result of shelter-in-place.
- Shawn Ray: In San Pablo they have seen a marked increase in homelessness, probably because of shelter closing. They are trying to balance public safety and serving the population. Described concerns around human waste hazards and they have received calls from residents with complaints around this hazard. H3 has been helpful by coordinating placement of portable restrooms.
- Manjit Sappal: Shelter-in-place has meant that many homeless people have gone to the Marina and amphitheater. The County provided portable restrooms and handwashing stations, which allowed area to be cleaner. Some residents are frustrated about the Marina and dog park being closed to public.
- Patrice Guillory: From the reentry side, case management services and navigation are now provided virtually. Early jail releases due to COVID-19 has been challenging due to a lack of housing. Family members have stepped up and welcomed family members into their homes. They still provide some housing programs through diversion projects, such as Hope Solutions. Many of the currently housed clients have acute mental health and behavioral health needs. They are trying to incorporate therapeutic elements. They are also trying to procure cell phones for unhoused people who cannot get in shelters. Outreach efforts have continued but have been minimized. They are limited to trying to connect people to other services, such as medical resources, food drop-offs, and medical hygiene.
- Leslie Gleason asked Patrice whether AB 109 housing programs are still able to accept people and whether probation officers are now working in a different way. Patrice stated that they are still taking referrals from law enforcement partners. However, there are fewer referrals from probation, since they are not doing that much compliance work or visits. There has been an increase in referrals from the Public Defender’s office due to early releases for those awaiting trials. A lot of AB109 housing resources have been used up. However, they still refer clients to other providers based on funding streams, which may apply to them.
- Leslie Gleason asked Patrice Guillory whether the Reentry success center in Richmond is still operating. Patrice responded stated that they are still operating, even though their physical office is closed. However, all staff are still operating and are working remotely. They are still able to refer clients to other providers. People are also encouraged to use their WiFi hotspot, which is free, near the vicinity of the building.
- Tracy Pullar: The VA has been providing services telephonically. They are still housing Vets in HUD-VASH, but the process has slowed down. Sacramento VA Medical Center has been preparing for a surge. The homeless team has been getting trained to help in the inpatient units as needed. They recently got a large regional hotel contract approved for Veterans who are COVID-19+ or PUI. They have not seen a large number of COVID-19+ homeless Veterans at this time.

2:34 PM	County Updates and Reminders	Jaime Jenett, H3	Informational updates related to COVID-19 response and other Council updates
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Jaime Jenett provided an update on the County’s response to COVID-19.

- **Housing & Services:** Project Roomkey allowed the County to open up motel/hotel rooms for people experiencing homelessness. It initially prioritized relocating people living in congregate housing if shelters did not have capacity for own rooms, in order to prevent outbreaks. Approximately 250 people have been relocated. The County has also contracted with services providers to provide services, such as food delivery, mental health services, and case management services. They are now focusing on the most vulnerable unsheltered population. Most people are being placed through referrals from ERs, hospitals, and psychiatric emergencies. Clients working with CORE are also prioritized. The County has distributed tents for some unsheltered people to provide some isolation.
- **Local Provider Education, Supplies, Materials:** County staff are in constant communication with service providers to provide information, answer questions, and learn about the needs of clients. The County is also providing masks, gloves, and PPE to frontline providers for them and so they can distribute these supplies to people experiencing homelessness.
- **Fed/State/Regional County Collaboration:** During these challenging times, staff from different agencies have had to work together and rethink strategies. There is also more constant communication at the regional and state level, for instance, Bay Area health officers are now working together as a unified front.
- **Data tracking:** Jamie Klinger’s team is working on how to track data related to COVID-19. They are also providing technical support to providers to help them capture new data.
- **Communication:** Different documents, policies & procedures, guidelines, and FAQ are online. The public can access the website if they have questions around homelessness and resources available. Jaime encouraged participants to contact her via e-mail for unanswered questions.
- **Funding:** The County received \$850,000 from State COVID-19 ESG funds.

Jaime provided informed participants that if they want to sign up for the newsletter, they can e-mail her at Jaime.jenett@cchealth.org.

2:45 PM	2020 PIT Count Results	Jamie Klinger, H3	Presentation on 2020 PIT Count Results
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Jamie Klinger provided an update on the first stage of the analysis of the 2020 PIT (1/22/20) Count Results. Some of the highlights from the results were the following:

- 2,277 people (1,760 households) experiencing homelessness
- 1% decrease in PIT count from 2019 to 2020
- 52% had a mental health condition; 50% had a substance use issue; 45% had a chronic health condition; 6% were veterans; 31% were chronically homeless
- 83% lost their housing in Contra Costa County

Jaime Klinger notified participants that the updates on the 2020 PIT count are now in the H3 web page on Data Reports: <https://cchealth.org/h3/coc/reports.php#PIT>

2:58 PM	Public Comment	All	Open period for members of the public to comment on items not listed on the agenda.
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Andrea Foti (Shelter, Inc.): Shelter, Inc. opened a new COVID-19 hotline. This hotline is different than their prevention hotline, as it is exclusively for people affected by COVID-19. They are able to help people with rent,

utilities, gift cards, and short-term hotel stays. In Contra Costa County call 925.349.0571, from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. Monday-Friday (except holidays) for more information.			
2:59 PM	Community Announcements	All	Standing Item
No community announcements.			
3:00 PM	Pin It	All	Standing Item. Other future items of discussion and scheduling to be considered.
Next CoH meeting will take place on June 4 th , 2020 and will also be remote.			

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