

Advisory Council on Aging Housing Workgroup

Monday, May 20, 2019 Meeting Minutes

Introductions: Ella Jones (Contra Costa Health Plan), Lisa Hicks (Independent Living Resources), Mike Awadalla (Care Patrol), Taylor Kimber (Congressman DeSaulnier's Office), Anitra Winder (Habitat for Humanity), Joan Carpenter (Supervisor John Gioia's Office), Nhang Luong (Area Agency on Aging; Staff Support), and Gerald Richards (Advisory Council on Aging; Chair).

Presentation: Lavonna Martin, Director of Health, Housing and Homeless Services with Contra Costa Health Services Department

- Two years ago, Health Services Department created the Health, Housing and Homeless Services Division, aka "H3" to target housing and homeless issues.
- Not everyone recovered from the 2009 and 2010 recession. More families and older adults became homeless – a shift in the demographics.
- There simply have not been adequate development of affordable housing in California, which has 1/3 of the country's affordable housing stock.
- New Point in Time (PIT) counted 2,295 individuals experienced homelessness on January 29, 2019. PIT is a temperature check, not full picture of the scope of homelessness.
- Contra Costa also collects data everyday via homeless service providers. To understand what is happening in the community, 95% of homeless service providers are contributing data to the same database. It found that about 6,400 individuals received homeless services through the year. The data is use to produce an Annual Report, which will be release in about 3 weeks.
- Evaluating both PIT and Annual Report data gives a fuller picture of homelessness in the county.
- Contra Costa conducts a PIT count every year. Most communities do one every other year, as required by HUD. In 2015 was when Contra Costa began counting annually. From 2017 to 2018, the number of individuals experiencing homelessness jumped 38%. From 2018 to 2019, there is a 3% increase. Overall, there has been a 43% increase in the last two years; Contra Costa and Alameda Counties both experienced similar rate of increase.
- PIT found homelessness amongst older adults aged 62+ jumped 99% in 2018. However, there is an 18% decrease in 2019. The opening of Tabora Gardens, 125 units of permanent, low-income housing for older adults in Antioch, might have contributed to the levelling of senior homelessness.
- Program introduced last year: CORE partnership with EHSD's General Assistance program to get homeless individuals onto SSI and create pathways to housing.
- Recently launched program: Rapid Resolution targets individuals about to be homeless or recently became homeless. It diverts these individuals away from the homeless shelter system, which now houses at-risk and vulnerable populations such as seniors. Thus far, the program is able to divert 10% of individuals. The strategy is to figure out who might be able to assist. One example of success was a homeless man reunited with his grandma in Fresno who could house him. Access the program via 211 or Care Centers, where they will do a quick screening. The Hume Center is the provider and now scaling the program to add additional specialists and interns. Current caseload is 30.
- There are plans to add/expand CARE/Warming Centers - 3% of the homeless counted in the PIT were staying at these centers. It is easier to add Care/Warming Centers by extending the hours of existing locations that already serve the homeless. (Less opposition from the community.) In

some cases, doors are open almost 24 hours. (Care Center by day and Warming Center by night.) Families/children and single woman are using the Warming Center in Concord, which has 30 cots. The second center is in Richmond and has 30 cots too. There are plans to build a Care/Warming Center in East County. City of Antioch is giving them the land to build a shelter and Care Center.

- There was a request for update on the micro housing project in North Richmond. Lavonna Martin said that the site did not work out and they are now looking in San Pablo. The plan is to build 50 micro units using shipping containers.
- \$7 million of One-Time-Only funds are coming down the pipe. That money will go towards constructing the East County Care Center. Funds will also go to Housing Authority to renovate units that have boarded up.
- The Coordinated Entry System shifted from “first come, first served” to “most in need”. By prioritizing most in need, older adults are therefore serve more.
- Lavonna Martin participates in regional conversations every month about the homeless crisis. The Bay Area receives the second most funding in California, behind LA for homeless services. There are about 24,000 homeless in the Bay Area. This is a regional crisis. COMPACT is a regional initiative to address housing and homelessness. It is important to have the right people at the table to represent Contra Costa County.
- Governor’s May Revised Budget includes \$1.75 billion for housing production and \$500 million to remove barriers to building mixed-income housing.

Housing White Paper Update – Allison Pruitt completed the draft. Please provide feedback to Nhang Luong who will forward to Allison.

Clarification on Advisory Council on Aging (ACOA) Advocacy Rules – After consulting with multiple sources, Nhang Luong confirmed that the ACOA could engage in advocacy, such as writing letters of support. The caveat is that the position cannot be in opposition to that of the Board of Supervisors/Contra Costa County. A disclaimer also must be used to express that the opinion is solely the ACOA’s and not of the Board/Contra Costa County.

Aging Symposium Update –The ACOA is preparing to have the event in August 2020. The focus will be to provide information to young seniors about planning for retirement. The organizer said there is not enough time to include housing issues on the agenda.

Announcement:

- Habitat for Humanity East Bay’s contract with Contra Costa County to rehabilitative mobile homes was renewed. They are also finalizing a contract with the City of Antioch.

Next meeting:

Monday, July 15, 9:30 to 11:30

Meeting adjourned at 11:30