



Contra Costa Council on Homelessness Meeting

Thursday, August 6, 2020, 1 pm – 3 pm

Recording Link:

<https://contracosta.webex.com/recording/service/sites/contracosta/recording/playback/9debf76064e7467b86df270a4be1f408>

Password: MpmirxW4

MINUTES

Council Member Attendance: Candice Collier, Dan Sawislak, Teri House, Leslie Gleason, Lindy Lavender, Alejandra Chamberlain, Gabriel Lemus, Lynn Peralta, Doug Leich, Tony Ucciferri, Shawn Ray, Tracy Pullar, Manuel Arredondo

Absent: Deanne Pearn, Manjit Sappal, Patrice Guillory

Staff Attendance: Shelby Ferguson, Cassie Hourlland, Jaime Jenett, Jamie Klinger, Lakisha Langston, Erica McWhorter, Lavonna Martin, Jenny Robbins

Public Attendance: Alex Atkinson, Alicia Alferex, Andrea Foti, Andrew Haber, A Martinez, Barbara Simpson, Bette Felton, Bill Scheinaman, B Lopez, Charles Kreling, Dawn Morrow, Denise Clarke, George Fulmore, Gita Bahramipour, Jill Ray, Joan Greenberg-Abramsky, John Eckstrom, Jonathan Russell, Karri Eggers, Kim Ritchie, Lauren Larin, Lesley Garcia, Magen Jack, Mariel McMIndes, Mary Terjeson, Mary Fitzgerald, Margaret Watts, Maureen Nelson, Michelle Mankewich, Monica Shepard, Nicholas Carter, Nicole Green, Nathalie Sterne, Ricka Davis-Sheard, Rosa Elaine Garcia, Samantha Quinn, Shayne Kaleo, Taylor Kimber, Teresa Karr, Tom Doll, Nicholas Carter, Tom Doll, Will Goodwin, Madelyn Mitchell, Matt Holmes, Mariel McMIndes

Agenda Item	Presenters	Desired Outcome
1. Introductions	Lindy Lavender, Chair	Call to order.
Council members introduced themselves by video. Community members were invited to introduce themselves via chat.		
2. Public Comment	All	Open period for members of the public to comment on items not listed on the agenda.
Ricka Davis-Sheard announced her nonprofit, founded in September 2019, is partnering with Golden Hills to launch mobile showers for the City of Antioch. Showers will operate on either Tuesdays and Thursdays in the mornings and afternoons. The organization is looking for additional locations to set up more showers. Additional information can be found on thesharecommunity.com .		
3. Approve Minutes (ACTION ITEM)	Lindy Lavender, Chair	Review and adoption of minutes from the July 2, 2020 Council meeting.

Motion

- State of Motion:
 - To approve July 2, 2020 minutes.
- Discussion
 - None
- Procedural Record
 - Motion made by: Teri House
 - Seconded by: Leslie Gleason
 - AYES: Leslie Gleason, Teri House, Lindy Lavender, Doug Leich, Gabriel Lemus, Lynn Peralta, Dan Sawislak, Tony Ucciferri
 - NOES: None
 - ABSTAINS: None
 - NO VOTE: Shawn Ray, Tracy Pullar
 - ABSENT: Manuel Arredondo, Alejandra Chamberlain, Candice Collier, Patrice Guillory, Deanne Pearn, Manjit Sappal
 - Motion passed

4. Policies and Procedures Committee (ACTION ITEM)	Cassie Hourlland, H3	Possible action to approve members for the Policies & Procedures Committee.
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Cassie Hourlland explained the need for a policies and procedures committee to review numerous policies and procedures that will need to be updated throughout the rest of the year. Leslie Gleason asked for additional clarification on who can join the committee and what will be brought forward. Cassie answered by stating it would include policies and procedures such as the Housing Security Fund, Coordinated Entry, and CoC/ESG Written Standards and it would consist of COH members. Erica McWhorter clarified providers who are using these policies and procedures will be invited to this committee as well.

Leslie Gleason, Teri House, and Doug Leich volunteered to join the committee.

Motion

- State of Motion:
 - Motion to approve Leslie Gleason, Doug Leich, and Teri House to join the Policies and Procedures committee.
- Discussion
 - None
- Procedural Record
 - Motion made by: Tony Ucciferri
 - Seconded by: Dan Sawislak
 - AYES: Manual Arredondo, Alejandra Chamberlain, Candace Collier, Leslie Gleason, Teri House, Lindy Lavender, Doug Leich, Gabriel Lemus, Lynn Peralta, Tracy Pullar (via chat), Shawn Ray (via chat), Dan Sawislak, Tony Ucciferri
 - NOES: None
 - ABSTAINS: None
 - ABSENT: Patrice Guillory, Deanne Pearn, Manjit Sappal
 - Motion passed

5. Point in Time Count and Housing Inventory County Update	Jamie Klinger, H3	Final PIT report available. Discussion of final HIC submission to HUD.
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Jamie Klinger provided an update on the PIT and HIC data and announced that the report would be published on the H3 website. Any questions or concerns can be emailed to the RED team at redteam@cchealth.org.

Highlights include:

- 2020 PIT& HIC submitted on 6/30/2020
- The full report will be published on 8/6/2020
- Reviewed HIC data (Slides 10-13)

6. Educational Services Update	Alejandra Chamberlain, Education Representative	Updates to education services for persons experiencing homelessness during the pandemic.
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Alejandra presented on updates to education services and the impacts of education due to COVID-19.

Highlights Include:

- Updates on the current school reopening plans (Slide 15)
- Rights and protection reminders for students experiencing homelessness (Slide 16)
- Information on contacting the local school district or county liaison. (Slide 17)

Discussion:

Q: (Teri House): Were there any homeless liaisons laid off due to budgetary shortfalls?

A: (Alejandra): Yes, West Contra Costa, Mt. Diablo and Antioch all had changes. Antioch lost the homeless liaison. The previous foster liaison will now carry out both responsibilities. Mt. Diablo also had a change in liaison and has tentatively identified an individual. West Contra Costa has Julie Loretta who previously focused on serving families in transition will be supporting foster and homelessness. There will be pressure on caregivers and service providers to advocate because there will only be one liaison. Alejandra noted there will be access to education whether it be distance learning or in person and this will bring changes in needs including school supplies and transportation.

Q: (Leslie via chat): Regarding school meals, are there any changes in how this will happen, or it will be the same as at the end of last year and over the summer?

A (Alejandra): Depends on the district. This can vary. Alejandra can provide updates on specific districts.

7. COVID-19 County Updates	Erica McWhorter, H3 Jamie Klinger, H3 Shelby Ferguson, H3 Lavonna Martin, H3	COVID Community Updates and POSSIBLE ACTION to approve notice of meetings series about homeless system of care and County response to COVID-19 pandemic.
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Proposed CES Hotel Prioritization and POSSIBLE ACTION to approve CES hotel prioritization process.
Project Homekey NOFA and POSSIBLE ACTION to approve coordinated exit strategy and Project Homekey letter of support.

COVID Community Updates

Erica McWhorter provided an overview of the upcoming community meeting series hosted by H3 to provide information to the community on the Contra Costa Homeless System of Care Response to the COVID-19 Pandemic.

Highlights Include:

- Purpose of meetings. (Slide 20)
- Dates and times of each of the three community meetings. (Slide 21)
- Introduction of working group meetings. (Slide 22)
- Questions can be submitted to Jaime Jenett at Jaime.jenett@cchealth.org.
- Gabriel Lemus is available to answer any questions about the working group meetings.

Motion

- State of Motion:
 - Approve notice of meetings series about homeless system of care and County response to COVID-19 pandemic.
- Discussion
 - None
- Procedural Record
 - Motion made by: Teri House
 - Seconded by: Gabriel Lemus
 - AYES: Alejandra Chamberlain, Candace Collier, Leslie Gleason, Teri House, Lindy Lavender, Doug Leich, Gabriel Lemus, Lynn Peralta, Tracy Pullar (via chat), Shawn Ray (via chat), Dan Sawislak, Tony Ucciferri
 - NOES: None
 - ABSTAINS: None
 - ABSENT: Manual Arredondo, Patrice Guillory, Deanne Pearn, Manjit Sappal
 - Motion passed

Hotel Program Data

Jamie Klinger provided overview of the Hotel Program Data. Lavonna Martin clarified there are 599 rooms for persons under investigation (PUI).

Highlights Include:

- Number of rooms procured for PUI/COVID positive and high-risk consumers and utilization rates. (Slide 24)
- Average length of stay, Number of consumers who have exited the program and the top exit destinations. (Slide 25)

Discussion:

Q:(Maureen Nelson via chat): I heard Winter Nights Shelter is being cancelled. Is Project Roomkey going to serve these people?

A: (Lavonna Martin): To her knowledge, Winter Nights Shelter is not cancelled, but they are considering starting the program later in the fall. Winter Nights was provided guidance and will be modifying the program accordingly. Judith can speak to this at some point.

Proposed CES Hotel Prioritization

Lavonna Martin introduced the strategy developed in January, so the system of care can work towards this as we move forward in the context of COVID-19. Lavonna reviewed goals and the four strategies that will be used to meet the goals. Erica McWhorter introduced the CES Hotel Prioritization for permanent housing. Shelby Ferguson presented the recommended prioritization plan that was approved through the Oversight Committee on July 30, 2020.

Highlights include:

- Purpose and Goals of CES Hotel Prioritization. (Slide 27)
- Overview of the Prioritization Process. (Slides 28 and 29)
- Comparison to current prioritization process. (Slide 30)

Discussion:

Q (Tony Ucciferri): Is there a timeframe for all of this in the way of a waiver or is this a permanent plan?

A (Shelby and Erica): It is not a permanent change. There is no period of time determined for this prioritization, but likely will be used for the entire length of time the hotel program is in place. Tony wanted to make sure that HUD was on board with this plan.

Motion

- State of Motion: Approve CES Hotel prioritization process.

- Discussion
 - Leslie- The Oversight meeting included a broader audience than just COH members, which provided for a more robust conversation. Leslie also pointed out that the group reviewed a redlined version that was sent out to the group in the meeting. An updated version was sent after the meeting and this was sent to the COH for review and approval. Leslie asked if the version the COH had was the most updated version as there were edits provided.
 - Erica explained there were edits made to the document that the COH received for approval.
 - Leslie detailed concerns about voting without seeing the final language and was unsure if the document and written policy the COH was asked to approve would be a part of the Project Homekey application.
 - Erica noted we could vote on the version the COH received prior to the meeting.
 - Doug Leich asked if the COH was able to vote on a specific version of the policy because it wasn't shared ahead of time and clarified that the motion was to approve the description of the prioritization process.
 - Lavonna Martin responded by stating they were approving the current prioritization process not just the policies and procedures. There would be an opportunity to review the policies and procedures and add in the comments and edits at a later time.
 - Motion stands. No further discussion.
- Procedural Record
 - Motion made by: Tony Ucciferri
 - Seconded by: Teri House
 - AYES: Alejandra Chamberlain, Leslie Gleason, Teri House, Lindy Lavender, Doug Leich, Gabriel Lemus, Lynn Peralta, Tracy Pullar (via chat), Shawn Ray (via chat), Dan Sawislak, Tony Ucciferri
 - NOES: None
 - ABSTAINS: None
 - NO VOTE: Candace Collier
 - ABSENT: Manual Arredondo, Patrice Guillory, Deanne Pearn, Manjit Sappal
 - Motion passed

Project Homekey NOFA

Lavonna Martin provided an overview of the Project Homekey NOFA and announced that Contra Costa County submitted an application, the fifth application submitted in the state.

Highlights include:

- NOFA Overview including amount, project types, target population and tiering (Slide 32)
- Contra Costa County will be competing with eight other Bay Area Communities for \$91 million.
- Overview of the Contra Costa County Application. (Slide 33)
- Application includes a Coordinated Exit strategy. (Slide 34 and 35)
- Erica McWhorter described key components in the coordinated exit strategy.

Discussion:

Q (Jonathan Russell via chat): In terms of actual PSH availability, is the pacing/flow of openings still roughly 36 per year? Considering this, how might the newly approved prioritization plan affect (if at all) the existing queue of those awaiting PSH vis a vis the (re)prioritization of the clients in exiting hotels?

A (Lavonna Martin): We never had enough resources to begin with and at the end of the day there is no change in the number of individuals who need the service nor has the availability for supportive housing in PSH changed. The flow will continue to be the same. The hotels will open up interim housing ability and create additional flow. As we look to continue to bring on PSH, we have a HUMS project, but we need to continue to build PSH. Lavonna referred to the strategy described earlier in the meeting to detail how this would fall into that strategy.

Q (Jill Ray via chat): What is the percent of homeless who need permanent supportive housing (PSH) in our County?

A (Erica): There is a high need for PSH in Contra Costa that has not gone away with the addition of the hotel program. HUD and other funders have been making it clear that building PSH is not the most rapid or effective option. We are looking to include alternatives. In addition, there are enough PSH to meet about 50% of the need per year with an additional 2900 more permanent housing interventions needed to meet needs including PSH.

Q (Leslie via chat): So glad to hear about expand housing navigation what funds will we use for this, and how will providers be identified?

A (Lavonna): Hope Solutions is the housing navigation provider and has been successful at gaining additional funding through Contra Costa Regional Health Foundation to support housing navigation services through hotels. There has been additional funding through Kaiser which is coming soon. The system is still working to bring in additional resources. These are good questions to bring and discuss at the COVID Meeting series.

Q (Tony): Is the letter of support still needed if the application is already submitted?

A (Lavonna): The process has been a little backwards. The state encouraged applicants to submit enough so the state can get applicants in queue and they will request the additional necessary documents. This letter will be provided at that time. The funds need to be expended by December so there was a need to expedite the process.

Motion:

- State of Motion: To approve proposed initial coordinated exit strategy and Project Homekey letter of support outlining coordinated exit strategy.
- Discussion:
 - Dan Sawislak- what are the factors? How will they make decisions?
 - Lavonna- tier one, list of tie breakers that include items like the LOS.
- Procedural Record:
 - Motion made by: Tony Ucciferri
 - Seconded by: Leslie Gleason
 - AYES: Alejandra Chamberlain, Candice Collier, Leslie Gleason, Teri House, Lindy Lavender, Doug Leich, Gabriel Lemus, Lynn Peralta, Tracy Pullar (via chat), Shawn Ray (via chat), Dan Sawislak, Tony Ucciferri
 - NOES:
 - ABSTAIN:
 - Absent: Manual Arredondo, Patrice Guillory, Deanne Pearn, Manjit Sappal
 - Motion passed

8. Funding Updates	Lauren Larin, Homebase Bette Felton, Chair Contra Costa Regional Health Foundation Erica McWhorter, H3	Update on HUD CoC NOFA. Contra Costa Regional Health Foundation Grants Homeless, Housing Assistance and Prevention (HHAP) Round Two Funding
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Update on HUD CoC NOFA

Lauren Larin provided an update on the HUD NOFA stating there was no official news.

Highlights include: (Slide 38)

- HUD asked for the annual review of the Grant Inventory Worksheets (GIW). This is not an indication that the competition is imminent.
- Homebase is continuing with the NOFA preparations and will be available for providers for TA support.
- Individuals may reach out to Lauren or Homebase with questions.

Homeless, Housing Assistance and Prevention (HHAP)

Erica provided an update on another round of funding for HHAP.

Highlights Include: (Slide 39)

- Cities, Counties and CoC will receive an allocation but there is no detail on the contents or eligible uses.
- The state is trying to be flexible and responsive to the current pandemic.
- We are hopeful the application will be available by November 30th.

Contra Costa Regional Health Foundation

Bette provided an update from the Regional Health Foundation.

Highlights include:

- There is currently \$1.9 million in the fund which includes a \$500,000 donation from the Chan Zuckerberg Foundation for testing on several different items.
- \$1.572 has been distributed and there is \$104,000 left to be distributed.
- Approximately 70 applications have been received
- Applications have been closed after round six. There may be a round seven if additional funds become available.
- Additional information on the organizations funded and the amounts of funding can be found on ccrhf.org.
- Lavonna added the Regional Health partnership allowed us to expand services that were COVID related when state and federal dollars weren't available.

9. Policy Updates	Lynn Peralta, EHSD Representative Cassie Hourlland, H3	Status of AB3300 Status of Eviction Moratorium Extension Status of Countywide Sales Tax Submission of USICH Comments
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Status of AB3300 and Eviction Moratorium Extension

Lynn Peralta provided context on the shift in the state landscape and provided a brief update on AB 3300 and the extension of the eviction moratorium.

Highlights Include:

- Context of the shifting state landscape. (Slide 42)
- Update on AB 3300 (Slide 43)
- Update on Eviction Moratorium. (Slide 44)

Countywide Sales Tax and USICH Comments

Cassie Hourlland provided a brief update on the sales tax measure and the USICH comments.

Highlights Include:

- Status of Countywide sales tax (Slide 46).
- BOS passed ordinance to place on November ballot on August 4, 2020 and will hold a special meeting on August 21st to determine if it needs pulled from the ballot.
- H3 submitted USICH comments. (Slide 47)
- Additional policy items will be discussed in the COVID meeting series.

10. Community Announcements	All	Standing Item.
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Jaime Jenett announced that Constant Contact has been sending emails to Junk. (Slide 49)

Doug Leich provided the links to two webinars that will be hosted on August 20th and September 3rd by Ensuring Opportunity and encouraged individuals to join. Please contact Doug for additional information on these webinars. (Slide 50)

11. Pin It	All	Standing Item. Other future items of discussion and scheduling to be considered.
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The next Council on Homelessness meeting will be held Thursday, September 3, online.

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. 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.

