



# HOMELESS COORDINATING AND FINANCING COUNCIL MEETING DRAFT MINUTES

Tuesday, April 10, 2018

1:00 pm – 4:00 pm

California Department of Veterans Affairs (Cal Vet)

Medal of Honor Hall

1227 O Street, 1<sup>st</sup> Floor

Sacramento, CA 95814

## **Agenda Item I – Call to order and roll call**

Council Chair Ben Metcalf called the meeting to order at 1:05 p.m. Prior to the roll call, California Department of Veterans Secretary, Dr. Vito Imbasciani provided opening remarks and welcomed everyone to the meeting.

Council Chair Metcalf proceeded to introduce Council members Joe Uchishiba and Jennifer Loving and asked each member to share their professional and personal experience in regards to homelessness.

## **In attendance/member roll call**

### Council members present:

- Ben Metcalf, Council Chair and Director Department of Housing and Community Development;
- Russell Atterberry, Vice Chair and Undersecretary for the Department of Veterans Affairs;
- Alicia Sutton, Chief of the Housing, Homelessness and Civil Rights Branch for the State Department of Social Services;
- Donald Cavier, Chief Deputy Director for the California Housing Finance Agency;
- Stephanie Welch, Executive Officer for the Council on Criminal Justice and Behavioral Health in the Department of Corrections and Rehabilitation;
- Mark Stivers, Executive Director of the California Tax Credit Allocation Committee (TCAC) in the Treasurer's Office;
- Gina Buccieri-Harrington, Government Office of Emergency Services;
- Gary McCoy, Policy and Community Affairs Manager, San Francisco Recreation and Parks Department;
- Emilio Ramirez, City of Riverside Community and Economic Development;
- Jennifer Loving, Executive Director for Destination: Home;
- Gail Gilman, Chief Executive Officer for the Community Housing Partnership;
- Jody Ketcheside, Deputy Regional Director for Turning Point of Central California Incorporated (late arrival);
- Joe Uchishiba, City of Fairfield Police Officer.

### Absent:

- Marianne Cantwell, Chief Deputy Director of Health Care Programs for the State Department of Health Care Services;



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- Amy Anderson, Executive Director at PATH Ventures.

### **Agenda Item II - Approval of the January 10, 2018 minutes**

Council Chair Metcalf made a motion to approve the minutes from the January 10, 2018 meeting; the motion was moved by Council member Stivers and seconded by Council member Cavier. The motion passed with Council member Ketchside abstaining.

### **Agenda Item III - Adoption of the final Housing First Checklist for Housing and Housing Based Services and Programs and a report from the Department of Housing and Community Development**

The Department of Housing and Community Development (HCD) staff member Monique Pierre presented the assessment of the housing or housing-based programs that fall within the [Statute](#) and the adoption of the checklist as a statewide tool for future evaluations.

#### ***Discussion***

- Council member Welch commended the interagency staff working group on their efforts to determine the assessment criterion identified in the April 10, 2018 Staff Report (Staff Report).
- There was some reservation on the adoption of the Checklist as the statewide tool for all state administered homelessness programs. However, members agreed that the Checklist should be used to assess programs that provide dedicated housing units to individuals or families who were formerly homeless.
- Council members continued to discuss the criteria and questioned why Senate Bill 2 homelessness funding was not included in HCD's analysis. Staff stated that the program is still under development and plan to integrate the Housing First approach as part of the design process.

#### ***Public Comments***

##### *Bill Mendelson Executive Director, Central Valley Low Income Housing*

Mr. Mendelson introduced himself and complimented HCD on using the Checklist to assess its programs. He felt the Checklist was most appropriate for permanent housing programs and inquired why HCD excluded the Affordable Housing and Sustainable Communities (AHSC) from the analysis.

Mr. Mendelson added that, as part of an application package, the applicant should be mandated to participate in the Continuum of Care activities, i.e., Coordinated Entry Systems (CES) and their information should be entered in the local Homeless Management Information Systems (HMIS).

Council Chair Metcalf and HCD Director stated that the programs presented in the Checklist were focused on addressing the needs of individuals and families experiencing homelessness. The AHSC program did not meet the criteria, and furthermore, it does not have a programmatic preference to serve the homeless population.



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*Council Recommendations:* The Council moved to adopt the following recommendations:

1. The Council supported HCD's assessment provided in the Staff Report and agreed that the recommendations presented met the Council's objectives and adhered to the statutory requirements.
2. The Council agreed to adopt the Checklist for state housing agencies or departments and will further discuss utilizing the Checklist for non-housing state agencies or departments.

### **Agenda Item IV: A report on the initial catalogue of housing and housing-based services programs**

HCD staff member Catherine Kungu provided a brief presentation on the list of state housing or housing-based programs compiled by the interagency staff working group.

#### ***Discussion***

- Members acknowledged that the variation of the state homeless programs might not align with the tiered system developed by the interagency staff working group. Alternatively, members suggested that the staff working group should compile a comprehensive list of programs targeting or addressing the needs of individuals or families experiencing homelessness.
- It was suggested that the interagency staff working group should survey other state departments or agencies not represented on the Council to build a comprehensive list of all state programs that address homelessness.

### **Agenda Item V: progress report on the Council's prioritized goals**

HCD Staff member Catherine Kungu provided a report on the interagency staff working group progress on implementing the Council's goals identified at the January 10, 2018 meeting.

#### ***Discussion***

- Members encouraged the interagency staff working group to seek out opportunities to collaborate with universities on implementing the Council's goals.
- Council member Welch would be interested in learning more about CES.
- Council member Sutton would like to see a need analysis expand beyond supportive housing and include a full range of interventions that address homelessness.



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### **Agenda Item VI: Report from Marin County - Ending Chronic Homelessness in Marin: A Story of Collaboration**

Ashley Hart McIntyre, County of Marin Homelessness Policy Analyst, Christine Paquette, Society of Saint Paul Vincent de Paul's Executive Director, Andrew Hening, City of San Rafael's Director of Homeless Planning, and Paul Fordham, Homeward Bound of Marin's Deputy Director presented Marin County's approach on reducing chronic homelessness. In response to the persistent and high visibility of people experiencing homelessness, Marin County began piloting new strategies to end chronic homelessness. These strategies included implementing a new Homeless Outreach Team (HOT) and the launching of the CES in October 2017.

The Marin HOT is a collaborative effort of local public and nonprofit entities designed to bridge the system gaps and assist those in greatest need to access permanent housing. HOT partners meet on a bi-weekly basis to develop and implement an action plan to assist each HOT client to access permanent housing. Depending on an individual's needs and goals, an action plan may include access to behavioral health treatment, reengagement with family, wraparound case management, or other assistance, all with the overarching goal of placing the individual in permanent housing to accommodate for their specific needs. Once an individual is placed into permanent housing, a new person is added to the HOT list.

Marin team reported that their efforts around ending chronic homelessness receive support through a commitment of local resources from the City of San Rafael, the County, and the Housing Authority. These resources include:

- Dedicated funding for Housing First capacity building.
- The creation of a Director of Homeless Planning position.
- A community homeless fund to support countywide outreach support.
- Strategic county investments including the funding of a housing locator position, security deposit assistance, damage mitigation fund, and a landlord support line.
- A set aside of 50 vouchers for people on the CES list.

As result of all of these efforts, over 18 months, the county permanently housed 53 formerly chronically homeless individuals.

The Marin County team provided a list of ways where the state could assist with their local efforts:

1. Support data sharing requirements i.e., support development of releases of information.
2. Fund administrative structures like the HMIS, CES, and policy staff.
3. Require program participation or integration with the local CES.
4. Fund technical assistance in the form of the "[Built for Zero](#)" model for California.
5. Incentivize collaborative funding applications.
6. Incentivize or require public housing authorities to engage in the homeless systems of care.



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**Agenda Item VII: A proposal from Council Member Gary McCoy to establish two subcommittees or working groups on issues affecting youth who are experiencing homelessness or were formerly homeless.**

Council member McCoy requested the Council postpone the decision for the creation of the Transitional Aged Youth Subcommittee or working group until the passage of Senate Bill 918. However, Council member McCoy proposed for the establishment of the Behavioral Health subcommittee or working group.

### ***Discussion***

Overall, the members were supportive of the creation of the new working group. However, there was some concern that the additional responsibilities of a new subcommittee would have an impact on their current staff workload.

### ***Public Comments***

*Mandy Taylor, California LGBT Health and Human Services Network*

Ms. Taylor introduced herself and strongly supported the creation of the new working group. She also reiterated that the purpose of the Council is to engage the community and encouraged members to go further and establish a Cultural and Linguistic subcommittee or working group.

*Jane Adcock, California Behavioral Health Planning Council*

Ms. Adcock was supportive of the new working group and invited Council member McCoy to participate in the California Behavioral Health Planning Council meetings. In addition, Ms. Adcock mentioned that her Council is establishing a Housing and Homelessness Committee and offered to partner or collaborate with member McCoy.

*Kevin McAllister Executive Director –California Coalition for Youth*

Mr. McAllister voiced his support for the formation of the new working group.

### ***Council Recommendation***

The Council recommended the establishment of the Behavioral Health working group and requested member McCoy to present recommendations to the Council at the next quarterly meeting.

**Agenda Item VIII Other matters not on the agenda for consideration at future meetings.**

There were no other matters proposed at the meeting.

**Informational item: Public comments on agenda items and matters not listed on the agenda.**

*Mandy Taylor, California LGBT Health and Human Services Network*

Ms. Taylor provided comments on the following:



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- Agenda Item V. The needs analysis should include the collection of Sexual Orientation and Gender Identity (SOGI) data. In addition, the Council should encourage the collection of SOGI data when programs are collecting data for their local HMIS.
- On the issue of sexual identity, 30 – 40 percent of the youth on the streets belong to the LGBTQ community. If they are not counted, they do not receive an allocation for funding or services.

*Bill Mendelson Executive Director, Central Valley Low Income Housing*

Mr. Mendelson would like to see the Staff Report posted on the website at the same time as the meeting notice and agenda.

*Helene Schneider, Regional Coordinator, United States Interagency Council on Homelessness (USICH)*

Ms. Schneider introduced herself and mentioned that the updated federal strategic plan on preventing and ending homelessness, *Opening Doors*, will be released at the 2018 National Conference on Ending Homelessness on July 25, 2018 in Washington, DC.

*Danica Bogicevic, VISN 21 Network Homeless Coordinator*

Ms. Bogicevic announced that the Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) allocated the 2017 [\*HUD-Veterans Affairs Supportive Housing \(HUD-VASH\) vouchers\*](#). Of the 5,211 vouchers awarded, 2,198 were awarded to California. These new allocations will bring the total number of active HUD-VASH vouchers nationally to 90,838, with 16,410 in California.

*Joe Colletti, Chief Executive Officer, Urban Initiatives*

Mr. Colletti stated that a comparison of the most current point in time count numbers revealed that the number of chronically homeless persons increased significantly in California. This was an 18.5 percent increase between 2016 and 2017.

In addition, Mr. Colletti stated that a prolonged exposure to homelessness has a significant effect on individuals that can result in death. Homelessness is much more than the absence of physical housing; it is a tension-filled, trauma-filled, and treacherous-filled condition that often results in injuries and fatalities.

Mr. Colletti proposed that the solution should include an increase in the number of permanent supportive housing units or beds. He defined permanent supportive housing as an evidence-based and best practice. Supportive housing offers households with disabling conditions and high levels of needs, the appropriate level of social service needs and provides subsidized housing for which they pay no more than 30 percent of their adjusted monthly income.

### **Adjournment**

The meeting adjourned at 4:23 pm.