

Homeless Policy Steering Committee Meeting

Meeting Minutes | August 14, 2019

Whole Person Care Conference Room | 1177 Francisco Blvd E. Suite B, San Rafael, CA | 3:00 PM-4:00 PM

1. Welcome. Call to Order:

2. Roll Call

HPSC Voting Members in Attendance:

Elected Officials

County Board of Supervisors Susannah Clark for Supervisor Damon Connolly
Cities and Towns: Mayor Ann Morrison

Health & Human Services

Behavioral Health & Recovery Services: Jei Africa

Community Development

Community Development Agency: Molly Kron

Consumer Representative

Bill Hale

Domestic Violence

Center for Domestic Peace: Christina Schiffner

Faith-Based Organizations

Marin Organizing Committee: Pat Langley

Law Enforcement

San Rafael PD Lynn Murphy

Homeless Service Providers

Ritter Center: Mark Shotwell

Community Action Marin: Laurel Hill

Homeless Housing Providers

Homeward Bound: Mary Kay Sweeney

Buckelew Programs: Chris Kughn

Center Point:

Veteran's Services

HHS Veteran Services Sean Stephens

Employment Services

Downtown Streets Team: Zoë Neil

Regional Representation

Women Helping All People: Royce McLemore

Youth

Side By Side TAY: Laura Taylor

3. Approval of the Minutes

a. May 8, 2019 Minutes

- i. Susannah Clark noted that the minutes said "San Rafael Chamber of Commerce" where they should have said "San Rafael City Council Chambers"

- ii. Susannah moved to approve the minutes from the May 8 meeting as corrected; Mark Shotwell seconded the motion.
- iii. All in favor, none opposed, no abstentions. Motion carried.

4. Introductions/Announcements

- a. Two representatives from the Salvation Army introduced themselves. The SA in Marin has a small presence and they were surprised that it has little involvement here. They are hoping to fill some gaps; they have a limited social services presence but nationally SA is very involved in issues related to homelessness and willing to partner as needed
 - i. Sean Stephens shared that the SA has decent-sized homeless advocacy group in SF, and he relies on Harbor Lights rehab program for vets, which the Veterans office uses quite heavily
- b. Molly Kron shared that the County is rolling out and implementing tenant protections: just cause eviction, source of income discrimination protection, and mandatory mediation. CDA is working with the cities and towns to adopt these protections as well. CDA is doing their strategic planning for CDBG and HOME grants, including community meetings to inform the next consolidated strategic plan.
- c. LaSaunda Tate noted that Homeward Bound is wrapping up the end of their fiscal year, including releasing reports; the housing-focused shelter transition is going well, and removing barriers to shelter has helped more people access shelter.
 - i. Mark Shotwell said that Ritter has many clients in Mill Street and the changes have been great
 - ii. Zoë Neil observed that Downtown Streets Team referrals to Mill Street have also been great
- d. Zoë Neil shared that Downtown Streets Team runs a work experience program, the main goal of which has been getting folks back into employment. They had many community partners come out to help after their shed was burned down, and they have surpassed their fundraising goal to get their shed, tools, and carts back.
- e. Andrew Hening passed around a notice of SMART train testing for any folks who will be unsheltered along the train tracks.
- f. Bill Hale noted, on the subject of housing retention, that for tenants in subsidized housing, getting information about laws that apply has been difficult. The law library has just gotten a tenants' rights law book about HUD regulations. He also shared a suggestion for the mobile home park in Larkspur: help the tenants buy the park
 - i. Ann Morrison responded that the city has talked about that, and it won't happen, unfortunately
- g. Christina Schiffner shared that Donna Garske had just celebrated her 40th anniversary at Center for Domestic Peace
- h. Luis Quintanilla shared a recent success with a client at New Beginnings Center, who was able to be sober from alcohol, meth, and marijuana. The client was part of Pathways Court, and demonstrates a big success from everyone working together.

- i. Laura Taylor shared that Side By Side has had a tremendous amount of intake and referrals, including 5 referrals for youth last week. Their 2-bedroom transitional housing unit had 5 different youth go through the apartment.
- j. Jei Africa noted that County Behavioral Health and Recovery Services is committed to people with severe mental health and housing issues. They work with many partners to provide wraparound services, including a new partnership with Buckelew for an outreach team to do assessments on the street to remove a burden from people who found it difficult to come in for assessment.
- k. Sean Stephens shared that the County Veterans office has an outreach person, and works with all organizations in the HPSC; they have done quite well working with vets enrolled in Whole Person Care and vets who are homeless. Huge numbers of vets have been housed this year.
- l. Laurel Hill shared a recent success: the CARE outreach street teams have been more connected with recent programs
- m. Chris Kughn announced that Buckelew is launching a new homeless outreach and assessment program, which is very exciting; as Buckelew's new Executive Director, he is new to this group
- n. Mark Shotwell noted that Ritter was just awarded a grant from HRSA to expand behavioral health services and medicine-assisted treatment and they are adding an employment specialist. Shout out to BHRS and WPC for supporting ACT training later this month.
- o. Susannah Clark said it is very exciting to be where we are now. We've been fighting this fight for so long. Last week we had our first Stepping Up working group meeting with Todd Shermer. Pathways Court is one of the great success stories, trying to move to a softer, warmer system. She is seeing people stretch beyond their job descriptions to make it work, trying to come up with a common language to communicate.
- p. Carrie Sager shared that the County has submitted applications for California Emergency Solutions and Housing funds and Housing for a Healthy California funds from the state
- q. Pat Langley shared that Marin Organizing Committee is a network of institutions that train and bring the power of ordinary people to the democratic system. They have participated in every city council and Board of Supervisors meeting for renter protections and homeless issues. They have a celebration coming up on October 27 from 3-5 at Marin County Convention Center to celebrate 10 years of the work they've been doing.
- r. Mary Kay Sweeney said that the Dominican sisters have agreed to go back to the San Rafael city council to extend the Yellow Hallway project
- s. Ken Shapiro shared two big successes: the Care Coordination platform WIZARD is now communicating with HMIS, meaning there might be data appearing in WIZARD from HMIS as soon as Monday; and HHS has finally gotten WIZARD accounts for IHSS APS social workers

- t. Royce Mclemore shared that Women Helping All People continues to work with Community Action Marin for Season of Sharing funding so people who are homeless who need deposit assistance can be helped.
- u. Terry Dowling from the Marin Commissioner on Aging said she was here to make sure older adults who are homeless or at risk are included in this process
- v. Ashley Hart McIntyre noted that last year was the first year the County operated the Severe Weather Emergency Shelter, and acknowledged that the process was bumpy. The County is scheduling a listening session; they're working within restrictions but want to work creatively. Currently they're looking at morning of September 3 for that meeting.

5. Public Comment

There was no public comment.

6. CoC NOFA Summary

- a. Homebase summarized this year's Continuum of Care NOFA and local process. A summary document is available; please email marin@homebaseccc.org for a copy if needed.
- b. Sean Stephens observed that we have information on veterans, particularly veterans who have committed suicide
 - i. Homebase will contact Sean for more information on veterans for the community application
- c. Mark Shotwell said that on the employment piece, it would be good to have a forum to come back to employment as a whole. There are many examples of people with high needs going back to work; we should talk about all the work we've done and not just Ritter's new project

7. Approve CoC NOFA New Project Scoring Tool

- a. Renewal project scoring tools were approved at the May meeting.
- b. Homebase summarized changes to this year's New Project Scoring Tool, which were approved by committee.
- c. Mary Kay Sweeney moved to approve the New Project Scoring Tool; Susannah Clark seconded the motion.
- d. All in favor, none opposed, no abstentions. Motion carried.

8. Consideration of New HPSC Board Member for Affordable Housing Seat: EAH Housing

- a. Tim Koehler from EAH Housing was not present at the meeting; discussion of the nomination was pushed to the November regular HPSC meeting.

9. Updates

- a. Reminder of Special Meeting 9/11/19
 - i. There will be a special meeting of the HPSC on September 11 at 3 pm to approve the ranked list for the CoC NOFA.
- b. Coordinated Entry Committee update

- i. To date, 165 people have been housed through Coordinated Entry.
- c. Point in Time Count Update
 - i. The official PIT numbers have been released. They have not changed from the preliminary PIT numbers, including a 7% overall decrease in homelessness and a 28% decrease in chronic homelessness.

10. Setting the Agenda for Future HPSC Meetings

- a. HMIS Update
- b. CoC NOFA
- c. Veteran Definition
- d. Presentation by Homeless Youth

11. Adjourn 5:01