

Homeless Policy Steering Committee Meeting

Meeting Minutes | November 13, 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: 3:03

2. Roll Call

HPSC Voting Members in Attendance:

Elected Officials

County Board of Supervisors Supervisor Damon Connolly

Public Housing Agency

Marin Housing Authority: Michelle Taniguchi

Consumer Representative

Bill Hale

Domestic Violence

Center for Domestic Peace: Donna Garske

Faith-Based Organizations

Marin Organizing Committee: Pat Langley

Homeless Service Providers

St. Vincent de Paul: Christine Paquette

Ritter Center: Mark Shotwell

Community Action Marin: Laurel Hill

Homeless Housing Providers

Homeward Bound: Mary Kay Sweeney

Bucklew Programs: Chris Kughn

Center Point: Marc Hering

School Districts

Marin County Office of Education: Karen Allen

Veteran's Services

HHS Veteran Services Spence Casey

Regional Representation

Women Helping All People: Royce McLemore

Youth

Side By Side TAY: Laura Taylor

3. Approval of the Minutes

a. August 14, 2019 Minutes

i. Chris Kughn moved to approve the minutes from the August 14 meeting; Mary Kay Sweeney seconded the motion.

ii. All in favor, none opposed, no abstentions. Motion carried.

b. September 11, 2019 Minutes

i. Mark Shotwell moved to approve the minutes from the September 11 meeting; Pat Langley seconded the motion.

ii. All in favor, none opposed, Bill Hale abstained due to absence at the meeting. Motion carried.

4. Introductions/Announcements

- a. Mary Kay Sweeney announced an upcoming community meeting about using the HUD parcel in Novato for vet housing and workforce housing.
- b. Pat Langley announced that Marin Organizing Committee was able to have its 10th anniversary celebration during the power outage. They had to move from the Marin Center exhibit hall to Rodef Shalom, but had a great turnout and a great meeting. MOC will be expanding teams into the areas of senior issues & mental health, especially teenagers.
- c. Bill Hale mentioned that he is still getting complaints from people who can't get to the mobile showers due to conflicts between bus schedules and the mobile showers schedule.
- d. Mark Shotwell announced that the Marin Human Rights Commission asked Mark to speak at its meeting last night. He did some updates to the commission about the homeless numbers and people housed and success due to partnerships. It was a 10 minute presentation and an hour of questions. On the showers issue, Ritter has been crunching data since it discontinued showers in February, and has found that 40% of the people who were getting showers are no longer getting medical and behavioral health services. Ritter will be reaching out to other providers to see if they're connected to the system in other ways.
- e. Spence Casey described the successful veterans day service on Monday: 700 people attended; there was a large bbq and they served 500 meals. Tomorrow there is a homeless outreach event at Marinship Park. Veterans Services will be there with other agencies provide dental services, showers, food, and optometry services.
 - i. Bill Hale noted that Sausalito has lost overnight hours at the post office because of homelessness; the police won't patrol because it's private property.
- f. Melanie Hamburger noted that Marin City Health & Wellness has a mobile dental van that can partner with the showers
- g. Michelle Taniguchi announced that Marin was awarded 5 new VASH vouchers right before Veterans Day.

5. Public Comment

There was no public comment.

6. Designate Administrative Entity for Homeless Housing, Assistance, and Prevention (HHAP) funding

- a. Staff summarized HHAP funding and explained that Marin County is the only eligible Administrative Entity for the Continuum of Care portion of the funds.
- b. Mary Kay moved to approve the County as the Administrative Entity for the funds; Chris Kughn seconded the motion.
- c. All in favor, none opposed, no abstentions. Motion carried.

7. Form Committee for Prioritization of HHAP Funding

- a. Staff provided a summary of one-time HHAP state funding. The HPSC is responsible for determining how to spend the Continuum of Care allocation, which is predicted to be over

- \$1,000,000. Because the HHAP application is due two days after the next HPSC meeting, staff requested empowering a committee to determine how HHAP funds should be spent. This committee would meet early in the new year, would be open to the public, and any HPSC voting members in attendance would vote on the final use of the funds.
- b. Chris Kughn moved to create a subcommittee and empower it to make the decision on how to use the HHAP funds; Christine Paquette seconded the motion.
 - c. All in favor, none opposed, no abstentions. Motion carried.

8. Updates

- a. Coordinated Entry Committee update
 - i. To date, 176 people have been housed through Coordinated Entry, including 27 through VASH vouchers. The Housing Authority has received 5 new VASH vouchers, and is waiting for the award announcement of Section 811 mainstream vouchers. Last year's mainstream vouchers are almost all utilized, which improves our odds of receiving more. Victory Village is expected to open August 2020. 11 of the beds will come through Coordinated Entry: 5 for homeless seniors, and 6 for homeless senior MHSA clients.
 - ii. Bill Hale asked what's happening with placement of most cooperative clients, as the focus seems to be on those with behavioral issues.
 - 1. Howard Schwartz: We're working on prioritizing people for Rapid Rehousing through Coordinated Entry, which is the appropriate solution for people with lower service needs.
 - 2. Bill: Do we have any rapid rehousing numbers?
 - 3. Howard: Not through Coordinated Entry, since we're still working out the details.
 - 4. Michelle Taniguchi: We visited the Henry Robinson facility on the recommendation of Mark Shotwell, where they're housing people without vouchers by matching participants; they're able to make it work by figuring out roommate matching. We're trying to figure out if it's something Marin can duplicate.
 - 5. Bill: it's hard because people are doing all they can but getting nowhere fast
 - 6. Mark: When we have those people who are less high need, more capable, more cooperative, but not getting housing because housing is a limited resource, we need to find other solutions, like family reunification and roommates. We need to be giving people other options and not giving them the message that they should wait around or do the things that would make them high need; we should preserve those spots for people who need them.
 - 7. Bill: Until these other solutions are happening we should think about changing the program to accommodate this other population.

8. Damon Connolly: I don't see us backing off that main priority population of the most visible, hardest to serve.
9. Mary Kay Sweeney: I think we've been focused on people who are the most vulnerable and chronically homeless in Coordinated Entry but people have been getting housing through our other programs; it's not quantified through these settings.
10. Anna Hurtado: We have done huge reshifting of the structure around housing-focused shelter. Shelter services have changed significantly, providing options for those who aren't going to get vouchers, with a focus on housing-focused case management. We'll continue to share outcomes from that change.
11. Christine Paquette: The other thing to understand is that to get housed you may have a roommate, you may not be in Marin, you may have to spend 50% of your income. Coordinated Entry isn't based on behavior—we've housed the most cantankerous and the most docile—but we've had seniors who are living on the street who we've found places that cost \$600/month and they get \$1200 but they don't want to pay that.
12. Bill: I'm just looking for parity
13. Christine: that's what Rapid Rehousing is. We have things to offer, but it might not be satisfactory to the people looking.
14. Howard: We all know there's a lot more to be done and we all want to tackle more people
15. Mark: it shouldn't be okay for any of us that people are homeless, but we do have to have a process to make sure we're reaching the most vulnerable people first and people aren't dying on the street. Right now the federal government isn't prioritizing the population you're talking about.

b. HMIS Update

- i. There will be a meeting of the HMIS Subcommittee next Wednesday, November 20, from 3-5 pm. The meeting will cover the new HMIS data standards, the new Coordinated Entry program, and updating the HMIS Policies and Procedures.

9. Setting the Agenda for Future HPSC Meetings

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

10. Adjourn 3:47