

Homeless Policy Steering Committee Meeting

Meeting Minutes | February 12, 2020

Whole Person Care Conference Room | 1177 Francisco Blvd E. Suite B, San Rafael, CA | 3:00 PM-5:00 PM

1. Welcome. Call to Order: 3:05

2. Roll Call

HPSC Voting Members in Attendance:

Elected Officials

County Board of Supervisors

Supervisor Damon Connolly

Community Development

Community Development Agency:

Molly Kron

Public Housing Agency

Marin Housing Authority:

Michelle Taniguchi

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

Community Action Marin:

Chandra Alexandre

Homeless Housing Providers

Homeward Bound:

Mary Kay Sweeney

Bucklew Programs:

Chris Kughn

Center Point:

Marc Hering

Veteran's Services

HHS Veteran Services

Spence Casey

Employment Services

Downtown Streets Team:

Jesse Taylor-Vermont

Youth

Side By Side TAY:

Laura Taylor

3. Approval of the Minutes

a. November 13, 2019 Minutes

- i. Chris Kughn moved to approve the minutes from the November 13 meeting; Mary Kay Sweeney seconded the motion.
- ii. All in favor, none opposed, no abstentions. Motion carried.

4. Introductions/Announcements

- a. Ashely Hart McIntyre provided an update on Carrie Sager's new baby;
- b. Zoey Neal introduced herself as in attendance on behalf of Downtown Streets Team;
- c. Jenn Jaime introduced herself as in attendance on behalf of Community Action Marin, as the lead staff on census efforts to count persons experiencing homelessness in Marin;

- d. Joshua Milstein introduced himself as in attendance on behalf of Integrated Community Services;
- e. Announcement from Community Action Marin (CAM): The 2020 census will take place before the next HPSC meeting. CAM is planning to do outreach to persons experiencing homelessness in Marin County with care kits, with the message that persons experiencing homelessness deserve to be counted. CAM will be organizing 1-3 group gatherings to make it more likely that this population will be counted. CAM is seeking to partner with Marin providers to do sock drives. If interested, please talk to Chandra Alexandre. CAM is also seeking feedback regarding marketing materials for the “You Deserve to Be Counted” census campaign, predominantly regarding what kinds of images of persons experiencing homelessness:
- f. HPSC members requested to see a variety of examples of subpopulations experiencing homelessness in the photos – with a focus on families and seniors;
- g. Jenn Jaime responded that contact information will be sent to the HPSC attendees shortly;
- h. Ashley Hart McIntyre mentioned that materials can be left at the Whole Person Care offices at 1177 Francisco Blvd. for pickup.

5. Public Comment

There was no public comment.

6. HPSC Chair & Co-Chair Elections

- a. Chair Supervisor Damon Connolly was nominated for re-election. City of Belvedere Vice Mayor James Campbell was nominated for the seat of Co-Chair.
- b. Staff asked if there were any additional nominations; none received.
- c. All in favor, none opposed. Motion carried.

7. Approval of Updated Coordinated Entry Policies & Procedures

- a. Homebase presented the updates to the Policies and Procedures, which had been approved by the Coordinated Entry Committee.
- b. Chris Kughn asked for clarification on who makes the decision of who is marked “inactive” in the system;
- c. Ashley Hart McIntyre clarified that case managers and outreach staff are consulted, and depending on their interactions with persons on the list within the past 90 days, the persons either remain active or are marked inactive. If once marked inactive, and a case manager or outreach staff engage with that person again, the person can be marked “active” again at any time.
- d. Christine Packet moved to approve the updated Policies and Procedures as amended; Donna Garske seconded the motion.
- e. All in favor, none opposed, no abstentions. Motion carried.

8. Approval of Letter of Support for Homeward Bound’s Application for GPD Renewal Funding

- a. Mary Kay Sweeney described the GPD-funded projects in Marin, the application process, and requirement for a signed letter of support from the CoC.

- b. Mary Kay Sweeney mentioned that Homeward Bound would be reducing beds from 16 to 12 in the next funding cycle, because HHS Veterans Services has been housing so many Veterans successfully recently;
- c. Donna Garske recommended a suggestion to correct “homeless” to “Homeless” in the Letter of Support;
- d. Donna Garske moved to approve endorsement of the letter of support as amended; Chris Kughn seconded the motion.
- e. All in favor, none opposed, no abstentions. Motion carried.

9. Updates

- a. Coordinated Entry Committee update
 - i. Michelle Taniguchi (MHA) provided the Coordinated Entry Updates. So far in 2020, Coordinated Entry has housed 17 family members, and 32 veterans. There was a stall due to shortfall, but the newly awarded mainstream vouchers this month should help.
 - ii. There are 11 Victory Village slots for persons 62 years of age and older, who have up 52% Area Median Income. MHA is also trying to dedicate 5 Permanent Housing slots to Coordinated Entry, and is seeking public comment. MHA will share the comment link and Victory Village information with the HPSC listserv.
 - iii. Additionally, the Housing Choice Voucher Sec. 8 program public comment period is open; MHA is trying to limit criminal background check to 3 years instead of 5 years.
 - iv. Molly Kron asked if it would be possible to eliminate background checks entirely; Michelle Taniguchi responded that HUD requires persons to not be engaged in criminal activity while residing in Sec. 8-supported housing, but there may be flexibility on the policies aimed to prevent this from happening; Molly Kron stated that Alameda and a number of other communities have eliminated background checks. Voting members discussed that the recent criminal justice reform bill language has been used to justify elimination of background checks by San Francisco.
 - v. The HPSC voting members discussed planning for a special meeting to approve an official comment on the matter from HPSC before the public comment period ends; Staff to HPSC can draft a comment to represent the HPSC’s stance, recommending elimination of all background checks for Sec. 8 applicants.
 - vi. Michelle Taniguchi will check when the public comment period ends;
 - vii. Additionally, MHA is looking for second housing locator; the position will be posted soon.
 - viii. Donna Garske asked about the number of family members housed; Michelle Taniguchi and Ashley Hart McIntyre clarified that of the 50 set aside vouchers, 12 percent go to families (in alignment with the percentage of families counted in the PIT Count). Howard Schwartz mentioned that this number doesn’t include the number of families housed by CalWORKS.

- ix. Mary Kay Sweeney recommended that families experiencing and exiting homelessness come and speak during the public comment portion of the May 2020 HPSC meeting.
 - x. Ashely Hart McIntyre mentioned compiling materials that would demonstrate the whole picture of family homelessness in Marin, which incorporates MHA and CalWORKs resources, and other sources. The focus of the next HPSC will be on families, and will include a “Family Speak Out.”
 - xi. Additionally, Michelle Taniguchi mentioned that MHA is partnering with Swords to Plowshares in San Francisco, to ensure that Veterans that are not VASH eligible are also being served through Rapid Rehousing.
- b. HHAP Update
- i. Ashley Hart McIntyre reported that she submitted the HHAP County and CoC applications today, for a total of
 - ii. At the last meeting in November, the HPSC delegated authority to a subcommittee, which recommended prioritizing CoC HHAP funding for capital costs for chronically homeless families, individuals, and veterans;
 - iii. Counties allocation will go to largely supporting WPC case management, and some also set aside to outreach to populations in underserved regions (the Canal, West Marin, and South Marin).
- c. ESG Update
- i. Ashley Hart McIntyre reported that CESH Round 2 remaining funds will be prioritized for the anchor out communities. A draft of the RFP is being reviewed by HHS, and the final RFP will be released this Spring.

10. Setting the Agenda for Future HPSC Meetings

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

11. Adjourn 3:35