

Homeless Policy Steering Committee Meeting

Meeting Minutes | May 13, 2020

Online Zoom Meeting | 3:00 PM-5:00 PM

1. Welcome. Call to Order: 3:06

2. Roll Call

HPSC Voting Members in Attendance:

Elected Officials

County Board of Supervisors

Supervisor Damon Connolly

Mayor – City of Belvedere

James Campbell

County Health and Human Services

Mental Health and Substance Use

Services:

Jei Africa

Community Development

Community Development Agency:

Molly Kron

Public Housing Agency

Marin Housing Authority:

Michelle Taniguchi (joined at 3:38/not counted in votes)

Domestic Violence

Center for Domestic Peace:

Donna Garske

Faith-Based Organizations

Marin Organizing Committee:

Pat Langley

Probation

County of Marin Probation Dept.

Michael Daly

Homeless Service Providers

St. Vincent de Paul:

Christine Paquette, Howard Schwartz

Community Action Marin:

Chandra Alexandre

Homeless Housing Providers

Homeward Bound:

Mary Kay Sweeney, Paul Fordham

Buckelew Programs:

Connie Mann

Center Point:

Marc Hering

School Districts

Marin County Office of Education:

Karen Allen – Proxy for Laura Trahan

Veteran's Services

HHS Veteran Services

Sean Stephens

Employment Services

Downtown Streets Team:

Zoe Neil – Proxy for Karen Strolia

Others in attendance:

Gustavo Goncalves – aid to Damon Connolly

Linda Jackson – Aging Action Initiative

Ashley Hart McIntyre – Marin HHS, HPSC Staff

Lucie Hollingsworth – Legal Aid of Marin

Chris Asimos – Aging Action Initiative (HPSC Voting Member nominee)

3. Approval of the Minutes

- a. February 2, 2020 Minutes
 - i. Mary Kay Sweeney moved to approve the minutes from the February 2, 2020 meeting; James Campbell seconded the motion.
 - ii. All in favor, none opposed, no abstentions. Motion carried.
- b. April 7, 2020 Special Meeting Minutes
 - i. James Campbell moved to approve the minutes from the April 7, 2020 special meeting; Molly Kron seconded the motion.
 - ii. All in favor, none opposed, no abstentions. Motion carried.

4. Introductions/Announcements

5. Public Comment

- a. Linda Jackson thanked the staff that came to visit from Aging Action Initiative (AAI). She reported that there is mutual interest in older homeless people with dementia and AAI has a good program. They will be doing a workshop on Monday at 2pm, and any staff, board, or community members are invited.

6. HPSC Elections

- a. Action to approve nominations recommended by the HPSC Elections Subcommittee.
 - i. Tara Ozes provided an overview of the subcommittee results: Dominique McDowell was recommended for approval to the revised Healthcare sector seat, representing Marin City Health and Wellness Center. Chris Asimos was recommended for approval to the newly-added Older Adults sector seat, representing the Aging Action initiative.
 - ii. Donna Garske stated her approval in particular of the addition of representation for older adults.
- b. Donna Garske moved to approve the nominees; Mary Kay Sweeney seconded the motion.
- c. All in favor, none opposed. Motion carried.

7. Approval of Emergency Solutions Grant (ESG) Applicants

- a. Discussion
 - i. Tara Ozes provided an overview of the Review and Rank Panel applicant recommendations.
 - ii. Pat Langley, an ESG Review & Rank panelist, reported that the panel took their responsibility seriously, that the applications were all good, and that it is her hope that as a result Marin gets the grants it can for the community.
 - iii. Damon Connolly asked whether the scoring tool used is the same as the next item on today's agenda. Tara explained that the tool used for the ESG applications was approved at a prior meeting. It is much simpler than the CoC NOFA scoring tool. The ESG applications include information that show highest performance per state-suggested criteria, so the tool closely mirrors the state criteria. ESG competitive applicants will compete with others in the region.

- iv. Molly Kron inquired about the third competitive applicant, and Tara explains that it was Community Action Marin for street outreach.
- v. Donna Garske asked whether it is a conflict of interest for those with ESG applications up for approval to vote. Consensus is that yes, it is a conflict of interest, and those voting members should recuse themselves from the vote.
- b. James Campbell moved to approve the ESG applicants; Sean Stephens seconded the motion.
 - i. Donna Garske and Mary Kay Sweeney recused themselves due to conflict of interest.
- c. All in favor, none opposed, no abstentions. Motion carried.

8. Approval of CoC NOFA Local Competition Policies & Renewal Project Scoring Tool

- a. Discussion
 - i. Tara Ozes provided an overview of the materials, and the revisions made pursuant to a meeting with CoC-funded providers.
 - ii. No other comments or discussion.
- b. James Campbell moved to approve the CoC NOFA Local Competition Policies & Renewal Project Scoring Tool; Chandra Alexandre seconded the motion.
- c. All in favor, none opposed, no abstentions. Motion carried.

9. Approval of Coordinated Entry Values Statement

- a. Discussion
 - i. Tara Ozes provided an overview of the history of the statement and the drafting process; the values statement was created at the suggestion of and with the input of the Marin Coordinated Entry Committee, and was drafted into its current form by Howard Schwartz.
 - ii. Howard Schwartz suggested taking out the phrase “secret weapon” and changing it to “secret sauce.” Damon Connolly suggested brainstorming a better term. After discussion, it was decided to change “secret weapon” to “strength.”
 - iii. Donna Garske voiced concerns about the use of the phrase “Housing First methodology”; worried that it may marginalize transitional housing programs for DV survivors. Ashley Hart McIntyre stated that Housing First is really just a philosophy and doesn’t preclude any particular housing model. After more discussion, it is decided to change the word “methodology” to “philosophy.”
 - iv. Connie Mann pointed out that the comma and the word “to” (i.e., “. . . we have committed to adopting a Housing First methodology, and to a person-centered approach . . .”) is superfluous. After discussion, it is decided to change this sentence to: “To that end, we have committed to adopting a Housing First philosophy and a person-centered approach . . .”
- b. James Campbell moved to approve the Coordinated Entry Values Statement as amended; Pat Langley seconded the motion.
- c. All in favor, none opposed, no abstentions. Motion carried.

10. Updates

a. Coordinated Entry Committee update

i. Report from Michelle Taniguchi:

1. There were 183 people housed via CE. Despite shelter in place, we have housed 7 people in the month of April, collaboratively with VA, Homeward bound, Ritter and Vinnies.
2. For 50 mainstream we received this year, we housed 8, 2 searching, 30 vouchers pending, and 10 to be back filled.
3. We have a slight administrative road block in issuing the voucher. Our county court system is closed until 29th which is causing the delay on our background check per National Credit Reporting which is the company MHA uses. We are considering setting up the desk outside for fingerprinting which may speed up the process, if the case managers can facilitate getting the client to the finger printing. Our eligibility worker is discussing this possibility with Tammy from Ritter Center.
4. We have approved placing 5 candidates per year on the waitlist of Public Housing through Coordinated Entry. We also opened the supportive housing waitlist to move people off of our CoC-funded beds, so that there are more beds with case management available for Coordinated Entry.

b. HHAP Update

- i. Tara Ozes reported that there is not much to update at the moment; funds are shifting in prioritization to respond to the COVID-19 pandemic.
- ii. Ashley Hart McIntyre stated that the county council is not going to waive the RFP process, but that they will try to make it as light a burden as possible. County dollars were mostly to support Whole Person Care and some for additional outreach to areas that don't get as much outreach. Tara Ozes stated that the priorities for CoC dollars were for capital development for PSH with bonus points for targeting seniors. Ashley states that Carrie Sager comes back on June 1, so we will not move forward with an RFP until then.
- iii. Ashley further stated that HHAP and HEAP dollars have mostly gone to the Diversion program at St. Vincent's and Mill Street and so far these funds are not going to be repurposed for COVID-19 response. There was already major need in the community and those will not disappear.
- iv. Molly Kron asked for clarification regarding the allocation forms for the HHAP dollars, if there would be one for seniors and one for families. Ashley clarified that yes, family housing was also prioritized. There are two allocations, County and CoC, and the CoC allocation was prioritizing PSH for families or vets or chronically homeless with bonus points for seniors.
- v. Tara further clarified that the state side also requires set aside for Youth.

c. ESG Update

- i. Tara Ozes reported that the deadline for the ESG competition was extended to July 10. A new source of ESG funding from the CARES Act – ESG-CV – will be

available soon and we expect that the application will be much different than the usual process. The fund is to respond to COVID-19. A NOFA for these funds is due to be released any day now, and those applications will also due July 10. The money can be used for emergency shelter, rental assistance, transitional housing as well as some other things in order to help respond to covid19 now and recovery following COVID-19. Approximately \$600,000 is Marin's estimated allocation.

11. Adjourn 3:56

DRAFT