

# Homeless Policy Steering Committee Meeting

Meeting Minutes | October 13, 2020  
Online Zoom Meeting | 1:00 PM-2:00 PM

## 1. Welcome. Call to Order: 1:00 PM

## 2. Roll Call

HPSC Voting Members in Attendance:

### Elected Officials

Mayor – City of Belvedere	James Campbell
<u>Community Development</u>	
Community Development Agency:	Jillian Zeiger for Molly Kron
<u>Public Housing Agency</u>	
Marin Housing Authority:	Michelle Taniguchi
<u>Consumer Representative</u>	Bill Hale
<u>Domestic Violence</u>	
Center for Domestic Peace:	Donna Garske
<u>Faith-Based Organizations</u>	
Marin Organizing Committee:	Pat Langley
<u>Law Enforcement</u>	
Forensic Multidisciplinary Team (FMDT) Liaison:	Lynn Murphy
<u>Homeless Service Providers</u>	
St. Vincent de Paul:	Christine Paquette
Ritter Center:	Mark Shotwell
Community Action Marin:	Chandra Alexandre
<u>Homeless Housing Providers</u>	
Homeward Bound:	Mary Kay Sweeney,
Center Point:	Marc Hering
Buckelew:	Chris Kughn
<u>Veteran’s Services</u>	
HHS Veteran Services:	William Casey
<u>Employment Services</u>	
Downtown Streets Team:	Karen Strolia
<u>Older Adults</u>	
Aging Action Initiative:	Chrisula Asimos

### Others in attendance:

Carrie Sager - Marin HHS, HPSC Staff  
Ashley Hart-McIntyre - Marin HHS, HPSC Staff  
Gustavo Goncalves – Supervisor Connolly’s Office  
Curtis Havel – Harbormaster for Richardson’s Bay Regional Agency  
Andrew Hening – City of San Rafael, Opening Doors, and Richardson’s Bay Regional Agency  
Tony Gardner – Homeward Bound of Marin and Fairfax resident  
Connie Mann - Buckelew

Ken Shapiro - Chief Assistant Director/COO of Marin HHS  
Beth Pollard – Executive Director, Richardson’s Bay Regional Agency  
Leah Stebbins - Beckelew  
LaSaunda Tate – Homeward Bound of Marin and Nash committee

### 3. Introductions/Announcements

- a. Bill Hale – public restrooms are very important to homeless people; two at Lagoon Park are due to be replaced, but are on hold b/c of Covid; also a discussion in a meeting not long ago about the market across from Marin Center about two six-stall restrooms to be added; Bill notes that there are a number of homeless people in that area and restrooms are always in demand.

### 4. Public Comment

- a. None

### 5. Approval of HPSC Draft Meeting Minutes from August 12, 2020 Meeting

- a. Chandra Alexandre called for a vote and moved to approve the draft July minutes. James Campbell seconded the motion.
- b. All in favor, none opposed. Motion carried.

### 6. Approval of ESG-CV Round 2 Funding Priorities

- a. Action to approve the ESG-CV Round 2 Funding Priorities.
- b. Discussion;
  - i. *In this round of ESG-CV funding, Marin is receiving **\$5,082,562**. Funding can be spent **on emergency shelter, outreach, and rapid rehousing**. This funding **cannot be spent on prevention**: clients served must be living on the streets, in emergency shelters, or imminently losing their housing and lack resources to move into new housing.*
- c. Comments
  - i. Carrie Sager: progressive engagement is probably not the best use of the money b/c it has to be spent by Jan 2022, would give a very short window. We’re not suggesting that at this point. A few other ideas: one is getting a boat to help with outreach to help with the Anchor Out community. Would help outreach team if they had access to a boat. Need to determine with HCD if this is allowed. Another idea: RRH with an outreach component, able to go to encampments and RV sites, etc., to communicate with folks in the canal and seek folks out and see if they’d be good candidates for RRH to bring them into project.
  - ii. James Campbell: questions – with outreach to Anchor Outs, had understood that they were also working with Audubon group to use their boat? Issues with storing and maintaining a boat—may be an expensive use of the money.
  - iii. Andrew Hening: Back in Feb/March had an agreement with Audubon where they would take St. Vincent and DT Streets and others out on the water, but SIP started and so Audubon has not been sending even its own field staff out. That

oppty has disappeared. Curtis has been taking people out and making it work, but a boat would be extremely beneficial. Likes idea of outreach plus RRH and would ask to add Richardson's Bay to the list. Thinks a dozen have a path toward PSH and another 30 that would be good candidates for a Safe Harbor program (like Sausalito pilot).

- iv. Mary Kay Sweeney: Any opportunity for a boat share program? Like a car share?
- v. Curtis Havel: there are programs where you can share boats, but mostly for recreation. Oppty to continue partnering with Audubon, could perhaps use the funding for wear and tear on their boat.
- vi. Carrie Sager: it seems like the people who know the most about boats have the most concerns about boats – maintaining/storing/etc. – maybe boat purchase is something we should wait until we have more time to figure out.
- vii. Chris Kughn: maybe a boat is not best use of this funding stream.
- viii. Christine Paquette: Is this money earmarked for people just chronically homeless? Covid affected?
- ix. Carrie Sager: overall this is for people who are literally homeless, not those couch surfing, unless they are put into emergency shelter for one night to qualify.
- x. Christine Paquette: people do walk in to St. Vincent, but often b/c they were somewhere that they were referred. Outreach should be a plan for those who are in touch with those people who can be referred to us.
- xi. Mark Shotwell: are there restrictions on the type of housing that can be provided? Couldn't use a family that was precariously housed to qualify? Does everyone need their own lease on their own place?
- xii. Carrie Sager: They would have to have their own lease. Even if in shared housing, people would need to have their own lease.
- xiii. Mark Shotwell: we need to push back against the state when they create these obstacles – what is necessary is to keep people in housing – many of them have rents they can afford when conditions were better, but can't now, and it is far more expensive to let them lose housing and then rehouse them.
- xiv. This process is also culturally insensitive to people in the canal where there are four or five families in an apartment, and we can't house them. We are precluded from helping those people that are most at risk. Wants to give feedback on this process.
- xv. Jillian Zeiger: CDBG funds from federal govt and going to recommend that some of the funds be used for rental assistance and to continue the program we already have. Fed has said the money has to go to areas at high risk for infection/transmission. Some might go to small businesses and micro-enterprises, encourages everyone to come to meetings to advocate for where the money should go.
- xvi. Carrie Sager: We need to tell them what our breakdown of funds is going to be – how much emergency shelter, how much outreach, how much RRH. Don't have

exact numbers yet for what we need for the Homekey emergency shelter stuff, but based on some eyeballing, it looks like the maximum amount for all emergency shelter costs would be about \$1.5 million. Leaves \$3.5 million for RRH and outreach. We would like CoC to approve these funding categories, and we will work out the specifics in time to do the actual application. So emergency shelter/Homekey – temporary Mill Street site while Mill Street is being remodeled. And having an outreach worker do RRH outreach, and some outreach for renting a boat/wear/tear on boat in partnership with another agency, with balance going to RRH (general and/or harbor project, renting boat slips). Any additional projects?

- xvii. Mark Shotwell: are those in Anchor Out literally homeless?
- xviii. Carrie Sager: Yes, unless they have pump-out service and electric – so probably only two people, and basically any Anchor Out would qualify.
- xix. LaSaunda Tate: are we sold on these going to RRH? And how much? To keep program running, the data doesn't always back up RRH being an effective model.
- xx. Carrie: RRH is pretty effective so long as properly targeted, need to find people who have ability to be self-sustaining when assistance ends. Those with pensions or SSI or who are able to work even if they are not currently working. It's a matter of appropriately targeting. Not a lot of options for the funding, can't put it in PSH b/c has to be spent down.
- xxi. Christine Paquette: RRH – any restrictions on length of time?
- xxii. Carrie: main restriction is the program itself. Wouldn't want to put other restrictions on it.
- xxiii. Michelle Taniguchi: could consider using it as a bridge between Section 8 – have some in Richardson Bay that are on the list and have been waiting a long time.
- xxiv. Carrie Sager: we're open to that, but would want to make sure that we felt confident that we had a path for them when assistance ends.
- xxv. Andrew Hening: we could pay attention to various subpopulations, maybe pilots a few different people doing the work.
- xxvi. Carrie: Round 1 ESG-CV will go entirely to outreach and will provide 3-4 outreach workers, could use that as part of this making sure they are all aware of resources available.
- xxvii. Chris Kughn: shouldn't it all be connected and in sync? Do we want a total separate RFP?
- xxviii. Carrie Sager: we will either 1) make first RFP a bigger program, or 2) tie outreach worker specifically into an RRH program.
- xxix. Mary Kay Sweeney: is there a deadline for spending Round 1?
- xxx. Carrie Sager: Yes, around the same time.
- xxxi. Christine Paquette: Can the funds be used for a housing locator?
- xxxii. Carrie Sager: would have to double check, I'd think so, it's a good idea.

- xxxiii. Mark Shotwell: we have to fully fund the services part of this and not repeat the Covid-19 rental assistance which burdened the staffing too much.
- xxxiv. Carrie Sager: we want really robust case management. There are specific challenges that folks are having and getting people who can really home in on those would be great.
- xxxv. Mark Shotwell: Employment services should be part of that network.
- xxxvi. Christine Paquette: Can the funds be used out of county?
- xxxvii. Carrie Sager: Yes
- xxxviii. Mark Shotwell: this could be a good opportunity for the Anchor Out community. Only optty that we've seen to give specifically to this population.
- xxxix. Carrie Sager: the exact details of RRH can be worked out. Any other emergency shelter stuff people would like to see funding for?
- d. Mary Kay Sweeney moved to approve the ESG-CV Round 2 Funding Priorities; Karen Strolia seconded the motion.
- e. Marc Hering opposed, everyone else in favor. Motion carried.

#### **7. Approval of Marin HHS as Administrative Entity for HHAP Round 2 Funding**

- a. Action to approve Marin Department of Health and Human Services as the Administrative Entity for HHAP Round 2 Funding
- b. Comments:
  - i. Carrie Sager: HHAP round was about a million to county and to CoC; CoC was the only eligible AE, and the last round of HHAP was prioritized for PSH.
- c. Mark Shotwell moved to approve Marin Department of Health and Human Services as the Administrative Entity for HHAP Round 2 Funding; Chris Kughn seconded the motion.
- d. All in favor, none opposed. Motion carried.

#### **8. Creation of Subcommittee for HHAP Round 2 Funding Prioritization**

- a. Action to create subcommittee for HHAP Round 2 Funding Prioritization
- b. Carrie Sager led the discussion;
  - a. NOFA is not out yet, so we don't want to decide how to spend the money, but we also don't want to have to do another HPSC meeting. We don't have to choose subcommittee members now, but we can authorize a subcommittee do a public meeting announcement and whoever shows becomes a committee member who votes on final priorities. Can convene without worrying about a quorum, anyone interested can come.
- c. Chris Kughn moved to approve action to create a subcommittee for HHAP Round 2 Funding prioritization; James Campbell seconded the motion.
- d. All in favor, none opposed. Motion carried.

#### **9. Authorize Built for Zero Partnership**

- a. Action to authorize Built for Zero Partnership

- b. Carrie Sager led the discussion;
  - i. Community Solutions approached us to say you are doing a good job, we're trying to do this health partnership working with health care providers, Kaiser, and since Kaiser is in Marin and Marin is doing interesting stuff with their CoC and WPC, etc., they thought we'd be a good community for this. We sent out prospectus with the notes, and we want the CoC to approve us being part of that partnership to work with health care providers on the health and homelessness connection. Ultimately the goal is to figure out how the health care system can help with ending homelessness and improving health outcomes in the homeless population.
- c. Comments:
  - i. Very positive comments;
  - ii. Mark Shotwell: just trying to get housing status on the intake form is so difficult, an oppty to partner this way is a huge positive. Fully endorse.
  - iii. James Campbell: congrats for this kind of recognition.
- d. James Campbell moved to authorize Built for Zero Partnership; Mark Shotwell seconded the motion.
- e. All in favor, none opposed. Motion carried.

**10. Update on number of currently housed:**

- a. Michelle Taniguchi: current housed number 281 and 91 since pandemic started, starting in March.

**11. Adjourn 1:58 PM**