

## Homeless Policy Steering Committee Meeting

Meeting Minutes | August 11, 2021

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

### 1. Welcome. Call to Order: 3:05 (quorum at 3:10pm)

### 2. Roll Call

HPSC Voting Members in Attendance:

#### Elected Officials

County Board of Supervisors

Rachel Kertz – San Rafael

Susan Wernick – Novato

Susannah Clark (for Damon Connolly)

Rachel Kertz

Susan Wernick

#### 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:

Kimberly Carroll; Samantha Guzowski

#### Consumer Representatives

Bill Hale, Jason Sarris

#### Domestic Violence

Center for Domestic Peace:

#### Faith-Based Organizations

Marin Organizing Committee:

Pat Langley

#### Law Enforcement

FMDT Liaison:

#### Probation

County of Marin Probation Dept.

Marlon Washington

#### Homeless Service Providers

St. Vincent de Paul:

Katy Spence (for Christine Paquette)

Ritter Center:

Community Action Marin:

Adopt A Family of Marin:

#### Homeless Housing Providers

Homeward Bound:

Mary Kay Sweeney, Paul Fordham

Buckelew Programs:

Center Point:

Ben Finley, Marc Hering

#### School Districts

Marin County Office of Education:

#### Veteran's Services

HHS Veteran Services

#### Employment Services

Downtown Streets Team:

Zoe Neil

#### Regional Representation

Women Helping All People

Royce McLemore

Youth

Side By Side TAY

Laura Taylor

Older Adults

Aging Action Initiative

Chrisula Asimos, Linda Jackson

Others in attendance:

Carrie Sager – Marin HHS

Ashley Hart McIntyre – Marin HHS

David Shatto – Salvation Army, San Rafael

Tara Ozes – Homebase

Julie Lemmer – Homebase

Jeneve Dubick - Homebase

**3. Introductions/Announcements**

- a. Julie Lemmer gave a reminder that the HPSC has a new policy of providing stipends for our HPSC board members with lived expertise. Any of our members with lived expertise can send an email to Mark Shotwell (mshotwell@rittercenter.org) requesting compensation.

**4. Public Comment**

- a. None.

**5. Approval of the Minutes**

- a. Approval of the May 12, July 15, and July 21, 2021, Meeting Minutes
  - i. Mary Kay Sweeney moved to approve; Jei Africa seconded the motion.
  - ii. Ten in favor, none opposed, three abstentions. Motion carried.
    1. Abstentions: Susan Wernick abstained from the May 12 meeting; Samantha Guzowski and Linda Jackson abstained from all.

**6. Approving the 2021 CoC Review & Rank and Appeals Panelists**

- a. Action to approve the 2021 CoC Review & Rank and Appeals Panelists
  - i. Discussion:
    1. Tara Ozes provided an overview of the HPSC members who volunteered to serve on this year's CoC Competition Review and Rank and Appeals Panels:
      - Review & Rank Panelists:
        - Jason Sarris (Consumer Representative)
        - Rachel Kurtz (Cities & Towns/San Rafael)
        - Laura Taylor (Side by Side TAY)
      - Alternates:
        - Chandra Alexandre (Community Action Marin)
        - Pat Langley (Marin Organizing Committee)
    2. Susannah Clark asked if any others had volunteered from the consumer representative seat. Tara Ozes replied that there are no assigned seats

for the Review and Rank panel, participation is open to any voting member or community stakeholder.

- ii. Molly Kron moved to approve the 2021 CoC Review & Rank and Appeals Panelists; Marc Hering seconded the motion.
- iii. All in favor, none opposed, no abstentions. Motion carried.

## **7. Discussion re: Resources for Aging Adults**

- a. Jeneve Dubick presented on resources for aging and older adults. The share of older adults experiencing homelessness is rapidly growing and will continue to grow. To resolve their housing crisis, research estimates light-touch interventions resolve homelessness for 85% of older adults. Older adults experiencing homelessness and poverty often age prematurely. 88% of older adults prefer to age in place. Addressing the needs of this population involves strong collaboration.
- b. Highlighted Programs:
  - i. Sonoma County Area Agency on Aging Linkages to Senior Housing: Prevention program that provided a full-spectrum of client services.
  - ii. HIP Housing Home Sharing Program in San Mateo: Matches home providers with home seekers – helps older adults with up-keep on their housing, companionship. This program was recognized by HUD for completing screening for both parties, background checks, follow-up supports.
  - iii. St. Paul’s Senior Services Program of All Inclusive Care for the Elderly (PACE) Supportive Housing out of San Diego: PACE provides wraparound healthcare services to individuals who qualify for nursing home care. It established formal relationships with partners that own and operate subsidized housing to set aside units for PACE participants. The program has housed 200+ older adults who were homeless or at risk of homelessness.
- c. Increasing access to assisted living is another strategy. Through the assisted-living waiver program through Medi-Cal, providers can pay for the cost of assisted living care for adults who are exiting or at risk of institutionalization. This program currently serves 15 counties, with a limited number of waivers. Participants just need to be willing to live in any of those counties.
- d. Additionally, the Community Care Expansion Act will provide \$805 million in new funding in the California state budget for 2021-2022, which will be administered by the California Department of Social Services, to acquire and rehabilitate Assisted Living Facilities that will serve people experiencing or at risk of homelessness.
- e. Linda Jackson inquired about the Home Safe program, which sounds like it will be available this Fall. It would assist older adults to remain at home. Julie Lemmer responded that one community Homebase works with received Home Safe funding, and more funding to expand this program will be available through the newly approved state budget. Homebase can provide more information on this resource as it comes available.
- f. Linda Jackson inquired about dementia care – the first baby boomer will turn 80 in the next year, and the need for dementia care will increase. Julie Lemmer responded that there is not

- yet more information on resources to address this level of care, but that this poses an opportunity to convene community partners who are involved in providing these resources to discuss currently available resources, assess the needs for additional and different resources, and how to plan to coordinate provision of these resources to aging adults. One idea is to convene a committee focused on this issue.
- g. Pat Langley voiced that she is interested in this program, and knowing more about what is available in Marin county to support aging adults and persons with disabilities, who often have similar needs.
  - h. Susannah Clark asked if persons exiting homelessness could be referred to currently available programs that are equipped to support persons with dementia. Carrie Sager replied that this has been a struggle to coordinate. Katy Spence responded that she has attempted to conduct one of these referrals, but instead was able to write a reasonable accommodation for an in-home care provider. If you have someone who qualifies for a voucher but there isn't a space, this is one solution. It's almost impossible if the person is not conserved to get them into these facilities.
  - i. Linda Jackson would like to sit on the committee to discuss these resources, and invite West Marin Senior Services, Marin City Senior Services, Center for Independent Living, Ritter Center, Marin Interfaith and the faith community, AAI, and local jurisdictions (MCCMC) to be a part of this committee. Jei Africa would also be interested in participating, but would like to be clear of the purpose for the committee and how to support with the appropriate representative.
  - j. Carrie Sager recommended a "pre-meeting" meeting to help develop the scope of the committee's purview, making sure we have the right representatives in the room. Possibly having a smaller meeting beforehand to discuss with the providers the issues they are seeing. Rachel Kertz asked for clarity on the focus of the committee, and if it would be its own standalone committee or an official subcommittee. Carrie replied that if it's an official subcommittee or work group, there may be other requirements per the Brown Act, but it would be focused on aging adults at risk of or experiencing homelessness.

## **8. Updates**

- a. Coordinated Entry Committee Update
  - i. Discussion:
  - ii. Carrie Sager presented the Coordinated Entry updates: Since October 2017, Marin Coordinated Entry has housed 374 people in Permanent Supportive Housing. More detailed statistics to come. There has been recently a wealth of vouchers; not included in the above number are vouchers to persons with few supportive services needs exiting chronic homelessness. In July 2021, Coordinated Entry housed 12 people. Currently the Coordinated Entry Redesign committee on vulnerability are continuing to research this issue,
- b. State and Federal Funding Update
  - i. Discussion:

- ii. Julie Lemmer provided an overview of what we know so far about the homelessness-dedicated funding included in the 2021-2022 budget. The budget makes an unprecedented investment of \$12 billion towards ending homelessness and increasing affordable housing production. Since the budget was signed, the California legislature has passed many “trailer bills,” including AB 140. The bill contains the implementing language for the housing and homelessness provisions included in the budget.
- iii. HHAP – Rounds 3 & 4: \$1 billion annually over the next two years for round 3 and 4 of the Homeless Housing, Assistance, and Prevention Program (HHAP), administered by HCFC. Same allocation methodology – tied to PIT counts (HHAP3 will use 2019 data, HHAP4 will use “most recent” PIT data). For context, Round 1 was \$650 million total and Marin’s allocations were \$1.1 million for the county and \$1.2 million for the CoC. Round 2 was \$300 million, and Marin’s respective allocations were between \$500 and \$600k each. A broad range of flexible uses, including street outreach, interim housing, rapid rehousing, hotel and motel conversions, and permanent supportive housing. The first two rounds in Marin have been used to fund street outreach, case management, and the development of PSH. Focus on accountability and outcomes – grantees must establish quantifiable performance goals and will receive bonus funds if they meet their goals. Also continued focus on strategies to eliminate racial bias in local homeless response systems.
- iv. APPLICATION PROCESS: Three Stages: Stage 1 – affirm that you’ll engage in process of developing a local plan. Execute a standard agreement (on or before Sept. 15) to get 20% of allocation. To help with planning process. Stage 2 – full application process. It will require a local planning process with public participation requirements. Deadline is June 30, 2022. But if you’re ahead in your planning process, can apply sooner. Stage 3 – 18% “bonus” if you meet performance metrics over a three-year period (assessed as of June 30, 2024). HCFC will be focusing on:
  - 1. Reducing numbers of persons experiencing homelessness;
  - 2. Reducing first time homelessness;
  - 3. Exiting into Permanent Housing;
  - 4. Reducing length of time homeless;
  - 5. Reducing returns to homelessness;
  - 6. Increasing placements from Street Outreach;
    - If the community does not meet the outcomes goals, they will not receive a bonus, and may be required to participate in mandatory Technical Assistance. The growing HCFC team will provide support.
  - 7. HHAP Round 4: Apply to get 80% of allocation. Deadline: October 31, 2022. 18% reserved for bonus. An additional \$4 billion over two years is dedicated to various CDSS programs.

- v. HDAP: The budget dedicates \$300 million over two years for the Housing and Disability Advocacy Program, which provides housing assistance and disability benefits advocacy to individuals likely eligible for disability benefits. This is in addition to the ongoing, annual appropriation of \$25 million
- vi. CalWORKs HSP: \$380 million over two years for the CalWORKs Housing Support Program (HSP), which supports housing stability for families experiencing or facing homelessness in the CalWORKs program. This is in addition to the ongoing, annual appropriation of \$95 million –
- vii. Project Roomkey: \$150 million one-time for Project Roomkey and Rehousing Strategy to support continued non-congregate shelter operations while increasing the focus and resources to transition participants to permanent housing.
- viii. Bringing Families Home Program: \$185 million over two years for the Bringing Families Home Program (BFH), which provides housing-related supports to families receiving child welfare services and aims to increase family reunification and prevent foster-care placement.
- ix. Home Safe Program: \$185 million over two years for Home Safe Program, which supports the safety and housing stability of individuals involved in Adult Protective Services.
- x. Community Care Expansion: \$805 million for the new Community Care Expansion (CCE) program, which Jeneve already talked about (to support acquisition and rehabilitation of residential care settings for seniors and adults with disabilities).
- xi. Homekey: \$2.75 over the next two years for additional phases of Homekey to purchase and rehabilitate housing to convert into interim or permanent, long-term housing. HCD will issue a NOFA for the first tranche of funds within 3 months, and funds must be spent within 8 months of the award (with extensions possible).
- xii. Other Investments:
  - 1. \$117 million dedicated to youth homelessness – Includes programs administered by HCD and Cal OES. (Gov’s office of emerg services).
  - 2. \$50 million for Encampment Resolution Grants: “grants to resolve critical encampment concerns” and transition individuals into safe and stable housing. CoCs, cities, or counties can apply. Priority for funding applicants that demonstrate a commitment to cross-systems collaboration and innovative efforts to resolve encampment issues or have 50 or more individuals living in the encampment. Initial grants awarded by March 1, 2022. The bill would require grant recipients to provide specified data elements, including health information, in HMIS.
  - 3. \$40 million for Family Homelessness Challenge Grants: Two rounds of one-time grants and technical assistance to local jurisdictions for the purpose of addressing and ending family homelessness. Looking for

innovative proposals or expansions of promising practices. The overall program goal to create scalable solutions to family homelessness.

Applications available by March 1, 2022

4. \$45 million dedicated to veteran homelessness
5. \$25 million to support organizations that provide supportive services to homeless or at-risk veterans.
6. \$20 million to help fund 1,200 permanent supportive housing units for homeless and at-risk veterans at the West Los Angeles VA Medical Center Campus.

c. Equity Update:

- i. Discussion:
- ii. Tara Ozes provided an update on the Racial Equity Action Lab (REAL) Team efforts. On July 22, the REAL Team hosted a Family Speak Out (spearheaded by Shikira Porter at Homeward Bound and her team), where eight families experiencing homelessness currently receiving support by Homeward Bound shared their experiences navigating the Marin homelessness system of care with members of the Marin Alliance to Solve Homelessness (aka MASH, formerly the Marin Coordinated Entry Steering Committee). Based on the families feedback, a roadmap was developed for addressing needs of families experiencing homelessness in Marin. MASH will continue to use this roadmap to guide efforts to address family homelessness, and will provide updates on progress to the families who participated in the Speak Out.

**9. CoC Training: Detecting and Preventing Discrimination & Compliance with Fair Housing; HUD Equal Access Final Rule and Gender Identity Final Rule**

- a. Tara Ozes conducted a training on Detecting and Preventing Discrimination & Compliance with Fair Housing.
  - i. Detecting and Preventing Discrimination and Compliance with Fair Housing is one of the training topics that HUD encourages Continuums of Care to discuss every year; today's training is meant to just be a refresher on the topic, to provide some general guidance that may be new to some of you, as a precursor to a more detailed training that can be conducted in the future by a legal services provider with landlord/tenant law expertise.
  - ii. There are both federal and state fair housing laws that provide protections for persons renting, buying, or occupying housing.
  - iii. Federal: The Fair Housing Act applies to any housing provider with 4 or more units renting to recipients of federal financial assistance.
  - iv. State: California's Fair Employment and Housing Act applies to any housing provider with three or more units. The Unruh Civil Rights Act applies to any housing provider- EXCEPT an owner-occupied single-family home, where the owner does not rent to more than one individual.

- v. Who must comply? Landlords, property management companies, homeowners associations, public housing authorities, real estate agents, home sellers, mortgage lenders, tenant screening companies, etc.
- vi. Protected classes include: Race, color, religion, sex, familial status, national origin, and physical/mental disability; CA law includes all the foregoing under federal law, plus: Marital status, ancestry, sexual orientation/gender expression/identity, source of income, medical condition/genetic information, veteran and military status.
- vii. Acceptable practices: Landlords may require applicants to provide a screening fee to cover the costs of obtaining a credit report. Rental applications may ask for names and contact information of current and past landlords, employers, and references. Tenants may use proof of rent payment and proof of income to demonstrate their financial qualifications.
- viii. Examples of discrimination include intentional discrimination, e.g., treating a member of a protected class, or a person associated with them, differently. Disparate impact, e.g., conduct that is neutral on its face but results in a discriminatory impact on a protected class. Sexual harassment, e.g., creating a hostile environment or quid pro quo. Additionally, discrimination against domestic violence survivors.
- ix. Source of Income Discrimination: Beginning on January 1, 2020, all landlords in California are required to accept Section 8 and VASH vouchers and other forms of rental assistance and to consider them as part of an applicant's income.
  - 1. SB 329: Redefines source of income as "lawful, verifiable income paid directly to a tenant or to a representative of a tenant, or paid to a housing owner or landlord on behalf of a tenant, including federal, state or local public assistance, and federal, state, or local housing subsidies, including, but not limited to, federal housing assistance vouchers issues under Section 8 of the United States Housing Act of 1937."
  - 2. SB 222: adds to the definition of source of income HUD Veterans Affairs Supportive Housing (VASH) vouchers and clarifies that a landlord is not considered a representative of a tenant unless the source of income is a VASH voucher. It also adds military and veteran status as new protected classes under the FEHA.
- x. Housing Providers may consider certain criminal history, so long as their policies and practices: Are narrowly tailored and focus on whether any criminal conviction is "directly related" (e.g., past conviction for a misdemeanor driving offense vs. recent residential arson conviction); Provide a copy/description of the criminal background check to applicant upon request; Consider the factual accuracy of the criminal history information; Provide opportunity for applicant to present mitigating information, and; Delay seeking or using third-party reports of criminal history until after financial or other qualifications are verified.



- xi. Reasonable Accommodations: Persons with either a physical or mental disability may request a reasonable accommodation from their housing provider – the accommodation being a change in a rule, policy, practice, or service that would allow the person equal opportunity to use and enjoy the dwelling.
- xii. Per California law, to qualify, the disability must be an impairment that limits one or more life activities, and the person must either have a history of such impairment or be regarded as having such impairment.
- xiii. HUD Equal Access Final Rule and Gender Identity Final Rule: HUD first established the Equal Access Rule in 2012. The rule stated that HUD funded programs must be administered "regardless of marriage status, sexual orientation or gender identity." However, **this rule did not specifically include protections for single sex temporary shelters with shared sleeping areas or bathrooms.**
- xiv. In 2016, HUD expanded the Equal Access rule to facilities with shared sleeping areas or bathrooms [after reviewing national research showing that transgender & gender non-conforming individuals continued to experience violence, harassment, & discrimination when accessing assistance.] Now, the rule requires single-sex housing and shelter providers receiving HUD funding to offer placements in accordance with the **person's gender identity, as opposed to their sex assigned at birth or the provider's perception of their identity.** The Rule **also prohibits providers from asking intrusive questions** or seeking documentation related to gender identity and anatomy.

10. Adjourn 4:23pm