

**Homeless Policy Steering Committee**  
Meeting Minutes | May 10, 2023  
Online Zoom Meeting | 3:00 PM-5:00 PM

**1. Welcome. Call to Order: 3:02 PM**

**2. Roll Call**

HPSC Voting Members in Attendance:

Elected Officials

County Board of Supervisors

Eric Lucan

Cities & Towns (MCCMC):

San Rafael:

Rachel Kertz

Novato:

Susan Wernick

County Health and Human Services

Mental Health and Substance Use

xServices:

Community Development

Community Development Agency:

Public Housing Agency

Marin Housing Authority:

Arinn Testa (for Samantha Guzowski)

Consumer Representatives

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.

Samantha Klein (for Chief Marlon Washington)

Homeless Service Providers

St. Vincent de Paul:

Christine Paquette

Ritter Center:

Mark Shotwell

Community Action Marin:

Adopt A Family of Marin:

Jasmine Martinez (for Jacqueline Jaffee)

Homeless Housing Providers

Homeward Bound:

Mary Kay Sweeney

Bucklew Programs:

Center Point:

School Districts

Marin County Office of Education:

Amy Carrera (for Laura Trahan)

Healthcare

Marin City Health and Wellness

La'Kiya Striplin

Veteran's Services

HHS Veteran Services

Employment Services

Downtown Streets Team:  
Regional Representation  
Women Helping All People  
Youth  
Side By Side TAY  
Older Adults  
Aging Action Initiative  
Homelessness Prevention  
Front Porch

Zoe Neil

Luke Barnesmoore

Others in attendance:

Gary Naja-Riese – County of Marin  
Carrie Sager – County of Marin  
Nikolas Brady – County of Marin  
Tara Ozes – Homebase  
Frankie Perkins – Homebase  
Lisa O’Connell – Partnership HealthPlan

**3. Adoption of the Meeting Minutes**

- a. Action to adopt minutes from February 8, 2023, HPSC quarterly meeting.
  - i. Discussion: None.
- b. Motion to approve the minutes:
  - i. Mary Kay Sweeny moved to approve the minutes; Rachel Kertz seconded the motion.
  - ii. All in favor, none opposed, no abstentions. Motion carried.

**4. Introductions, Announcements**

- a. Tara Ozes, Homebase
- b. Gary Naja-Riese, County of Marin
- c. Lisa O’Connell, Partnership Health
- d. Frankie Perkins, Homebase

**5. Public Comment**

- a. None

**6. Discussion of Letter in Support of VA GPD Funding Application**

- a. Carrie Sager presented on the letter in support of Homeward Bound of Marin’s application for the Veterans Administration Grant Per Diem (GPD) funding. Due to the time-sensitive nature of the request for a CoC letter in support of the application, the letter has already been drafted and provided to Homeward Bound to submit with their application.
- b. Christine Paquette asked if this is additional support or to continue funding. Carrie Sager responded this is to continue funding that Homeward Bound is already receiving for its programs.

## 7. Update on HPSC Older Adult Committee (OAC)

- a. Homebase presented an update on the HPSC Older Adult Committee (OAC).
  - i. The HPSC Older Adult Committee (referred to as the OAC) was initiated in early Fall of 2022, by request of older adult advocate members of the HPSC. The first meeting was held in October 2022, and continues to be held via Zoom and facilitated by Homebase on a monthly basis.
  - ii. The scope of the OAC, as identified through discussion in Fall of last year, is to learn about and make recommendations to the HPSC regarding ways that the Marin homelessness system of care can better serve older adults experiencing homelessness, with a focus on older adults who have recently become homeless and those who are not prioritized for Permanent Supportive Housing through Coordinated Entry.
  - iii. Similarly, the main goals of the OAC (as identified through member discussion), are to improve successful housing outcomes for older adults (50+) experiencing homelessness in Marin by: 1) Developing recommendations to the HPSC regarding strategies to address system gaps specific to this population, and 2) Identifying and developing resources and strategic partnerships to better serve older adults experiencing homelessness.
  - iv. From October 2022 to April 2023, the OAC analyzed older adult Coordinated Entry (CE) Data; some of the primary findings included:
    1. Older adults (aged 50+) make up nearly half (~ 43%) of population in CE;
    2. Older adults are spending more time on average in Coordinated Entry
    3. More older adults are scoring between 0-7 on the VI-SPDAT
  - v. Based on the data findings, the OAC launched an older adult lived experience and provider feedback processes; the OAC sought feedback from:
    1. Housed older adults with shorter lengths of time homeless;
    2. Unhoused older adults with longer lengths of time homeless, recently assessed and enrolled in CE; and;
    3. Housing and service providers, serving older adults experiencing homelessness and those at risk of homelessness
  - vi. What the OAC is hoping to learn from those with shorter lengths of time homeless, who have recently found permanent housing, is whether there were any resources that were particularly helpful to them to find that housing, in case the system could improve connections to those resources for this population of older adults newly experiencing homelessness;
  - vii. What the OAC is hoping to learn from those with longer lengths of time homeless who have only recently been assessed and enrolled in Coordinated Entry is how to improve access to the homelessness system of care, to increase engagement by persons who have not accessed the system before, and to improve the experience for those who have already engaged with the system. As a counterpoint to the other group, who we are asking questions to find out what went well that resulted in their housing success, we also want to find out if any prior housing placements did not work well, and why. This may give some insight into ways to better match older adults with housing placements in future.
  - viii. Also, with OAC member input, Homebase developed and sent an Older Adult Provider Survey to 22 housing and service providers in Marin who serve or have services targeted towards the needs of older adults; Homebase received

responses from 15 providers, and 9 were able to join a focus group on Thursday, March 9. Providers gave insights into the needs of this population, where there are gaps in resources, and what types of support would be most beneficial and strategic to respond to the need.

- ix. Findings and recommendations are being compiled into a report to the HPSC which will be presented at the August quarterly meeting.
- b. Discussion:
  - i. Rachel Kertz asked for clarification regarding “housed older adults with shorter lengths of time homeless.” Homebase clarified that the criteria for that group was older adults that exited Coordinated Entry to a housed destination in under one year.
  - ii. Rachel Kertz asked if 0-7 on the VI-SPDAT classified as lower priority? Homebase replied yes.
  - iii. Rachel Kertz asked if the HHS older adult strategic report is tied to the OAC results. Homebase replied that the reports are not correlated, but certainly related.

#### **8. Approval of OAC Recommended Priorities for HHAP Round 4 Older Adult Set Aside (ACTION)**

- a. Homebase presented the outcome of the April 19 OAC meeting discussion. The main action of this meeting was to decide how should the Homeless Housing, Assistance, and Prevention Program (HHAP) Round 4 \$250k set aside for innovative housing solutions for older adults experiencing homelessness be prioritized.
- b. The OAC decided to prioritize the \$250,000 set aside to create a shallow rental subsidy pool for unsheltered older adults (age 50+), with priority for older adults with higher vulnerability who could achieve housing stability with the least amount of subsidy.
- c. Discussion:
  - i. Mark Shotwell commented that he had concerns that cost of living is so high that he questioned why shallow subsidies would help, but utilizing them in situations that Home Match provides would make it a viable resource for many clients.
  - ii. Supervisor Lucan asked how the OAC are defining unsheltered adults, when considering those living in RVs and other vehicles? Homebase clarified that yes, this would align with definition used by the state and HUD, someone living in an RV/car/boat that is not connected to necessary utilities would qualify as unsheltered.
  - iii. Carrie Sager commented that it would be a case by case determination on which clients would be a good fit for shallow subsidies. These funds would be directed towards seniors that are unlikely to increase income, and are also not prioritized for permanent supportive housing.
  - iv. Rachel Kertz asked how long the \$250,000 can be used, whether it is renewable, and how much can be given to each client. Carrie Sager responded that it would either be distributed in a fixed amount, or allowing clients to reach below 50% rent burden. We would need other sources of funding to extend the program.
  - v. Linda Jackson asked what the timeframe is for these funds to be used. Homebase commented that the HHAP Round 4 funding must be spent by June 30, 2027

- vi. Christine Paquette asked if there will be an RFP put out for this pilot project. Carrie Sager responded that yes, there will be an RFP. Each agency can make their own case for how long the program should last.
  - vii. Mark Shotwell commented that it would be ideal to eventually orient an initiative towards senior homelessness prevention.
- d. Motion to approve Marin CoC HHAP-4 Older Adult Set Aside Funding Priorities
- i. Rachel Kertz moved to approve the HHAP-4 older adult set aside funding priorities; Mary Kay Sweeny seconded the motion.
  - ii. All in favor, none opposed, no abstentions. Motion carried.

**9. Marin County Lived Experience Advisory Board (MC-LEAB) Update**

- a. Jason Sarris shared that The Marin County Lived Experience Advisory Board or (MC-LEAB) is composed of 6 members from the county who have past lived experience of Homelessness in Marin County. Earlier this year the members garnered knowledge from resources such as Legal Aid of Marin and Children and Family Services to answer the question: What options do folks with lived experience have in our Community? This month the members of the MC-LEAB were provided an introduction to the Continuum of Care Program and CoC local competition process by Homebase, and the series will continue with an introduction to the CoC NOFO scoring tools and Local Competition Policies and Procedures, for MC-LEAB member feedback. This feedback will be incorporated into the scoring tools and policies on an annual basis moving forward, to continue to improve the review and ranking of CoC-funded programs that will be recommended for funding to HUD.
- b. Outside of meetings the MC-LEAB members have been volunteering at the Seeds of Hope Lunch and Service Fair, where they have been providing folks with clothing donations as well as an opportunity to get involved by applying to the MC-LEAB.

**10. Continuum of Care (CoC) Funding Update**

- a. Homebase shared that in late March, HUD released the awards for the 2022 CoC Competition, which showed that the Marin CoC was awarded \$5,240,595 in annual renewal funding. All applications for funding were awarded, including nine (9) renewal programs and two (2) new housing programs (Jonathan’s Place PSH and Domestic Violence Housing First DV Bonus Expansion), as well as funding for the Coordinated Entry program and the CoC Planning Grant.
- b. There is still no word as to when the 2023 CoC Notice of Funding Opportunity (NOFO) will be released, but the tentative 2023 CoC local process includes the following steps:
  - i. MC-LEAB feedback on CoC scoring tools and policies (April/May)
  - ii. The Marin Homeless Policy Steering Committee (HPSC), will schedule a meeting of the CoC Competition Subcommittee to discuss the scoring tools and policies including MC-LEAB feedback (May/June)
  - iii. After discussion, the CoC Competition Subcommittee will approve the scoring tools and policies to be used in the 2023 CoC Local Competition
  - iv. HUD releases details on this year’s competition in “the NOFO” (June/July)

- v. Projects prepare their local applications (Renewals: May/June, New: Summer)
- vi. Review and Rank Panel reviews applications and creates “priority listing” of projects to advance to national competition (August)
- vii. Applications are due (September)
- viii. HUD announces awards (Spring 2024)

#### **11. Transition Aged Youth (TAY) Update**

- a. Carrie Sager shared that the County continues to hold policy meetings for TAY and case conferencing to build a by-name list. The TAY subpopulation hasn’t historically engaged with our system of care, so this group is working on getting better data-sharing with other organizations such as College of Marin, Dominican, and Children and Family Services. Marin has been approved for a grant from Tipping Point to create a youth advisory board. Community Action Marin (CAM) is working on youth outreach, and building our by-name list.

#### **12. Coordinated Entry Update**

- a. Nikolas Brady shared that 612 clients have been housed through PSH since the launch of Coordinated Entry in October 2017, 10 housed per month on average during the last quarter. 90 Veterans have been housed, and 160 Families have been housed. Regarding the Coordinated Entry Redesign committee on Vulnerability, the group implemented a new family assessment tool, and are continuing work on a single adult assessment this year. The CE Redesign Committee on Equity and Access is continuing efforts to engage historically marginalized areas in Marin including Marin City and the canal.
- b. Homebase shared that the FY2022 Coordinated Entry Evaluation has been completed, which includes findings and recommendations regarding how to improve Coordinated Entry.

#### **13. Adjourn 4:06 PM**