

Homeless Policy Steering Committee
Meeting Minutes | August 14, 2024
Online Zoom Meeting | 3:00 PM-5:00 PM

1. **Welcome. Call to Order: 3:05 PM**
2. **Roll Call**

HPSC Voting Members in Attendance:

Elected Officials

County Board of Supervisors

Cities & Towns (MCCMC):

San Rafael:

Rachel Kertz

Novato:

County Health and Human Services

Behavioral Health and Recovery

Services:

Michael Wilson

Community Development

Community Development Agency:

Chris Miranda

Public Housing Agency

Marin Housing Authority:

Samantha Guzowski

Consumer Representatives

Jason Sarris; Bill Hale

Domestic Violence

Center for Domestic Peace:

Faith-Based Organizations

Marin Organizing Committee:

Pat Langley

Law Enforcement

San Rafael Police Department:

Lynn Murphy

Probation

County of Marin Probation Dept.

Jen Casco

Homeless Service Providers

St. Vincent de Paul:

Meredith Parnell

Ritter Center:

Community Action Marin:

Laurel Hill

Adopt A Family of Marin:

Homeless Housing Providers

Homeward Bound:

Mary Kay Sweeney

Bucklew Programs:

Connie Mann

Center Point:

School Districts

Marin County Office of Education:

Healthcare

Marin City Health and Wellness

La'Kiya Striplin

Centerpoint

Veteran's Services

HHS Veteran Services

Sean Stephens

Employment Services

Downtown Streets Team:

Zoe Neil

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

Diana Lopez

Luke Barnesmoore

3. Approval of the Minutes

- a. Action to adopt minutes from May 8, 2024 HPSC quarterly meeting.
 - i. Discussion: None
- b. Motion to approve the minutes:
 - i. Lynn Murphy moved to approve the minutes; Mary Kay Sweeney seconded the motion.
 - ii. All in favor, none opposed, no abstentions. Motion carried.

4. Introductions, Announcements

Pat – Regional Measure 4 pulled from ballot – very disappointing; still hoping Prop 5 will pass

MK – Nov 19 – dedication of workforce housing

5. Public Comment

- a. [Notes]

6. HPSC Business

- a. Update on 2024 HUD CoC Program Competition NOFO; Vote on updating NOFO Scoring Factors (Homebase)
 - i. Notes: Homebase presented on the 2024 CoC NOFO. All information on the NOFO can be found on the HPSC website.
 1. New projects must submit a letter of intent. New and renewing projects must attend a TA workshop
 - ii. Motion to approve the new and renewal project scoring tools:
 1. Jason Sarris moved to approve the scoring tools as amended; Meredith Parnell seconded the motion.
 2. All in favor, none opposed, no abstentions. Motion carried.

7. Presentation

- a. After Grants Pass – A review of the Supreme Court’s decision in *City of Grants Pass, Oregon v. Johnson*, and state and local responses. (Homebase)
 - i. Notes: Homebase provided a brief overview of the Grants Pass decision, where the Supreme Court held that camping bans do not constitute cruel and unusual punishment under the 8th Amendment.

- ii. Councilmember Kertz noted that she wanted to bring this back to the group as a level-setting presentation; the people in this room will be getting questions and we want to be sure everyone is giving consistent answers.
- iii. Homebase summarized Governor Newsom's order to state agencies to comply with CalTrans's policies around clearing encampments on state land, including requirements about property storage, notice, coordination with outreach, etc., and encouraging jurisdictions to adopt the same policies.
- iv. MCCMC homelessness committee is hoping to create a statement that all the jurisdictions can agree on
- v. Jason Sarris noted that our model is working, and hopes Marin can unite around Housing First
- vi. Sean Stephens notes that this gives us leverage to enforce cleanup, laws against theft in encampments.
- vii. Ashley Hart McIntyre noted that SR and the County have both issued statements that they are complying with the order by addressing encampments in a housing-first way, ERF grants all require encampments be gone by the end of the grant; these grants all focus on exiting people from encampments into housing through housing case management, but also include port-o-potties, trash management, etc. to mitigate some negative impacts on the encampments
- viii. Lynn Murphy noted that the order against SR preventing them from addressing the encampment has been lifted.
- ix. Ashley Hart McIntyre noted that HHS Director Lisa Varhuus published a relevant Marin Voice last week
- x. Homebase summarized some of the actions other jurisdictions have taken since the Governor's order came down and best practices.
- xi. Request to share the Powerpoint
- xii. Meredith Parnell: The message that our system is working is very good, and that you can't arrest people out of homelessness. This system has existed for a long time and won't go away over night. We are effective and will continue to be effective, it's just not as quick as some people may not like.
- xiii. Jason Sarris: ERF grants have been very effective, lots of people housed, but these are 2-3 year plans. Some of the best funds out there for getting people housed who were in camps.
- xiv. Rachel Kertz: it's hard to communicate that to people who don't see the progress; we hear from parents who say their children can't walk to school.
- xv. Sean Stephens: We have to get a handle on what's happening now before people start coming from San Francisco. We need to communicate that people are getting and staying housed, but also need to make clear that we have rules and regulations. The kids and adults walking down that path aren't safe and people are angry about it.
- xvi. Jason Sarris: We had those same issues at Lee Gerner Park, same pushback. Once the fence was up, 7/10 of the phone calls the city was getting were positive.

- xvii. Ashley Hart McIntyre: A lot of people have expressed concern about people coming from elsewhere – it absolutely happens in the short term, spikes when the large-scale clearing is happening, but people go back in 2-3 months.
- xviii. Bambi Klyse: We organized clean-up at Lee Gerner and encouraging folks to clean up worked.
- xix. Lynn Murphy: Because Mahon Path has gotten so big and gone on for so long, it's a different scene than Lee Gerner; we've incentivized people to clean up with no luck. The sanctioned encampment that will be set up will have security, clean-up, on-site program services, portable showers – will be a lot more structured and managed than even the SSA was. If people on the path don't want to go in they don't have to, but they can't stay in the buffer zone on the south end of Mahon. The goal is to get the people who are motivated to get housing and work with a case manager into the encampment.
- xx. Erin Hawkins: CAM's team includes outreach specialists and housing-based case managers; appreciate that the slide deck pointing out that outreach doesn't do any good if people have nowhere to go. CAM has 2 HBCMs in the marsh and it's take 8 months to house 1 person because there's no housing
- xxi. Ashley Hart McIntyre: Hopeful story: In Richardson Bay there is a very entrenched population, started with outreach on the water, took a couple years and we're in there with housing case management, boat buyback, people are leaving the water willingly and going into housing, tensions have reduced dramatically.

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

- a. Jason Sarris shared that Seeds of Hope is coming up September 16 – do recruitment there, pass out clothes; have sent out some letters to get feedback on GA policy recommendations; still working on getting port-o-potties in Hamilton Marsh, currently with City of Novato; meeting with Lynn tomorrow to talk about sanctioned encampment; Jason is going to Texas to present at Texas Homeless Network conference on leveraging lived experience.
 - i. Notes:

9. Older Adults Committee Update

- a. Meredith Parnell shared that the OAC has prepared a response to the Grand Jury report on older adult homelessness.
 - i. Rachel Kertz asked Supervisor Lucan where this goes next; will follow up with him when he returns.

10. Transitional Age Youth (TAY) Update

- a. Carrie Sager shared that the Transition-Age Youth policy group continues to meet regularly.

11. Coordinated Entry Update

- a. Carrie Sager share that 787 chronically homeless people have been housed through Coordinated Entry since 2017, including 14 in July. We have also housed 113 Veterans since 2017 and 224 families since 2020. The new assessment for adults without children is entering the testing phase on the second draft.

12. Adjourn 5:00PM