



# CONTRA COSTA COUNCIL ON HOMELESSNESS MEETING MINUTES

*The Contra Costa Council on Homelessness provides a forum for communication and coordination about the implementation of the County's Strategic Plan to prevent and end homelessness, and for orchestrating a vision on ending homelessness in the County, educating the community on homeless issues, and advocating on federal, state, and local policy issues affecting people who are homeless or at-risk of homelessness. The Council provides advice and input on the operations of homeless services, program operations, and program development efforts in Contra Costa County. Items may be taken out of order based on the business of the day and preference of the Council.*

**Date, Time:** Thursday, October 4, 2018, 1:00 – 3:00 pm

**Location:** 500 Ellinwood Way, Pleasant Hill Conference Room A/B, Pleasant Hill, CA

## **Council Member Attendance:**

**Present:** Candace Collier, John Eckstrom, Gabriel Lemus, Deanne Pearn, Miguel Hidalgo-Barnes, Teri House, Doug Leich, John Barclay, Cecelia McCloy, Bradley Lindbloom, Carolyn Foudy, Dan Sawislak, Tracy Pullar

**Absent:** Patrice Guillory, Alejandra Chamberlain, Manjit Sappal, Joseph Villarreal

**Staff Attendance:** Lavonna Martin, Jaime Jenett, Natalie Siva, Contra Costa Health Services (H3); Erica McWhorter, Colin Sorensen, HomeBase

**Public Attendance:** Ruth Goldenberg, Cindy Erickson, Maria Munoz, Susan Padan, Robin Holcomb, Usha Ramachandran, Britney Hayer, Lashanna Lee, Dawn Morrow, Billy Seilhan, Mario Monts, Gloria Schafer, Bertha Lopez, Margaret Campo, Fadi El Mayek, June Cummings, Andrea Againaldo, Denise Clarke, Jill Ray, Justin Pennell, Janette Kennedy, Samaa Gad, Zuleika Godinez, Brandon Brafelow, Joe Serrano, Rich Penski, Katie Wilbur, Aracelia Garcia, Dan Stout, Kim Moore, Steve Wheeler, John Warden, Sephanie Stovall, Leonard Ramirez, Karen Erickson

## **1. Welcome and Introductions**

## **2. Approve Minutes (Action Item)**

- Motion
- State of Motion:
  - We move to adopt the minutes from the August 27th Council on Homelessness Meeting.
- *Discussion*
  - *The Council moved to approve.*
  - *Doug: Move to amend to include a "B" after John on the minutes to distinguish between John Barclay and John Eckstrom.*
- *Procedural Record:*
  - *Motion made by: Teri House*



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- *Seconded by: Bradley Linbloom*
- *AYES: Candace Collier, John Eckstrom, Gabriel Lemus, Deanne Pearn, Miguel Hidalgo-Barnes, Teri House, Doug Leich, John Barclay, Cecelia McCloy, Bradley Lindbloom, Carolyn Foudy, Dan Sawislak, Tracy Pullar*
- *NOES: None.*
- *ABSTAINS: None.*
- *ABSENT: Patrice Guillory, Alejandra Chamberlain, Manjit Sappal, Joseph Villarreal*
- *MOTION APPROVED*

### **3. California Emergency Solutions and Housing (CESH) Funding Allocation (Action Item)**

- Lavonna presented on CESH
  - Lavonna: New funding source from the state, it was introduced at the last COH meeting, it specifically targets crisis response solutions within system of care. Additional pot coming down along with HEAP—some of you have come to the community meetings—this is a separate pot. The first round is \$855,000 and the application is due next week. We’ve been working hard to make sure everything is ready and aligned for the deadline. At the last COH meeting, the council approved H3 as the administrative entity to administer the funds.
    - Another component was considering how the funds would be spent
    - There are similarities with the Emergency Solutions Grant. There will be another round of funding in early 2019, so we can adjust and think about what else we need in the system of care. These recommendations take into account the other dollars that are coming to the system of care. What staff has done—we’ve looked at CESH and considered what gaps exist from the HEAP funding and other funding, and looked to fill those gaps with CESH funding. We are also considering maximum limitations from the state regarding the maximum amount of funding we can give any one particular program
    - We aren’t applying for rental assistance in this round
    - We also didn’t propose any dollars for operating funding in this round; that may be a future expense, but not in this round
    - Intending to put 50% of the money toward Flexible Housing Pool (Housing Security Fund). This money helps individuals to remain housed. It addresses the barriers that exist with other funding interventions. In the larger cities, those other funding sources would not meet the need, because they are not large enough. Flexible housing pools were developed to provide some “nimbleness” to the system of care. We have not yet any disbursed any funds for our housing security funds (they’ve sat



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- and gained interest), and we will strategically use these as we continue to roll out CES. With the additional funding from CESH, we will be close to \$1 million and will be ready to roll it out
- 40% will go to emergency housing interventions (navigation centers, shelter/diversion, and outreach)
  - 5% to go to system support, such as bringing data up to speed...specifically CES and HMIS data. In our System of care, we've identified a few agencies that need custom reports in order to improve their data. This funding helps improve those data collection efforts
  - The last 5% goes to administration. The cap is 5% from the state.
- Gabriel: This can be changed at any time, correct? For example, if there aren't enough applications for a particular program.
    - Lavonna: Yes, it can be adjusted. This is just an initial proposal to the state. As we roll it out to the community—these dollars will be RFP'd out—that will be the process for these dollars as well. IF we cannot spend down these dollars, we can go back to the state and move them around
  - Deanne: The rental assistance is blank—and that's because we are going to fill the GAP by the HEAP?
    - Lavonna: No, that is being filled by the Flexible Housing Pool. It's essentially the same thing.
  - Gabriel: And this money has a 5-year period?
    - Lavonna: Yes, a 5 year spend down. There are two rounds and the rounds are back to back, but each round has a 5-year spend-down period, respectively.
  - Dan: Did the money come from the legislature's expanded budget?
    - Lavonna: Some of it came from the Building Homes and Jobs Act, as well as some unspent ESG funding.
  - Community: I hear 5-year spend-down, how quickly do you plan on allocating?
    - Lavonna: We are required to do that within 5 months.
  - John Barclay: Are you eligible for both rounds?
    - Lavonna: Yes, but Round 2 is not expected to be as much money. This first round was a very fast turnaround, so many communities won't make it into Round 1.
  - Deanne: At what point are we looking at the different funding sources and programs to make sure that we didn't under- or overdo line items?
    - Lavonna: This is mostly relying on my thinking and staff recommendations. Looking at community priorities, looking at what we are funding with other sources, such as HEAP. We are being very mindful of what programs are already being funded elsewhere.



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- Community: IS this for building new facilities or utilizing existing facilities?
  - Lavonna: Capital development are ineligible items for CESH. However, the HEAP dollars can fund capital projects. Making sure we juggle both.
- Community: Is there going to be more funding to hire more Housing Navigators?
  - Lavonna: We have been holding community meetings regarding HEAP. West County is getting \$1.36 million, East is getting \$2.9 million, and Central is getting \$2.2 million. These have been a good opportunity for community members to come and decide on the best programs to fund, such as Housing Navigators. There will also be Youth forum for HEAP tonight.
- **Procedural Record:**
  - *Motion to approve staff recommendation on how CESH funds will be allocated.*
  - *Motion made by: Ceil McCloy*
  - *Seconded by: John Eckstrom*
  - *AYES: Candace Collier, John Eckstrom, Gabriel Lemus, Deanne Pearn, Miguel Hidalgo-Barnes, Teri House, Doug Leich, John Barclay, Cecelia McCloy, Bradley Lindbloom, Carolyn Foudy, Dan Sawislak, Tracy Pullar,*
  - *NOES: None.*
  - *ABSTAINS: None.*
  - *ABSENT: Patrice Guillory, Alejandra Chamberlain, Manjit Sappal, Joseph Villarreal*
  - *MOTION APPROVED*

### 4. Committee Updates

- Jaime: Policy and Advocacy Committee met and proposed new legislative platform language
  - The Subpopulations Committee met, good discussion, changed its name to the Ensuring Equity Committee
  - CE Oversight Committee did not meet
  - Some seats are going to be up in December; people can reapply
  - The Nominating Committee will start nominating new members for the COH, with recommendations to the COH by the first meeting in January.
  - For people whose seats are expiring, you can remain on the council, but you have to reapply
- Ceil: Please make sure to broadcast/advertise about vacancies and pending seats so that other community members can apply
  - Lavonna: We are planning on that



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- Gabriel: Why do nominations have to go to Family and Human Services Committee when we are the advisory body on homelessness?
  - Jaime: I can ask about that. Usually this is just a stamp of approval before the Board of Supervisors.
  - Gabriel: I've seen other committees that just go straight to the BOS when they have new members
  - Lavonna: I think other committees are different because they have different ways of selecting people for seats (for example, some seats may be seated by BOS members)
- Ceil: Just on the P&A Committee...I assume there won't be another meeting until something has happened in the legislature
  - Erica: There has been some rethinking on P&A. It will likely change to start tracking the California State Legislature's calendar. Because there is such a lengthy process involved in making recommendations to the BOS, we are tinkering with the schedule to make sure that the P&A meeting can effectively make recommendations on legislation in time.

### 5. 2019 Legislative Platform (Action Item)

- Doug discussed the proposed changes to the 2019 Legislative Platform based on the August Policy and Advocacy Committee Meeting
- Doug: This is the proposed language that we discussed at the last P&A meeting and we are proposing it to the Council so that we can send it to H3/Lavonna for action
- Deanne: In subsection A, since we are choosing to spell out individual subpopulations, it seems remiss to leave out veterans
  - Doug: We can address that in a motion
  - Deanne: I think we should add veterans—we have a whole set of work for veterans
  - Teri: We also have high cost utilizers to the county and the chronically homeless—should we add those as well
  - Deanne: Or do we just use “vulnerable populations”?
  - Lavonna: It's important to note how these legislative platforms are utilized...sometimes, the more broad the platform is, we can more quickly move items through. If it is too specific, it may require additional steps, such as going to the legislative committee of the Board. We want to find that fine balance. Not too vague but not too specific.
  - Ceil: Add “but not limited to” after “including.”
  - John Barclay: We could use the populations of the VI-SPDAT.
  - Lavonna: I could potentially see some future legislation that specifies different populations/focuses. I think the best way to avoid a rabbit hole is including “but not limited to.” As it's written now, it specifies the



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current priorities of the Council, but still considers other potential populations.

- Community: A fair percentage of homeless people are mentally ill. If you are going to have specifics, then that does cause some issues if you leave the mentally ill out of it. With these other subpopulations, we should include mentally ill.
- Miguel: We have a tool for measuring vulnerability, which is the VI-SPDAT, so we don't need to parse out what "most vulnerable" means.
- Lavonna: We just want a legislative platform that will be most effective in communicating our stance/recommendations on legislation that may come out from the state. I would completely agree that mentally ill would be worthwhile to include because there is a lot of legislation that specifically talks about those who are mentally ill.
- Miguel: This may speak to the fact that there's a lack of clarity around our priorities.
- *Procedural Record:*
  - *Motion to adopt language of Legislative Platform language as presented, with an amendment to include "but not limited to" after "including" in Section A, as well as adding veterans in the list*
  - *Deanne: Friendly amendment to include "persons with serious mental illness" as well.*
  - *Gabriel: This platform is for the state, not federal, right?*
  - *Lavonna: This is mostly for the Board of Supervisors, whether its federal or the state.*
  - *Motion made by: Ceil McCloy*
  - *Seconded by: John Barclay*
  - *AYES: Candace Collier, John Eckstrom, Gabriel Lemus, Deanne Pearn, Miguel Hidalgo-Barnes, Teri House, Doug Leich, John Barclay, Cecelia McCloy, Bradley Lindbloom, Carolyn Foudy, Dan Sawislak, Tracy Pullar,*
  - *NOES: None.*
  - *ABSTAINS: None.*
  - *ABSENT: Patrice Guillory, Alejandra Chamberlain, Manjit Sappal, Joseph Villarreal*
  - *MOTION APPROVED*

### 6. November 2018 Ballot Propositions on Housing

- Doug presented Ballot Measures 1, 2 and 10.
- Doug: This is not an action item, just a discussion/information session for the different ballot measures. The BOS has taken a position of support for Measure 1 and 2. They have taken no position on Proposition 10.
  - The first proposition is proposition 1. It's a general obligation bond program proposition to fund construction of Affordable Housing. Of



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- that \$4 billion, \$1 billion is set aside for veteran housing. The other \$3 billion is more general.
- Dan: \$1.5 billion is allocated for multifamily housing projects. That's a huge amount...maybe could even double the amount of funding for housing for the state.
  - Community: It doesn't create any new programs. All of the funding will go to already existing programs. Just adding to the pot.
  - Dan: Yes, but some of those pots are empty and haven't had funding for multiple years
  - Doug: Proposition 2 allocates \$2 billion for supportive housing for homeless residents in need of mental health services. Unlike prop 1, this is not a general obligation bond. Instead, it will authorize funding to come from the mental health fund (the "millionaire's tax") to go to housing instead.
    - Miguel: So new construction...very exciting.
    - Lavonna: This is specifically for the creation of affordable permanent supportive housing with services attached. This ballot measure is not intended for services. It is solely for construction and rehab of existing buildings for affordable housing.
  - Doug: Proposition 10 will repeal the Costa Hawkins Act from 1995, which prohibits cities and other jurisdictions from imposing rent control to structures after a certain date. This act would repeal the act, which would allow cities to impose rent control to a broader spectrum of housing than the state currently allows
    - Dan: Currently when someone leaves a unit, the landlord can raise the rate of the unit to equal the current market.
    - Doug: Currently cities do have measures that protect new tenants after a previous tenant leaves or is evicted. Units are subjected to rent ceilings, so that new tenants only have to pay so much.
  - Doug: Multi-Faith Action Coalition, Housing California, Non-Profit Housing Association of Northern California, East Bay Housing Organizations, and Ensuring Opportunity endorse all 3 of these propositions.
    - Community: And the Western Center on Law and Poverty has also endorsed all 3 propositions
    - Community: In thinking about this, in the areas where this is rent control—does that increase the availability of units for people that need it? Like for example, one of the counterarguments to 10—if people cannot increase rent, they might not rehab their units in between tenants
      - Community: Just to clarify, Proposition 10 does not impose any new rent control. There is a lot of research about rent control policies...in general, in cities that have rent control now, there housing production has not been impacted. No rent control is



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going to cap at zero increases. People are still able to make increases to their units even with rent control.

- Doug: These are the ballot measures that have the most direct impact on housing and homelessness, and so we want to make sure everyone looks at these and votes!
  - Deanne: If this body believes that the BOS should take a favorable stance on 10, can we make that recommendation to the Board?
  - Jaime: The COH can direct staff to prepare the information/documents to submit to the legislative committee of the BOS.
  - Jill (community): The legislative committee has been canceled this month, so this would go directly to the Board chair.
  - Teri: Staff has a lot on their plate right now; want to caution whether this is a good use of time.
  - Jaime: Jill, can you clarify?
  - Jill: The COH would submit a letter to the Board chair, and they may or may not take it up, because they've already discussed it. They also may not have taken a stance on 10 because it has to do with cities instead of counties—it's out of their jurisdiction.
  - Teri: So this may not be a good use of time.
- John Barclay: Before we move past the legislation, SB1152 is about hospital discharges of homeless patients. The bill would require specific plans for how to discharge homeless patients. There are some advocacy opportunities around discharge of homeless patients. Advocating at particular hospitals in Antioch, Martinez, Richmond might be worthwhile.

### 7. PIT Count

- Jaime discussed the upcoming homeless Point in Time Count.
- Jaime: It's upcoming in January. It's every year, we do a census of everyone we can identify in our community. We are having our first planning meeting on Nov. 2<sup>nd</sup> for anyone who is interested in being a part of the thinking/design of this process, such as surveys, how to conduct the count, how to do volunteer recruitment. We are looking at some of the incentives to recruit volunteers (such as handing out appreciation bags at community colleges).
  - For anyone in this room, if you know of any non-agency outreach that is happening (for example, religious groups), we want to know so that we can collaborate with them on gathering some of this data
  - If anyone is interested in thinking about the volunteer piece, let me know. We are thinking about having more sites with more volunteers. Trying to capture as many people as possible in our data collection.
  - CORE Outreach teams will still be going out.
- Teri: What is the target number of volunteers?



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- Jaime: At least 100...probably more like 200. We usually have a bunch of no-shows on the day of the training, etc. Trying to make sure that no volunteers are out there by themselves.
- Currently figuring out the sites that we have.
- Teri: I've been using the "Next Door" app to recruit volunteers for things. It's a great app. I don't want to be the volunteer recruitment coordinator, but I can work with Next Door to get started on this.
- Jaime: Volunteers go out, collect data, conduct surveys, etc. They drop off their packet at H3 and H3 takes it from there.
- Doug: The CORE Team helps to collect information from the encampments.
- Jaime: We get people who say "I'm okay with going to encampments on my own." That's not something we encourage. We're not going to have community volunteers go to encampments during the PIT. We have trained, paid staff for that. We also have other needs; for example, we will need people to call different sites to help coordinate.
- Jaime: If you know anyone who might want to participate with the surveys and needs training—such as your staff members—let me know and we can get them involved.

### 8. Homeless Awareness Month

- Jaime: As we did in year's past, we're doing a Toolkit for agencies. There's also advocacy going behind the scenes. For example, we have people who are going to City Council meetings. You can go and ask your City Council to make a proclamation about Homeless Awareness Month. We already have talking points ready for you. First step is getting on the city council agenda, and then you can go and speak to them about making a proclamation. Candace is going to Antioch's city council.
- Teri: It's always effective to be a resident of that city. They want to hear from their constituents.
- Jaime: We are also handing out awards. We have an award for landlords, volunteers, and innovation. For example, if you've seen something awesome and innovative for our system of care, that might be worthy of the Innovation Award.
- Jaime: At the Nov. 13<sup>th</sup> BOS, we are going to do advocacy by consumers, the Housing Awareness Month Proclamation, adopt HEAP proclamation, and present awards.
- Final slide was a list of City/Town Council Meetings. Many of the municipalities still need someone to go to ask for a homeless proclamation.
- Teri: The City of Antioch is currently doing a drive. If you want to do a drive, we just need to figure out where to get the barrels, and then the CORE team can distribute the barrels around the county as necessary.
- Jaime: Yes, and we'll also have a guide on what materials/supplies are best to donate (such as synthetics). Toolkits are going to be blasted out by email, they will include hyperlinks, look for them in the coming week.



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- Teri: If you have a barrel or are interested in getting on, please contact me!

### **9. Community Announcements**

- No community announcements.

### **10. Pin It**

- Quarterly CoC Meeting is on October 19<sup>th</sup>, 2018 In Antioch
- The next Council meeting is Nov. 1<sup>st</sup> (room tbd).

### **11. Adjourn Meeting – Doug Leich**