



Butte Countywide Homeless Continuum of Care

Butte County Continuum of Care

Councilmember Minutes

Monday, February 13, 2023

1:00 PM to 3:00 PM

Zoom Meeting Hosted by: Butte County Employment & Social Services

COMMITTEE MEMBERS PRESENT:

Amber Abney-Bass, Jesus Center
Anastacia Snyder, Catalyst
Ann Winters, Greater Chico Task Force
Brad Brunner, Caminar
Briana Harvey-Butterfield, DESS H&H
Ed Mayer, HACB
Emily Pereira, Youth for Change
Ian Clement, DESS H&H
Jennifer Macarthy, City of Chico
Keesha Hills, OSCIA
Tami Ritter, BC Board of Supervisors

COMMITTEE MEMBERS ABSENT:

Eric Smith, City of Oroville
Josh Jamison, Oroville Hope Center
Marie Demers, City of Chico
Marin Hambley, Stonewall
Meagan Meloy, BCOE
Sarah Frohock, BCDBH
Steve Culleton, Town of Paradise

OTHER ATTENDEES:

Tara Sullivan-Hames, Butte-Glenn 211
Erin Kennedy, Boys and Girls Club
Shelby Boston, DESS
Yesenia Gallegos, CHAT
MaryJo Alonzo, City of Chico
Meagan Smith, NCIHA
Matt McCoy, VSO
Shelly Storkan, DBH
Tiffany Danger, BCOE

OTHER ATTENDEES CONT:

Deborah Taylor, VA
Jeri Cummings, Public Health
Melissa Jamison, United Way of Northern California
Suzi Kochems, City of Oroville/ORM
Lorena Reed, DBH
Debbie Villasenor, Housing Consultant
Leslie Johnson, CHAT
Annaliesa Batts, DESS
Jessica Gianola, CHAT
Carnella Marks, Restoring Our Community
Lisa Carrillo, Probation
Rachel Morton, OSCIA
Patrizia Hironimus, DESS H&H
Charles Withuhn, North State Shelter Team
Nick Fashing, DESS
Mary Kay Benson, Butte County Shelter for All
Scott Kennelly, DBH
Jaymee McLaughlin, CUSD
Elisa Rawlinson, DES H&H
Rachel DeLeon, DESS
Santy Gray, BCOE
Patrick Telles, LSNC
Samantha Raschka, Ampla Health
Jay Coughlin, DESS H&H
Caitlin Davis-Rivers, CHAT
Tim Hawkins, CAA
Monica Soderstrom, Public Health
Amie Decker, Nation's Finest
Joshua Roberts, VA
Kaitlyn Sherrill, DESS H&H
Pamela Beeman, Chico Area Interfaith Council

CoC Coordinator: Briana Harvey Butterfield, DESS H&H **Recording:** Erin Murray, DESS H&H

ORDER OF BUSINESS

1. **CONVENE MEETING AND ESTABLISH QUORUM:** The meeting was called to order by A. Snyder, Chair. This meeting is being recorded. Roll call of the councilmembers was completed by A. Snyder whom facilitated the meeting. It was determined that there were enough councilmembers were present to establish a quorum.
2. **APPROVAL OF MINUTES – ACTION:** A motion was made to approve the following minutes:
 - a. January 9, 2023 – CoC Council Meeting

Motion: Ed Mayer, HACB
Second: Keesha Hills, OSCIA
Opposed: None
Abstain: Emily Pereira, Briana Harvey-Butterfield

3. **VETERAN’S AFFAIRS SUICIDE PREVENTION AND HOMELESS PROGRAM – INFORMATION:**

D. Taylor from the Veteran’s Affairs (VA) reported on the Suicide Prevention Program. She stated that Veterans commit suicide 57.3% higher than non-veteran adults and that 2/3 that do die by suicide have never engaged in services with the VA, as well as many being homeless Veterans. D. Taylor stated she works within the community to identify resources, inform the community, start coalitions, and focus on VA priorities. The VA has identified three priorities: 1) identify service members, Veterans, and their families and screen them for suicide risk, 2) promote connectedness and improve care transitions, and 3) increase safety and safety planning. The VA provides gun locks, stress balls, and has clinical staff available.

D. Taylor stated that the criteria for HUD VASH has changed significantly and many may be unaware. She requested that service providers share with Veterans they may come in contact with that they may qualify for services, even if they didn’t before. D. Taylor will be providing flyers to be distributed CoC-wide.

4. **2023 POINT IN TIME – INFORMATION:**

B. Harvey-Butterfield announced the completion of the 2023 Point in Time (PIT) census count on Wednesday, January 25. On behalf of Butte Countywide Homeless Continuum of Care, a sincere thank you to all volunteers. This year there were many collaborative agencies that provided a great deal of support. B. Harvey-Butterfield thanked the following agencies:

- Youth for Change
- Butte County Probation
- Oroville Rescue Mission
- Home and Heart
- Oroville Southside Community Improvement Association
- Jesus Center
- Gridley Police Department
- Butte County Department of Employment and Social Services
- Caminar
- Butte County Office of Education
- True North Housing Alliance
- Veterans Affairs
- Legal Services of Northern California
- Butte County Sheriff
- Butte County Behavioral Health
- Northern Circle Indian Housing Authority

- Chico Housing Action Team
- Restoring Our Community
- Oroville Hope Center
- Butte County Public Health
- Oroville Police Department
- City of Oroville Code Enforcement
- CSU, Chico
- Safe Space Winter Shelter
- Chico Policy Department
- City of Chico Code Enforcement
- Chico Unified School District
- Nation's Finest
- Community Action Agency
- North State Shelter Team
- Butte College
- Gridley Lions Club

B. Harvey-Butterfield further noted that two individuals went above and beyond with PIT coordination: Emily Pereira of Youth for Change and Meagan Meloy of BCOE.

B. Harvey-Butterfield stated that DESS has contracted with Housing Tools to compile data and provide the PIT report. The final number are expected to be available late spring/early summer and will be shared at a future CoC meeting.

5. CHICO PALLET SHELTER UPDATE – INFORMATION:

A. Abney-Bass provided a recap on the Pallet Shelter from the past year. The Pallet Shelter opened April 25, 2022 with 177 units. The shelter is a low barrier behavior based model with three case managers onsite. The key partners are Butte County Behavioral Health, Butte County Department of Employment and Social Services (DESS), Haven of Hope on Wheels, Ampla Mobile Medical Unit, Manger Clinic, and Narcotics Anonymous.

A. Abney-Bass shared the following data:

- Behavioral Health conducted 246 site visits and met with 80 unique individuals.
- The Housing Navigator from DESS Housing and Homeless met with 102 unique individuals.
- The Eligibility Specialist from DESS helped enroll participants in CalFresh, Medi-Cal, and General Assistance.
- Haven of Hope on Wheels provided 5,200 showers and 2,300 loads of laundry.
- Ampla Mobile Medical Unit operated at the shelter 4 days a month providing a variety of services.
- Veterinary Clinic provided services for 80 animals.
- The shelter saw 248 unique people throughout the year with 71% staying at the shelter at least 180 days.
- As of December 31, 2022, there were 179 people and 79 pets.
- Most participants are reporting being chronically homeless.
- 47% of participants are 45 years or older.
- Onsite case managers engaged with 225 unique individuals with a total of 828 sessions.
- Of the 185 participants currently residing at the shelter, 111 have applied for housing.

A. Abney-Bass stated that participants are very engaged and working on moving toward housing. The Community Council continues to provide input to be part of the solution.

A. Abney-Bass confirmed that the pathway to referral has not changed. The settlement agreement requires a referral via the Shelter Interest Line. Individuals experiencing homelessness can call and provide their name phone number, email address, and location. Shelter Interest Line 530-897-5890.

J. Macarthy added that the Outreach and Engagement Team has conducted assessments and provided resources to 330 people and the City of Chico has removed over a million pounds of trash.

6. APPROVE COMMITTEE CHAIR AND VICE CHAIR POSITIONS – ACTION:

B. Harvey-Butterfield stated that the packet includes Chair and Vice Chair contacts for all committees. Asking the council to approve changes to Governance Committee, Households with Children, and Veterans.

Motion to approve: Briana Harvey-Butterfield, DESS H&H

Second: Ed Mayer, HACB

Opposed: None

Abstain: None

7. FURNITURE NEEDS FOR NEWLY HOUSED HOUSEHOLDS – DISCUSSION:

D. Villasenor led a discussion on furniture needs for newly housed households. Housing Authority of the County of Butte reports 313 affordable housing units with project-based vouchers coming online this year. D. Villasenor noted that there is a current gap in furnishing availability and funding. She suggested that the CoC as a whole create a process for obtaining furnishing so it is not a barrier to housing. D. Villasenor suggested working with charitable organizations to raise funds to develop a pot of money and seek out vendors to buy basic items and household essentials. North Valley Community Foundation may be able to partner to administer funds.

The following resources were noted during discussion:

- Tiny Pine Foundation
- Salvation Army
- Adventist Health Inspire Hope Project
- Home Safe for seniors
- Housing Support Program for CalWORKs recipients
- Multiple agencies have limited supplies for their program participants

A. Snyder suggested creating an ad-hoc committee to put together a process and/or resource list and requested interested individuals email buttecoc@buttecounty.net to express interest.

A. Abney-Bass stated a warehouse for donations of household goods had previously been run by the Jesus Center.

D. Villasenor noted that this may be a long-term goal as it takes a lot of work, resources, and staff time.

M. Soderstrom noted that in taking in donations, the CoC may be able to engage environmental groups as it would lead to a decrease in gently used items going to the landfill. Groups such as Butte Environmental Council, Butte County Landfill, CSU, Chico, and Butte College may be willing partners.

D. Villasenor stated that in addition to the potential for dedicated funds through fundraising and potential warehousing of donated goods, service providers can also work to future grants include funds for furnishings.

8. LEAD AGENCY, COLLABORTIVE APPLICANT, and ADMINISTRATIVE ENTITY UPDATES – INFORMATION:

B. Harvey-Butterfield reported the following updates: 1) regarding the UC San Francisco Statewide Survey conducted in 2022, the report is being finalized and is scheduled to be released in spring. 2) The CoC Collaborative Applicant will be completing the 2023 CoC program registration in preparation for the upcoming CoC funding process. DESS has contracted with Housing Tools to facilitate and manage that process. 3) DESS is going to the Board of Supervisors on February 28 to approve Homeless Housing, Assistance and Prevention Round 3 contracts.

9. COMMITTEE REPORTS – INFORMATION:

Governance - met on January 11, chose new chair and vice chair, set meeting dates and times, and established plan for the year.

HMIS/CES - met last week and shared new referral system in HMIS. The referral system allows for more community engagement and coordination. The workgroup is still working on revising the housing assessment. The committee meets each month on the Monday prior to CoC meeting.

Households With Children - met February 7 and the next meeting is scheduled for March 7 at 1pm.

Veterans - met February 8 and discussed the Standdown which has been scheduled for September 21 through 23 at the Chico Elks Lodge. The next meeting is March 1.

Chronic Homeless - met last in December and discussed the Housing Disability Advocacy Program. The next meeting is February 22 at 130pm. The committee is looking for a new vice chair.

Youth Homeless - met last month and planned out the year. The committee plans to incorporate more youth voices in the committee. The next meeting is March 8 at 1230pm.

Equity - the committee will be providing training starting spring, no dates scheduled yet.

10. COALITION AND JURISDICTION REPORTS/UPDATES – INFORMATION:

Greater Chico Homeless Task Force - met last month and did a roundup of previous year. New resources shared and a discussion initiated regarding the needed for furnishing. The next meeting is February 16 at 10am.

Board of Supervisors - no updates.

11. ANNOUNCEMENTS/NEXT MEETING: *The next CoC Council Meeting will be on Monday, March 20, 2023.*

E. Mayer reported the Section 8 wait list closes today. A record setting 8000 applications has been received so far.

12. ADJOURNMENT: The meeting was adjourned.