



Butte Countywide Homeless Continuum of Care

Butte County Continuum of Care

Councilmember Minutes

Monday, March 20, 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
Ann Winters, Greater Chico Task Force
Brad Brunner, Caminar
Briana Harvey-Butterfield, DESS H&H
Emily Pereira, Youth for Change
Josh Jamison, Oroville Hope Center
Keesha Hills, OSCIA
Jennifer Macarthy, City of Chico
Marie Demers, City of Chico
Meagan Meloy, BCOE
Tami Ritter, BC Board of Supervisors
Tracey Johnstone, City of Oroville

COMMITTEE MEMBERS ABSENT:

Anastacia Snyder, Catalyst
Ed Mayer, HACB
Ian Clement, DESS H&H
Marin Hambley, Stonewall
Sarah Frohock, BCDBH
Steve Culleton, Town of Paradise

OTHER ATTENDEES:

Sherisse Allen, Butte County Admin.
Samantha Rashka, Ampla Health MMU
Tim Hawkins, CAA
Lorena Reed, DBH
Shelly Storkan, BCDBH
Yesenia Gallegos, CHAT
MaryJo Alonzo, City of Chico
Meagan Smith, NCIHA
James Wilson, Anthem Blue Cross
Pamela Beeman, Chico Area Interfaith Council

OTHER ATTENDEES CONT:

Wendy Longwell, Disability Action Center
Wendy Lo, DESS H&H
Angie Little, Housing Authority of the County of Butte
Josiah Vasey, Butte/Glenn 211
John Fleming, Ampla Health
Rachel DeLeon – DESS Eligibility & Employment
Debbie Villasenor, Housing Consultant
Leslie Johnson, CHAT
Annaliesa Batts, DESS
Jessica Giannola, CHAT
Mary Kay Benson, Butte County Shelter for All
Elisa Rawlinson, DESS H&H
Jaymee McLaughlin, CUSD
Kaitlyn Sherrill, DESS H&H
Patrizia Hironimus, DESS H&H
Logan Todd, NVCF
Charles Withuhn, North State Shelter Team
Scott Kennelly, BCDBH
Patrick Telles, Legal Services of Northern California
Shelly Miller, Children and Families Commission
Andrea Mox – Stonewall Alliance of Chico
Isabel Alaniz-Alvarado, DESS H&H
Nicole Drummond, CHAT
Annie Terry, Oroville Rescue Mission
Kathleen Sweeney, Tami Ritter's office
Troy McClanahan, DESS H&H
Taylor Storey, TNHA
Hilary Crosby, Safe Space
Olivia Jolley, Safe Space
Brooke Leone
Monica Soderstrom, Butte County Public Health
Matt McCoy, VSO

CoC Coordinator: Erin Murray, DESS H&H

Recording: Jay Coughlin, DESS H&H

ORDER OF BUSINESS

1. **CONVENE MEETING AND ESTABLISH QUORUM:** The meeting was called to order by K. Hills, Chair. This meeting is being recorded. Roll call of the councilmembers was completed by K. Hills whom facilitated the meeting. It was determined that there were enough councilmembers were present to establish a quorum. T. Johnstone has been appointed to CoC Council by City of Oroville to replace E. Smith.
2. **APPROVAL OF MINUTES – ACTION:** A motion was made to approve the following minutes, with a change to item 7. Clarification was provided by Amber Abney-Bass that she had shared that the Jesus Center had funded a warehouse, not that she was suggesting that this group do that:
 - a. February 13, 2023 – CoC Council Meeting

Motion: Ann Winters

Second: Tami Ritter

Opposed: None

Abstain: Marie Demers, Tracey Johnstone, Meagan Meloy, Jayme McLaughlin

3. **DHCS BEHAVIORAL HEALTH BRIDGE HOUSING PROGRAM – INFORMATION:**

S. Kennelly, Director for Butte County Department of Behavioral Health (BCDBH), presented a funding opportunity called the Behavioral Health Bridge Housing Program, available through DHCS. There is dedicated funding for each county to focusing on individuals experiencing homelessness who are mentally ill or have substance use disorders. BCDBH is polling individuals who are experiencing homelessness and have substance use disorders or a mental health condition. S. Kennelly presented a link to a survey which was shared in the chat and will be sent out to all CoC members after the meeting. The survey can be shared with persons experiencing homelessness that would like to provide feedback on what type of housing they would like the County pursue. The survey will close at the end of this week. The grant is for \$7.5 million, due April 28th. The priority population for this grant, besides individuals experiencing homelessness and mentally illness, is for court ordered mentally ill individuals. The State is looking for quick housing opportunities for this population.

C. Withuhn asked about tiny homes being an option. S. Kennelly said that tiny homes are also an option to add to the existing projects, but there is a very short timeline to get things up and running. Other suggestion can be added to the survey in the ‘other’ section.

S. Kennelly added, Governor Newsom is sending a potential big change to the polls in 2024 for Mental Health Services Act funding which would divert up to 30% of funding to Housing Options and inpatient alternatives to the State Hospitals more to come on that. This would shift responsibility for the State to the Counties for the seriously mentally ill homeless population.

A. Abney-Bass asked what the timeframe is to get operational. S. Kennelly said the timeline is one year and 75% of the funding is for operational costs.

4. **COMMUNITY PARTNER SPOTLIGHT – INFORMATION:**

Meagan Smith with Northern Circle Indian Housing Authority presented information to the group on services they provide in the community. They are a Tribally designated Housing Authority and serve Berry Creek and Feather Falls tribes in Oroville, as well as five other tribes from Mendocino County. They provide rental

assistance off the reservation in addition to housing on the reservation. They run the Tribal Housing and Disability Advocacy Program to help homeless and at risk-of homeless individuals apply for Social Security benefits. They have the Resident Opportunities and Self- Sufficiency (ROSS) and just received funding through Emergency Services Grant to provide hoteling for individuals who are experiencing unsheltered homelessness. The ESG is not just for Tribal members and totals \$100,000. They are in the works of receiving a grant for Bringing Families Home and Home Key. They are still working on building their Social Services Department and interested in doing more.

A. Abney-Bass asked if they had been awarded Home Key for a specific project yet. M. Smith said they have not been awarded yet and the projects will depend on the tribe(s) that get funded. A. Abney-Bass asked what the primary population was for the ESG funding. M. Smith said it is for families and individuals experiencing unsheltered homelessness.

A. Winters asked how people should reach out to Meagan to get more information. Contact info is Meagan Smith, Northern Circle Indian Housing Authority, 530-443-7510 or msmith@nciha.org

5. FURNITURE NEEDS FOR NEWLY HOUSED HOUSEHOLDS – *INFORMATION:*

D. Villasenor brought the group up to date on the progress to date of the Furniture Needs for Newly Housed Households ad-hoc group. The group is trying to identify resources to fill a gap in services with many opportunities for housing coming forward. Lots of the new affordable housing is connected with Project Based Vouchers, individuals many who qualify lack the ability to obtain furnishings and basic necessities.

D. Villasenor presented the write up of the Program which is in today's agenda packet. The Furniture and Household Items Voucher Program could get up the fastest, utilize existing vendors in our community, and partner with agencies such as the North Valley Community Foundation (NVCF). DESS would start an account at NVCF, CoC members would solicit donations to the account. A procedure is being developed to include voucher maximums and a list of affordable housing item providers (i.e. Thrift Stores, American Discount Furniture, Holbrooks, etc.). Agency Case Managers would work with DESS and NVCF to guide recipients through the process.

The second idea the committee has is a longer term effort to establish a warehouse to put donation items which Agency Case Managers would have access to when needed and available. This model will take longer, be more costly, and take more staffing to organize, accept donations, and deliver and set up items. This would require a lead agency, dedicated staff, more planning and funding.

A third idea is the Inspire Hope Program out of Paradise. They have a warehouse that they store donated items from stores such as Costco. Primarily they serve disaster areas, 90% of the program with the other 10% going to populations in need such as the homeless. The group is pursuing putting in an application with a list of case managers who could go to the warehouse and get available items. These individuals, once on the list, would have to have transportation to pick up and deliver items and do the setup of the items. D. Villasenor, B. Harvey-Butterfield, and E. Murray will be continuing to look at the requirements for this program to put an application in. J. Macarthy thanked the group for all of the work they had done on this and asked how many people does the group think these services will be provided to on an annual basis? D. Villasenor said that is a hard number to come up with, but looking at the pipeline of housing coming forward, in 2023 there will be 300 plus affordable housing units coming up with maybe 25% going to the homeless population. Beyond that we have even more affordable housing coming on line that we need to look at as well.

B. Harvey-Butterfield said in order for this to work it will be incredibly important that we have support from the membership of the CoC. If you are interested in participating please stay online at the end of today's meeting for the next Household Item meeting.

D. Villasenor said that NVCF will be able to help us to get funding through their network of donors.
N. Drummond said CHAT will support as they can.

6. SUPPORT LETTER POLICY – INFORMATION:

E. Murray presented the annual reminder that the CoC has a Support Letter Policy which is in today's packet. If you are looking for a letter of support send in the attached form to the CoC email address in the policy. As a reminder all policies and procedures are located on the CoC website under Governance. D. Villasenor asked if there was still a way for the CoC to take a request to the Executive Meeting quickly as opposed to the CoC quickly since so many funding requests are coming at us faster and with quicker timelines. E. Murray said that yes the policy is 14 days before a grant is due, however exceptions have been made and will likely continue to be when urgent requests are needed.

7. LEAD AGENCY, COLLABORTIVE APPLICANT, AND ADMINISTRATIVE ENTITY UPDATES – INFORMATION:

B. Harvey-Butterfield announced that her previous position has been filled by Erin Murray, as the new DESS Program Manager and CoC Coordinator and she will be facilitating these meetings moving forward. Currently the Point in Time report is being completed, and Housing Tools has been contracted with and is going through and completing the report as quick as possible. Data is due to HUD by April 28th and the hope is to present the information to the CoC in May.

E. Murray announced that the HHAP round 3 proposals went before the Board last month and were approved and those contracts started March 1st, except for the City of Chico which starts July 1st. HHAP 4 application was submitted jointly with the County and CoC, and we hope to receive that agreement soon which will allow for another Request for Proposals process.

8. COMMITTEE REPORTS – INFORMATION:

Governance – Met earlier this month and started working on a policy for agencies that receive CoC HUD funds to start doing an annual report process. The CoC can look forward to seeing that policy for review in the next few months.

HMIS/CES – Did not meet this month, but will resume meetings in April.

Households With Children – Continuing to meet monthly, Santy Gray is taking over as cochair and Jayme McLaughlin is taking over a note taker. BCOE was in attendance and will be at the foster care conferences later this month. The LCAT meeting is this Thursday night at the CUSD large conference room, please come and help advocate for families how are homeless with children in Chico. Boys and Girls club is continuing the back to school event to provide backpacks, supplies and haircuts. Potentially adding vaccination clinics to back to school drive. They work towards getting immunizations up to date. Pandemic EBT 4.0 update is now only for families receiving CalFresh benefits and will be \$75 for summer only.

Veterans –Nation's Finest is holding a fundraiser on March 25th at the Silver Dollar Fairgrounds. Next meeting on April 12th.

Chronic Homeless – Last meeting was canceled, the next meeting will be April 19th at 1:30 pm

Youth Homeless – No report.

Equity – Still in process of forming the committee, but a contract is in process to hold an equity training. Kick off for the trainings will be in May or June.

9. COALITION AND JURISDICTION REPORTS/UPDATES – INFORMATION:

Greater Chico Homeless Task Force – A. Winters announced the next meeting will be April 21st. H. Crosby said that Adult Protective Services presented as well as Passages and Scott Kennelly with Behavioral Health.

Board of Supervisors - T. Ritter said no specific report, however the Jesus Center is having their large fundraiser on Saturday from 10:30 – 12:30 at California Park.

City of Chico – M. Demers let the group know that the draft for the CDBG and HOME action plan will be available on April 1st, with the first meeting being the 1st council meeting in April and the final going to council in early May.

City of Oroville – No report

City of Paradise – No report

10. ANNOUNCEMENTS/NEXT MEETING: *The next CoC Council Meeting will be on Monday, April 17, 2023.*

Jesus Center – A. Abney-Bass announced that tickets for their fundraiser on Saturday are still available on their website. \$50 a person, lunch and a great keynote speaker, Liz Murray who wrote Breaking Night which was turned into the lifetime movie Homeless to Harvard.

11. ADJOURNMENT: The meeting was adjourned at 1:58 p.m, Those interested in the Furniture Needs for Newly Housed Households were encouraged to stay on and participate.