



Butte Countywide Homeless Continuum of Care

Butte County Continuum of Care

All Member Meeting Minutes

Monday, July 21, 2025 1:00 PM to 3:00 PM

Virtual Meeting Hosted by: Butte County Employment & Social Services

COUNCIL MEMBERS PRESENT:

Allan Dikes, ORC
Amber Abney-Bass, Jesus Center
Anastacia Snyder, Catalyst
Angel Calderon, City of Gridley
Angie Little, HACB
Brad Brunner, Caminar
Erin Murray, DESS
Jennifer Zellers, Youth for Change
MaryJo Alonzo, City of Chico
Tami Ritter, BC Board of Supervisors
Tracy Johnstone, City of Oroville

COUNCIL MEMBERS ABSENT:

Brittnie Paxman, Jordan Crossing
Heidi Lange, Town of Paradise
Josh Indar, BCOE
Matthew McCoy, DESS VSO
Sarah Frohock, BCDBH

CoC Coordinator:

Wendy Lo, DESS

Recording:

DESS Housing & Homeless

OTHER ATTENDEES:

Ann Winters, Catalyst
Monica Soderstrom, Butte Co Public Health
Jay Coughlin, DESS
Faith DeLeon, Butte-Glenn 211
Debbie Villasenor, Housing Consultant
Hilary Crosby, CAA
Megan Zellers, DESS
Kenneth Huenink, DESS
Matthew Bowen, Legal Services of Northern California
Nick Fashing, DESS
Tracey Gillihan, Butte-Glenn 211
Wendy Cumberland, DESS
Pamela Beeman, Interfaith Council
Elisa Rawlinson, DESS
Amy Bergstrand, City of Oroville
Maisue Thao, Butte College
Taylor Bunch, True North
Leslie Johnson, CHAT
Jayme Beres, DESS
Aimee Decker, Nation's Finest
Nicole Engasser, DESS
Tim Hawkins, CAA
Norma Lacy, NVCSS
Pahua Thao, DESS
Phil Wysocki, True North
Melody Proebstel, United Way
Nancy Jorth, Youth for Change
Sarah Graham, CHAT
Brittiney Norman, True North
Isabel Alaniz-Alvarado, DESS

ORDER OF BUSINESS

1. CONVENE MEETING AND ESTABLISH QUORUM

The meeting was called to order by Amber Abney-Bass, Chairperson at 1:03 pm. Roll call of the council members was conducted, and a quorum established. The meeting was facilitated by A. Abney-Bass and occurred virtually via Zoom.

2. APPROVAL OF MINUTES – ACTION

A motion was made to approve the meeting minutes for June 16, 2025.

- June 16, 2025 – CoC Meeting Minutes

Motion: Anastascia Snyder

Second: Brad Brunner

Opposed: None

Abstained: Angie Little, Angel Calderon, Jennifer Zeller, Heidi Lange

A motion was made to approve the meeting minutes for June 18, 2025.

- June 18, 2025 – CoC Special Meeting minutes

Motion: Maryjo Alonzo

Second: Brad Brunner

Opposed: None

Abstained: Anastascia Snyder, Alan Dykes, Angel Calderone, Angie Little, Heidi Lange, Jennifer Zellers, Josh Indar, Sarah Frohock, Tami Ritter

3. COUNCIL OFFICER NOMINEE SOLICITATION

W. Lo presented the CoC is soliciting nomination from CoC Councilmembers to fill the First Vice Chairperson seat vacated in May 2025. CoC Councilmembers having served on the council a minimum of one year may be eligible for nomination. A list of eligible nominees was shared, any CoC Councilmember may submit a nomination form; however, the nominee must be aware and accepting of the nomination. The Nomination Form was presented with instructions to submit the form via email to the Butte CoC no later than August 8th, 2025.

4. HOMELESS HOUSING, ASSISTANCE AND PREVENTION ROUND 6

E. Murray presented the overview of the HHAP Round 6 memo included in the packet and requested input from the CoC members.

E. Murray reminded everyone that Sherry Morgado with Housing Tools presented that Housing Tools' work on the 10-Year Strategy to End Homelessness and the County's work on the HHAP 6 application process will overlapping. The information shared at the June CoC through Sherry's 10-Year Strategy discussion will also be used to inform in the HHAP 6 application. In the June CoC meeting, Sherry led a discussion regarding positive achievements in services and housing; what made the successes happen; what are the challenges in gaps; what does it take to address those challenges in gaps. Building from those points, E. Murray opened the forum, and these are the comments/questions and answers:

Question: Is HHAP 6 asking to support existing projects and not new projects?

Answer: The priority is to sustain existing programs through this grant. Interim Housing funds can support current emergency shelters and transitional housing, but new Interim Housing programs require proof that permanent housing is already sustainable and doesn't need more funding.

Question: What is the period of HHAP 6?

Answer: The period of HHAP 6 runs through June 30, 2029, and start date is when contracts are rolled out.

Question: How does "expansion" fit into HHAP 6? If we have existing programs but the opportunity to increase permanent housing at a new site – which would involve new construction or a new location – does that still qualify as sustaining, or is it considered a new project?

Answer: Will connect with HCD for confirmation.

Question: Have HCD defined what the measurements are for sustainability?

Answer: For Interim Housing, sustainability must be shown that HHAP 6 funds are not needed to support existing projects. For Permanent Housing, sustainability documentation is required if applying for non-housing funds.

Question: How is cost measured to show sustainability?

Answer: To demonstrate sustainability through June 2029, providing an outline of operating costs for emergency shelter or transitional housing - number of beds, maintenance costs, and funding sources. This will be tracked in a spreadsheet, and gaps may justify HHAP 6 support. HCD advises providing information to the best of our ability, recognizing future funding and priorities are uncertain.

Question: Encampment was mentioned, what is the requirement?

Answer: HHAP 6 requires a map of all encampments in the region, and more details are outlined in the NOFA and available both on the HCD and CoC websites.

Question: At Governance committee, the encampment policy was discussed for the CoC to establish and adopt, but the CoC has no authority to perform them. Is this new?

Answer: As an eligible applicant, the CoC must adopt this policy despite having no authority over encampments – a concern raised with HCD along with other HHAP applicants. This requirement is new. CalICH encampment policy guidance is available on their website. There is an exception if one or both parties don't adopt a policy, the applicant must explain how they follow CalICH's guidance in their application.

Question: Can questions still be submitted for HHAP 6?

Answer: Questions may be submitted up until the application's due date on August 29, 2025.

Question: Is sustainability for Interim Housing required only for programs in HMIS, or for all programs in the County?

Answer: It is for all programs in the County.

Question: Does existing housing include units currently under construction or only those already part of Butte's housing stock?

Answer: Will connect with HCD for confirmation

Question: There are very different policies for different municipalities versus some others. What about issue of encampments within different city limits versus unincorporated areas of the county?

Answer: Only eligible applicants – the CoC and the County – must have an encampment policy. Cities may choose to adopt one, but it doesn't affect the HHAP 6 applicant's eligibility.

5. LEAD AGENCY, COLLABORATIVE APPLICANT, ADMINISTRATIVE ENTITY UPDATES

E. Murray shared an update for HHAP 5 that the process is currently on pause until further information is provided.

Additionally, HUD provided a notice that they intend to release a new NOFO for the HUD CoC Program Grant. This grant was previously an annual process and last year HUD notified that it was going to switch to every other year process. However, HUD notified that that is not the case and they do intend to release a NOFO this year. Housing Tools is informed of this and will collaborate to draft a contract to facilitate this process. No information as to when the NOFO will be released or what it will look like, and the CoC will be informed of any updates.

Comment: Today's paper reported that 17 state coalitions filed an injunction with the federal government related to the ESG and CoC's new certifications which could be a cease or desist any change.

Comment Response: There was no timeline provided in that HUD notice so that may mean we have more time.

E. Rawlinson shared the highlight and recognition for the Butte County community, which is on the CoC website under HMIS Case Study for Butte County. This links directly to the HUD Exchange where HUD recognized four communities nationwide for unique uses of HMIS. The page shared Butte County's new and innovative uses of HMIS showing how the community came together to provide emergency housing vouchers to clients. This recognition demonstrates the community's work and allows for other communities to reach out for ideas.

6. COMMITTEE REPORTS – INFORMATION

Governance Committee – E. Murray meets on Wednesdays and are currently discussing the Rank and Review Policy, and what an Encampment Policy might look like, and always regular discussions about existing policies.

HMIS/CES Committee – E. Rawlinson did not meet but will meet next month.

Households with Children – No updates.

Chronic Homelessness – No updates.

PIT Committee – Not currently meeting.

Equity Committee – B. Norman reported Stonewall presented and next meeting is on September 17, 2025, at 1 p.m. for anyone who is interested in joining.

Youth Homelessness – J. Zellers reported that a couple ideas were discussed surrounding the November months and the upcoming years. We noticed that our most vulnerable youth are falling through the cracks, unaccompanied minors. The emergency shelters cannot take unaccompanied minors so we are looking into possibilities of what can come of that.

Veterans – No updates.

7. COALITION AND JURISDICTION REPORTS/UPDATES - INFORMATION

Butte County Board of Supervisors – Supervisor Ritter reported board meeting on June 24th, budget was passed for the next year. Upcoming board meeting is this last Tuesday of the month for July.

Greater Oroville Homeless Coalition – No updates.

City of Chico – M. Alonzo reported the City's Ad Hoc Homelessness committee is meeting in August, unsure of the time yet.

City of Oroville – T. Johnstone reported grand opening for Mission Esperanza on Friday, July 25th.

Town of Paradise – No updates.

City of Gridley – A. Calderon reported no updates except for community's concern regarding ICE and deportation. Unsure if Housing Authority in Gridley will provide emergency shelter to the homeless and it will be a good idea to reaffirm the services from Housing Authority.

8. ANNOUNCEMENTS:

A. Dykes: As stated by Council T. Johnstone, ribbon cutting for Mission Esperanza and soft opening this Friday, July 25th. We will start housing participant from ERF encampments.

M. Soderstrom: There had been an increased level of people being exposed to E. Coli in the City of Chico. It was reported that the exposure either came from the Sycamore Pool or other areas in the Big Chico Creek. Public Health doesn't have jurisdiction over the waters but is working closely with City of Chico, C.A.R.D, Chico Parks Department, and the CDC to do extensive water and sediment and silt testing on the creeks all to Bear Hole. As an awareness, there had been Facebook postings and many people blaming this increased presence of E. Coli on people experiencing homelessness. This cause is highly unlikely and they're getting the whole genome sequencing tests from people who have been ill and the water and silt testing. As we know more, I will bring more updates to the group.

T. Ritter: In the paper regarding the Oroville Police Officer dropping off homeless people from Oroville to the Home Depot parking lot in Chico, which was in the court transcripts. This demands a larger conversation with our providers on how to work with law enforcement and partnering with them in terms of resources, sobering center, and other services. Interested in further discussion on this topic in a future CoC meeting.

P. Beeman: In the chat, stated the Interfaith Council cinder "United Against Hate in the North State" will be Thursday, November 13th – save the date.

9. NEXT REGULAR MEETING – MONDAY, August 18, 2025: COUNCIL MEETING

Butte County Department of Employment & Social Services – Virtual Meeting

10. ADJOURN

Meeting adjourned at 2:14 pm