



## Butte Countywide Homeless Continuum of Care

### Butte County Continuum of Care

### Council Meeting Minutes

Monday, October 20, 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  
Brad Brunner, Caminar  
Erin Murray, DESS  
Heidi Lange, Town of Paradise  
Jennifer Zellers, Youth for Change  
Josh Indar, BCOE  
MaryJo Alanzo, City of Chico  
Sarah Frohock, BCDBH  
Tami Ritter, BC Board of Supervisors  
Tracy Johnstone, City of Oroville

#### **COUNCIL MEMBERS ABSENT:**

Angel Calderon, City of Gridley  
Angie Little, HACB  
Brittnie Paxman, Jordan's Crossing  
Matthew McCoy, DESS VSO

#### **CoC Coordinator:**

Wendy Lo, DESS

#### **Recording:**

DESS Housing and Homeless

#### **OTHER ATTENDEES:**

Debbie Villasenor, Housing Consultant  
Tracey Gillihan, Butte-Glenn 211  
Sam Casale, BCDBH  
Leslie Heino, CHAT  
Kenneth Huenink, DESS  
Jodene Setera, Salvation Army  
Jayme Beres, DESS  
Alena Strickland, ORC  
Phillip Wysocki, TNHA  
Lori Mason, NSST  
Pahua Thao, DESS  
Monica Soderstrom, BCPH  
Lorena Reed, BCDBH  
Taylor Bunch, TNHA  
Pamela Beeman, Interfaith Council  
Halle Brown, NCIHA  
Wendy Cumberland, DESS  
Shelly Watson, Jesus Center  
Ann Winters, Catalyst  
Nancy Jorth, Youth for Change  
Kim Decker, Nation's Finest  
Tanya Lindquist, DOR  
Lisa Torres, OSCIA  
Shelly Storkon, BCDBH  
Erin Kennedy, Boys and Girls Club  
Nick Fashing, DESS  
Tara Sullivan-Hames, Butte-Glenn 211

## ORDER OF BUSINESS

### 1. CONVENE MEETING AND ESTABLISH QUORUM

The meeting was called to order by A. Abney-Bass, Chairperson at 1:01 pm. Roll call of the council members was conducted, and a quorum established. The meeting was facilitated by Amber Abney-Bass and occurred virtually via Zoom.

### 2. APPROVAL OF MINUTES – ACTION

Discussion was had regarding the minutes. Council requested minutes be revised to more thoroughly capture agenda item #6 regarding HHAP Reallocation. There were specific questions on how the motion/amendments were made as that information was not reflected in the minutes. Minutes will be brought back for approval at the November 2025 All-Member meeting.

### 3. COMMUNITY SPOLIGHT: TRUE NORTH HOUSING ALLIANCE - INFORMATION Presenting: T. Bunch

T. Bunch shared several program updates. The Howard Slater Navigation Center is complete with the ribbon-cutting and open house to be held on Thursday, October 30, from 9:30 a.m. to 12 p.m. The center, an AB101-compliant navigation center, will connect unhoused or precariously housed individuals to services through True North and partner agencies. Partners are encouraged to use the space for client meetings. A soft opening is planned for early November, with an integrated scheduling system in development.

Housing Plus Support Program (HPSP) is a newly launched, state-managed and federally funded program, expanding homelessness prevention, rapid rehousing, and supportive services. Eligibility aligns with ESG program standards, assisting households with income at 30% AMI or less. The program will serve Butte, Glenn, Colusa, Trinity, and Tehama counties and can assist clients relocating anywhere in California. Joe Carvalho is the primary contact with referrals handled through a secure Google Form.

Adult Re-Entry Services Program will launch soon through a recently secured a contract with the Board of State and Community Corrections. The program will provide reentry and warm-handoff support for formerly incarcerated individuals in Butte County. Services include outreach, case management, and behavioral health supports. Referral details are forthcoming.

L. Mason asked for resources related to Medication-Assisted Treatment (MAT) services. T. Bunch noted True North's Adult Re-Entry program isn't active yet and suggested contacting Ampla or Behavioral Health. M. Soderstrom recommended starting with Butte County Behavioral Health or, if urgent, the hospital emergency department. A. Abney-Bass added that Enloe's substance use navigator supports people experiencing homelessness. S. Frohock clarified that MAT services are handled by Behavioral Health's Substance Use Disorder (SUD) division, not Mental Health, and clients should be directed there to avoid delays.

T. Lindquist asked in if Glenn and Colusa County clients would need to go through the Chico location for assistance with HPSP. P. Wysocki answered in chat stating, no, however TNHA is currently working with Dos Rios CoC on a process.

#### **4. BUTTE COUNTY BEHAVIORAL HEALTH: BEHAVIORAL HEALTH SERVICES ACT – INFORMATION**

**Presenting: S. Casale**

S. Casale shared updates on the transition from the MHSA to BHSA beginning next fiscal year. The transition from MHSA to BHSA will have an impact on housing programs within the community. BHSA requires counties to must spend 30% of funds on housing interventions. Currently, Butte spends 2% of these funds on housing. Because of this shift, DBH has been gathering community input to inform decisions on where to allocate funds.

Results from a community input survey show 47 people who identified as being part of housing support community or part of the CoC. A total of 380 respondents (a 52% increase from the last time community survey), identified homelessness as the top community priority, followed by LGBTQIA+ and TAY/Young Adults. Key housing findings identified the main barrier as qualifying for affordable housing. Supportive housing was identified as the most preferred model, with funds to secure housing services, rental assistance, and case management as the top funding needs.

S. Casale thanked participants for their input and collaboration, noting improved survey diversity and participation, particularly from individuals with lived experience and those affected by homelessness. A full report will be shared once finalized.

#### **5. PARTNERSHIP HEALTHPLAN OF CALIFORNIA: TRANSITIONAL RENT – INFORMATION**

**Presenting: N. Vij**

N. Vij stated that the presentation is to provide information about Transitional Rent and to gauge interest in becoming a Transitional Rent provider. Transitional Rent is a new mandatory Community Support Service that all Managed Care Plans must offer beginning January 1, 2026. The program provides up to six months of rent or temporary housing for eligible Medi-Cal members who are homeless or at risk of homelessness. It is approved under California’s CMS waiver through 2029.

The goal is to support housing stability during transition periods and prevent homelessness. Partnership HealthPlan is working with DHCS and 24 county behavioral health agencies to finalize the program’s policy, referral, and reporting requirements. The model of care was submitted to DHCS on September 2, 2025, and is currently under review.

To be eligible to receive Transitional Rent, members must be high-need Medi-Cal members enrolled with Partnership and must have clinical risk factors, be experiencing or at risk of homelessness, and be within a specified population (e.g., individuals exiting institutions or behavioral health treatment).

Roles and Responsibilities between Managed Care Plan (MCP) and County Behavioral Health Agencies (CBHA):

##### **MCP**

- Administers and authorizes transitional rent for up to 6 months within a 12-month period.
- Requires a Housing Support Plan for each member.
- Ensures members are also enrolled in Enhanced Care Management and other support services.
- Tracks total housing assistance to maintain compliance with program limits.

##### **CBHA**

- Must spend 30% of BHSA funds on housing interventions.
- Coordinate with MCP to avoid duplication of services.
- Housing Support Plan must be submitted to MCP for eligible transitional rent recipient.
- Can fund non-covered supports such as utilities, pet fees, or landlord incentives.

Transitional Rent covers rental assistance (including storage and amenity fees and landlord-paid utilities) for approved permanent (shared housing, tiny homes, recovering housing, etc.) or interim housing (SRO units, hotels/motels, transitional and recovering housing, etc.) settings.

Transitional Rent Provider Expectations:

- Identify and secure suitable housing units.
- Ensure habitability, assist with lease agreements, and process rent payments.
- Coordinate with supportive service providers and landlords.
- Must demonstrate experience in housing navigation, landlord engagement, and fiscal management.

A list of DHCS allowable providers was presented and the slideshow will be shared with the group after the meeting. Important to note that MCP/Partnership will coordinate closely with DBH to transition from Transitional Rent, months 1-6 covered by health plan, to BHSA housing on month 7.

DHCS final payment methodology released October 3, 2025. Reimbursement will include administrative rate based on region, and rent payments aligned with HUD Small Area Fair Market Rents, reimbursed up to 110% in most cases. Partnership is actively seeking Transitional Rent providers. Interested organizations should contact the Community Supports or can reach out directly to N. Vij.

M. Soderstrom asked if the 6-month transitional rent limit also includes time spent in recuperative care and short-term post-hospitalization stay. N. Vij said yes. The six-month cap applies across all room and board services combined—including transitional rent, recuperative care, and short-term post-hospitalization—within a 12-month period.

A. Abney-Bass asked when transitioning from interim with existing community support provider, will the current community support providers and TARS stay the same, with just the new Transitional Rent added if the provider already has a contract. N. Vij stated that providers must have a separate contract for transitional rent, even if already contracted as a community support provider. If they are contracted for both, member continuity will be maintained.

A. Abney-Bass further asked whether transitional rent can be layered with housing deposits under the same authorization, emphasizing that many clients lack funds for application fees and deposits, underscoring the need for flexibility in funding sources. N. Vij stated that at this time, no—DHCS views that as a duplicative service. However, the policy is still under review, and Partnership is waiting for final operational guidance from DHCS.

M. Soderstrom reminded attendees to help clients maintain active Medi-Cal coverage, as access to housing and community supports increasingly depends on continuous Medi-Cal eligibility.

S. Storkan asked if a person is not eligible for Behavioral Health Services to take over after month 6, are they still eligible for transitional rent. It sounds like MCP will not approve Transitional Rent if there's not someone to take over on month 7, which the plan was for BHSA to take over after health plan coverage ends. With the limited funding, it seems that not very many will be eligible for this assistance. N. Vij responded that these are active concerns under discussion with DHCS. Partnership has asked for clarification about what happens after month 6 and how transitions to BHSA funding will be handled. Eligibility will be based on priority populations defined by DHCS, focusing on those with medical or specialty mental health needs. Partnership expects more guidance soon but has no final answers yet.

A. Abney-Bass asked if there is a timeline for DHCS to respond to their submitted method of care. N. Vij stated that feedback is coming in gradually; Partnership hopes for full responses by the end of October, though DHCS hasn't given a firm date.

S. Casale asked if the "mandatory priority population" refers only to BHSA-eligible individuals or to anyone with behavioral health needs. N. Vij stated that the mandatory population refers to those meeting access criteria for medical specialty mental health.

## **6. COC COLLABORATIVE AND LEAD AGENCY MOU – ACTION**

### **Presenting: W. Lo**

The MOU between the CoC and DESS is up for renewal. W. Lo shared the draft MOU and stated that renewing would reestablish DESS as the Collaborative Applicant and Lead Agency for the CoC for a three-year term (January 1, 2026 – December 31, 2028). W. Lo explained the draft MOU remains unchanged from the current active version. W. Lo opened forum for questions or comments from Council for feedback or a motion to approve the renewal process.

A. Snyder recommends, following up on HHAP 5 and HHAP 6 discussion and the grant process, to include an overall collaborative language between the CoC and the County (both parties to be included in strategic planning) – highlighting two points under DESS Responsibility category:

- Sub-category A, b – Design a collaborative process for grant application.
- Sub-category B, d – Complete strategic plan updates with local governments and county governments.

W. Lo will take this feedback and ensure that collaborative language is included into the MOU.

A. Abney-Bass recommended finding a way to articulate in the MOU an interactive process that ensures the CoC has an active voice in determining priorities.

D. Villasenor reminded that many state or HUD NOFAs dictate how funds can be used, so our flexibility is limited. While trying to align funding with local needs, the eligible uses are often pre-set. Still, collaboration is valuable, and it's worth clarifying how much influence the CoC can have when working with the County on these funding opportunities.

E. Murray stated this is an opportunity to strengthen collaboration and ensure the MOU reflects the CoC's current direction.

A. Abney-Bass asked if the MOU should be tabled and brought back at the next meeting.

E. Murray stated that if it is the wish of Council, there is ample time to incorporate the proposed changes and present the revised MOU at the November meeting.

No other comments from Council. Council will revisit a revised draft at the November 2025 All-Member meeting.

## **7. HOMELESS HOUSING ASSISTANCE AND PREVENTION (HHAP 6) – ACTION**

### **Presenting: E. Murray**

Members discussed the inclusion of HHAP 6 on the October agenda. A. Abney-Bass sought clarification on whether it was placed there to simply discuss or in response to the failed motion from September's CoC meeting. E. Murray

and A. Snyder clarified that HHAP 6 was agendized as a discussion and possible action item – members could discuss or motion to bifurcate funds if desired. T. Ritter and J. Indar noted that the previous motion to bifurcate HHAP 5 and HHAP 6 due to HHAP 5’s RFP had already been released. It was noted, too, that A. Snyder’s friendly amendment to modify A. Abney-Bass’s motion to pull HHAP 6 out and deal with each grant separately. B. Brunner added that HHAP 6 was specifically meant to be revisited for further discussion.

E. Murray confirmed there is nothing to prohibit re-agendizing a failed motion under the Governance Charter or Robert’s Rules, though she would verify whether a motion must be reintroduced by someone on the failing side. Due to needed clarification over the September CoC minutes and motion intent, E. Murray proposed tabling discussion until the September CoC minutes are updated and research done on how the item can or cannot be re-agendized.

## **8. LEAD AGENCY, COLLABORATIVE APPLICANT, ADMINISTRATIVE ENTITY UPDATES – INFORMATION**

E. Murray shared an update regarding the upcoming CoC Program Grant NOFO. A credible but unofficial leak suggests the NOFO may include a 30% cap on funding for permanent housing programs, including permanent supportive housing and rapid rehousing. Currently, the local CoC allocates 52% of its funds to permanent housing, so this cap could result in an estimated \$139,000 reduction, roughly equivalent to the cost of one full program. E. Murray also noted that the NOFO may include additional programmatic limitations, but nothing is confirmed until the official release.

A. Snyder asks to give a little bit of information on what is being heard about those additional programs?

E. Murray: Unofficially, requirements for residents to participate in programs such as substance use disorder services, mental health support, and job skills training. These services fall under Housing First principles and are currently available but not required. Under the new NOFO, they could become required, which might create conflicts for programs funded through multiple sources. Additionally, programs that serve populations outside the gender binary could be disqualified due to conflicts between federal and state guidance.

A. Snyder said there is a TRO in place relating to the issue involving 16 other states, including California. E. Murray confirmed that a lawsuit is in progress, explaining that regions participating in the suit have a stay-in-place and may continue operation as usual, those not involved must comply with new federal guidance to remain eligible for funding. E. Murray added if certain regions of California are involved in this lawsuit or if it is the entire state but will confirm and report back to the group.

A. Snyder added domestic violence service providers might be carved out. Will research to find out more and share that information with everyone.

E. Murray provided a brief update on HHAP Round 5, noting that the request for proposals closed today at 1 PM. Applicants can expect to be notified of the results during the week of November 10th, asking for patience during the review process.

E. Murray provided an update on the CoC elections. Following this meeting, the nomination process for CoC Council members will open, with six seats that are ending this December 31st, with new terms starting January 1st for three years. Members can nominate themselves or others but should confirm willingness to serve. The seats coming to the end of their term include Brad Brunner for Affordable Housing Developers, Angie Little for Public Housing Authority, Erin Murray for Department of Employment and Eligibility services, Amber Abney-Bass for Emergency Shelter, Sarah Frohock for Mental Health services, and Matthew McCoy for Veteran services. Detailed information will be sent out after the meeting.

## 9. COMMITTEE REPORTS – INFORMATION

Governance Committee – E. Murray reported the meeting was canceled for this month due to schedule conflicts. Governance is moving forward with the revisions to quorum and its definition and usage to present for the All-Member vote in November 2025.

HMIS/CES Committee – E. Murray reported the committee is finalizing the data quality plan, which will also be presenting for All-Member vote in November 2025.

Households with Children – None.

Chronic Homelessness – S. Storkan reported the committee meets every other month. The last meeting of the year is scheduled for November 19<sup>th</sup> at 1:30 p.m. via Teams.

PIT Committee – Not currently meeting.

Equity Committee – B. Norman reported no updates. Next virtual meeting is on November 19 at 1 p.m.

Youth Homelessness – J. Indar reported that at last week’s meeting, Nancy Jorth from Youth for Change discussed ongoing efforts to establish a youth shelter in the area and highlighted some new regulations affecting this initiative. The group will continue to work on this project. The November meeting will be canceled due to Veteran’s Day. The Voices United Youth is working on the November Homeless Youth Awareness Month campaign. Some upcoming events, includes tabling an Almond Bowl at Bidwell Park, and proclamations for Homeless Youth Awareness Month at Gridley, Oroville, Chico, Paradise, and the Board of Supervisors. The main event will take place on November 13 at 5 p.m. in front of Chico City Hall including Light the Night featuring speakers, youth participation, and candles for participants. A full calendar of events will be shared soon.

Veterans – None.

## 10. JURISDICTION REPORTS/UPDATES - INFORMATION

Butte County Board of Supervisors – T. Ritter reported the local government committee meeting is coming up on Wednesday, November 5, at 11 a.m. With the upcoming cold months, a request for Safe Space to attend the meeting to address and prevent issues before they become issues.

City of Chico – M. Alonzo reported a new Assistant City Manager was appointed, Eric Gustason, who will transition over on November 2<sup>nd</sup>. More to come from this.

City of Oroville – T. Johnstone reported no updates.

Town of Paradise – H. Lange reported no updates.

City of Gridley – None.

## 11. ANNOUNCEMENTS:

E. Murray announced the Board of Supervisors extended the Shelter Crisis Declaration to September 1, 2031. This is positive news for CHAT as it would have impacted Everhart Village if not renewed. Amazing work are being done at Everhart Village and will get to continue to do so.

D. Villasenor provided an update on the Oleander Community Housing project, announcing that it is now 100% leased. This success was the result of a collaborative effort involving the City of Chico, Butte County Behavioral Health, the Housing Authority, Pacific West Communities, Northern Valley Catholic Social Services, the John Stewart Company, and DESS Navigators. The project successfully housed 37 homeless individuals—22 from encampments and 15 from No Place Like Home. A. Abney-Bass added that the Jesus Center case management team at Genesis collaborated with DESS Navigators, noting that 13 residents from Genesis recently moved into Oleander. She emphasized that it's a very exciting development and expressed appreciation that the project is now fully leased.

**12. NEXT MEETING – MONDAY, NOVEMBER 17, 2025 ALL MEMBER MEETING  
Butte County Department of Employment & Social Services – In Person at DESS Oroville Andes Room**

**13. ADJOURN**

Meeting adjourned at 2:30 pm.