



Butte Countywide Homeless Continuum of Care

BUTTE COUNTYWIDE HOMELESS CONTINUUM OF CARE COUNCIL EMERGENCY COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES

Monday, April 6, 2020

3:00 P.M. to 4:00 P.M.

Zoom Virtual Meeting Link:

<https://zoom.us/j/122633699?pwd=cERkZWNCZlVpWG5SU3FaV3NibVp5QT09>

Zoom Meeting ID 122 633 699, Password 795763

COUNCIL MEMBERS PRESENT:

Anastacia Snyder, Catalyst Domestic Violence Services
Marin Hambley, Stonewall Alliance
Don Taylor, Butte County DESS Housing and Homeless
Emily Bateman, Youth for Change 6th Street
Lisa Currier, Homeless/Formerly Homeless Representative
Eric Smith, City of Oroville
Scott Huber, City of Chico
Sarah Frohock, Butte County Dept. of Behavioral Health
Joy Amaro, True North Housing Alliance
Marie Demers, City of Chico
Thomas Tenorio, Community Action Agency
Melissa Frohrip, Veteran's Resource Center
Alex Brown, Greater Chico Homeless Taskforce
Ed Mayer, Housing Authority of the County of Butte
Larry Hayden, Oroville Hope Center
Tami Ritter, County Board of Supervisors

COUNCIL MEMBERS ABSENT:

Mike Zucolillo, Town of Paradise
Meagan Meloy, Butte County Office of Education

CoC COORDINATOR:

Briana Harvey-Butterfield, Butte County DESS, Housing and Homeless

RECORDING:

Staci Parisi, Butte County DESS Housing and Homeless

ORDER OF BUSINESS:

- 1. CONVENE MEETING:** The meeting was called to order by Council Chair Anastacia Snyder at 3:04 p.m.

2. **INTRODUCTIONS:** Roll call for Council Members was completed by A. Snyder.
3. **BRIEFING:** COVID-19 Homeless Response: The County put together a handout with bullet points about the County and CoC's response to the Coronavirus Emergency. On March 18th the Governor announced the investment to protect the health and safety of homeless sheltered and unsheltered individuals. \$100 million is administered by Homeless Coordination and Finance Council (HCFC) to large cities, Counties, and CoC's for shelter support and services. The CoC redirected their allocation of \$246,720.24 to the County. The County allocation is \$226,989.22. The combined allocation for the region is \$473,709.46.

An additional \$50 million is administered through California Department of Social Services and geared toward hotels, motels, trailers to shelter unsheltered.

County has initialized its Emergency Operations Center (EOC) to secure and distribute resources. The EOC follows the Federal procurement process to leverage additional resource dollars which may be reimbursable. FEMA Public Assistance was approved for the state of California.

There has been dialog between the County and emergency shelters to set up MOU's and contracts for COVID-19 Emergency response supports and services. The \$100 million is for prevention and containment of COVID-19 in emergency shelters and to enhance existing facilities or provide support. The County talked to the Sabbath House, Oroville Rescue Mission, Torres Shelter, and Catalyst to discuss what is needed for prevention and containment with in the shelters. The MOU's with the shelters allow them to put requests in to the EOC for hotel accommodations and other supplies needed to support the COVID-19 emergency response. Contracts will allow shelters to obtain other items that cannot be obtained through the EOC. County is working with hospitals and homeless service providers to provide Non Congregate Shelter (NCS) for individuals who meet criteria as directed by the State and Federal government. True North Housing Alliance (TNHA) is the designated contact for the North County. The Jesus Center will provide meals for NCS individuals in the North County. Wraparound services for NCS individuals is required. Oroville Rescue Mission (ORM) is the point of contact in the South County. Torres Shelter and Sabbath House have referred high risk individuals to be moved out of shelters and into hotels.

TNHA will deploy outreach team to encampments and parks to identify homeless who may be eligible for NCS.

Joy Amaro has assumed the role of City of Chico Housing Solutions Coordinator. In this position she coordinates between County entities, City of Chico service providers, and informs the city manager of best practices. Joy assumed the temporary role on April 1, the interim director at TNHA is Matt Reed. At the special City Council meeting on March 25, Joy was tasked with looking into all the items the City Council directed the City Staff to look into and provide feedback to the City Council.

The County is exploring alternatives to hotels for NCS. What other locations and concepts can we utilize? Please pass along ideas to the HHOME team.

There is criteria for FEMA reimbursable Public Assistance NCS: tested positive but does not require hospitalization; exposure to COVID-19, does not need hospitalization but requires isolation; or asymptomatic high risk individuals.

Enhanced ESG funds are becoming available from the Federal level. Additional emergency shelter grant funds will be released. We do not have details on eligible uses and activities. The State has some excess ESG funds which have been allocated to local housing providers.

HUD has contacted HMIS vendors to create a template for data collection in HMIS for COVID-19 related activities. HMIS will be used to gather data on enhanced ESG funding and FEMA NCS. More information will be relayed to service providers as the County receives it.

The collaboration among services providers has been amazing. Thank you.

4. Questions:

- a) If we have a patient that is homeless that is worried about underlying health issues and wants to know how to get into a shelter who should we refer them to? *Speak directly to shelter providers.*
- b) How many do we have in hotels and how long can they stay? *We will have 35 by the end of today. High risk individuals can stay through April 30. If testing or are positive they will exit hotels when cleared by Public Hotels.*
- c) Is the Salvation Army participating in this effort in a coordinated way? *The Salvation Army is working with other service providers. The County has not been working directly with Salvation Army but has placed one individual referred from Salvation Army into a hotel room.*
- d) How many hotels/motels are participating? *Currently 6, but this number is fluid.*
- e) What is the entrance point for motel stays for those not connected to a shelter? *Through North and South County points of contact (ORM and TNHA).*
- f) Can ORM also move elderly and high risk clients to NCS in a motel? *Yes we can coordinate those efforts with resource requests.*
- g) 211 is getting calls from unsheltered people. 65 calls in March and 23 already in April. Should 211 do the same triage that the street outreach team is conducting and get them connected to the motel program if they are in the high risk category? *If people are in high risk categories get them connected to ORM or TNHA. Unsheltered guests can call 211 and there will be a warm handoff to a designated outreach phone number. If they meet the eligibility requirements TNHA or ORM will make the resource request.*
- h) Will there be outreach workers on the Ridge, in the Camp Fire burn scar to triage people and get them into hotels? *We are still trying to coordinate efforts to get outreach for the Ridge.*
- i) Is the County providing PPE to our shelters? *PPE can be requested through the EOC resource request process.*

- j) At one of the previous CoC meetings the extra FEMA trailers from the Camp Fire were brought up., Can we ask for those to stay in our community for this emergency and use them to temporarily house unsheltered individuals who qualify as an alternate to motels? *Many of the FEMA trailers have already been deployed.*
 - k) Do you anticipate any youth specific funding for COVID-19 related services/hotel stays? *Nothing specific for youth at this time.*
 - l) This is more of a concern than a question, but it would be great if there could be a way figured out to use this funding for a project that could create ongoing housing that would continue after this emergency. For example, if we could purchase an apartment building or motel. *There is a cost share to the FEMA reimbursable supplies. We are not spending the money directly, we are looking to leverage the federal funding and use the State emergency funding for our cost share and items not reimbursable by FEMA.*
 - m) Are the Mobile Housing Units still in Gridley? *There is a separate process for these trailers to be deployed.*
 - n) The trailers used by the Camp Fire workers are waiting to be used. These are located at the industrial park in Oroville. *The lease agreement was up at the end of March and there are plans to dismantle and take away the trailers.*
 - o) Update on MMU: When it goes live it will be 3 days at one shelter then 2 days at another shelter and reverse the next week. It will alternate weeks between Oroville and Chico and be at all 4 shelters (Torres, Jesus Center, Hope Center, Oroville Rescue Mission). *The schedule will be posted on the CoC website.*
5. **NEXT MEETING:** Monday April 20, 2020 – Butte County Department of Employment and Social Services, Virtual Meeting via Zoom
6. **ADJOURN:** The meeting was adjourned at 3:51.