



Butte Countywide Homeless Continuum of Care

Butte County Continuum of Care Councilmember Minutes

Monday May 16, 2022

1:00 PM to 3:00 PM

Zoom Meeting Hosted by: Butte County Employment & Social Services

COMMITTEE MEMBERS PRESENT:

Tami Ritter, BC Board of Supervisors
Angela McLaughlin, Greater Chico Task Force
Don Taylor, DESS H&H
Ed Mayer, HACB
Josh Jamison, Oroville Hope Center
Marie Demers, City of Chico
Eric Smith, City of Oroville
Anastacia Snyder, Catalyst
Brad Brunner, Caminar
Marie Demers, City of Chico
Emily Pereira, Youth for Change
Amber Abney-Bass
Keesha Hills, OSCIA

COMMITTEE MEMBERS ABSENT:

John Mitchell, Christian Faith Center
Keesha Hills, OSCIA
Marin Hambley, Stonewall
Meagan Meloy, BCOE
Michael O'Brien
Sarah Frohock, BCDBH
Steven Culleton, Town of Paradise

OTHER ATTENDEES:

Amber Kemp, Medi-Cal/California Health & Wellness
Lauren Kennedy, North Valley Housing Trust
Hilary Crosby, Safe Space ED
Melissa Jamison, United Way of Northern California
Deborah Taylor, LCSW VA
John Zepeda, VA
Isabel Alaniz-Alvarado, DESS H&H
Tim Hawkins, CAA Butte
Kayla Davis, DESS H&H
Patrick Telles, Legal Services of Nor. California
Josiah Vasey, 211

OTHER ATTENDEES CONTINUED:

Kris Kuntz, Anthem Blue Cross
Amy Bergstrand, City of Oroville
Teri DuBose, Congressman LaMalfa's office
Tianna Morgan, PM CA Health and Wellness
Angie Little, HACB
Brian Boyer, CAA
Tara Sullivan-Hames, 211
Shelby Boston, DESS Director
Jessica Giannola, CHAT
Dawn Blackhorse, Butte College
Kevin Thompson, OSCIA
Elisa Rawlinson, DESS H&H
Sherry Morgado, Housing Tools
James Coles, Housing Tools
Sara McArthur, DESS CSD
Patricia Nike Harris, DESS HSP
Erin Murray, DESS H&H
Nancy Jorth, Youth for Change
Nick Fashing, DESS ASD
Mary Kay Benson, North State Shelter Team
Debbie Villasenor, Housing Consultant
Erin Kennedy, Boys and Girls Clubs
Pamela Beeman, Interfaith Council
Samantha Ott, DESS E&E
Carolina Cruz, Catalyst
Samantha Davis Ampla Health MMU
Annie Terry, Oroville Rescue Mission
Jaymee McLaughlin, CUSD
Cathryn Carkhuff, Home & Heart
Ann Winters, Catalyst
Wendy Lo, DESS H&H
Lorena Reed, BCDBH
Shelly Storkan, BCDBH
Debra Lucero, Butte County Supervisor
District 2

COORDINATOR: Briana Harvey-Butterfield, DESS H&H
RECORDING: Erin Spasbo, DESS H&H

ORDER OF BUSINESS:

1. CONVENE MEETING AND ESTABLISH QUORUM: The meeting was called to order by A. Snyder at 1:03 P.M. This meeting is being recorded. Roll call of the councilmembers was completed by A. Snyder as facilitator of the meeting. It was determined that there were enough councilmembers present to establish a quorum.

2. APPROVAL OF MINUTES – ACTION: A motion was made to approve the *April 18, 2022 Minutes:*
Motion: M. Demers, City of Chico
Second: T. Ritter, BC Board of Supervisors
Opposed: None
Abstain: None

3. HMIS Priority Points and Community Queues – ACTION: *All Voting Members:*

Presented by: Elisa Rawlinson, DESS Housing & Homeless,

The HMIS/CES Committee has been working on updating the current HMIS system, to ensure HUD compliance as well as creating a more efficient way to help the local unhoused population. First, a new Priority Points will coordinate housing support so that those with the most severe service needs will be prioritized. E. Rawlinson showed a visual presentation on what the current priority point system looks like and what the HMIS/CES Committee has approved. The current priority point system is in the packet, as well as the redone priority point system. In order to align with HUD guidelines, the priority point system will change for the following: (1.) Chronically Homeless (*OR* at risk of chronically homeless, cannot be both)—current: 25 points (*at-risk*: 23 points); new: 2 points, (2.) Households with Children—current: 20 points; new: 1 point and (3.) Unaccompanied Homeless Youth—current: 20 points; new: 1 point. Those points have been stacking on their VI-SPDAT scores and placing those specific subpopulations at the top of the list, rather than putting individuals with higher needs and barriers at the top of the CE list.

Second, Community Queues will be added as a way to organize CES, this will allow for a referral system to be put into place. The queues will help our housing providers communicate openings and connect individuals within CES who match those programs. The process will be to enroll people in CES and put them into queues, individuals can be placed into multiple queues at once. The community queues that have been proposed are the following: (1.) General CES, (2.) Permanent Supportive House

(3.) Transitional Housing, and (4.) Shared Housing. These queues we will allow service providers to better match individuals with available housing opportunities.

Questions from Councilmembers:

E. Mayer: How well will this CE serve to the introduction of new projects that are coming on line, such as the dedicated housing as a function of disaster response? How do we know this is going to work?

E. Rawlinson stated that what would take immediate effect is the changes in our priority points. We would see changes from our current priority points to the new priority points so peoples with the highest needs/barriers would be moved to the top of the CE list. The community queues will take some time, anticipated by the first quarter of, 2023. We have an online test site that we have been doing trial scenarios on, so based on what information is submitted by “clients” and predict what queues they will be placed in, where they fall with priority points.

B. Brunner: On the conditions that the state is requiring us to put in place of at *risk of being chronically homeless*, does the state provide a criteria that we are going to be using?

E. Rawlinson, Yes they have provided that criteria, we are working on that right now in the HMIS/CES Committee. We will be building it into the system so that it automatically calculates.

E. Smith: Will it be a requirement of participating housing providers to select from the CE list, when it comes to housing placement?

E. Rawlinson stated that it depends on the funding source. Some funding sources require housing providers to pull directly from the CE list, such as CoC or ESG funds. Privately funded agencies, such as agencies that are financed by donations, are able to house people the way based on their own procedure.

Questions from Members:

D. Taylor: Were these always requirements of HUD and why weren't we following these guidelines in the first place?

E. Rawlinson replied, yes they were. The current priority points were developed well before we took over as the lead HMIS/CES Lead Agency, so now that we've taken over we've taken the time to look at what our system looks like, as well as look at the HUD rules and requirements.

B. Harvey-Butterfield added that it comes down to being able to provide administrative support. Not until recently have we had a team that can focus on CE and HMIS, taking trainings, working with HUD and receiving technical assistance. We are headed towards a working system, not just a CE list.

D. Villasenor added that we have finally received the funding for paid positions to assist us, which has helped to better organize HMIS and CES.

M. Demers: what happens if a person is placed into temporary housing and they determine that that situation isn't appropriate for them?

E. Rawlinson stated that individuals are not removed from our CE list, until they are placed in permanent housing or permanent supportive housing.

A vote to the changes in the Coordinated Entry System and will be put into place with the following: updated priority points, the community queues as presented, and the creation of an assessment workgroup.

Motion: E. Mayer

Second: T. Ritter

All voting members were given a Survey Monkey poll on whether or not to put the changes into place—it was a unanimous vote of: **yes**.

- 4. Point in Time and Housing Inventory Count Update – INFORMATION:** E. Rawlinson stated that the packet includes the preliminary information on the PIT. The 2022 PIT numbers were submitted to HUD on April 28, 2022. The final report, including the jurisdictional report will be presented by Housing Tools, with an anticipated presentation at the next CoC meeting, June 13, 2022. The PIT number of unhoused persons in Butte County was: 1,006 people (174 in transitional housing). B. Harvey-Butterflied, added that Housing Tools is working on the jurisdictional breakout and to anticipate a more thorough report in the next CoC's Agenda packet. Questions regarding the PIT count will be answered at the next Meeting on June 13, 2022.

- 5. DHCS Housing and Homeless Incentive Program (HHIP) – INFORMATION:**

Presented by: Kris Kuntz, Anthem Inc.

K. Kuntz, of Anthem gave a presentation on, HHIP which is an incentive voluntary Managed Care Plan (MCP) from DHCS. It is intended to support delivery and coordination of health and housing services for Medi-Cal members. The program timeline is 1/1/2022 – 12/31/2023. The incentive funds are posted in the packet, stating that the funds coming from the state are \$1.288 billion, managed by the MCP, Anthem Blue Cross & California Health and Wellness which will then disburse to the local CoC and other stakeholders. The funds must be earned, the MCP must show progress towards 15 measures over the next 2 years, the measures are listed in the packet. The letters of intent were submitted in April of 2022 and the Local Homelessness Plan application is due on June 30, 2022. A. Kemp of California Health and Wellness, stated how they would like to align the HHIP plan with HHAP 3 strategies, for better addressing housing and homelessness priorities.

Questions from Councilmembers:

E. Mayer: Are we in charge of creating a homelessness healthcare plan, and if so can we take data from the HHAP 3 plan that we already have information ready for?

K. Kuntz: the healthcare plan is the responsibility of Anthem and California Health and Wellness, the CoC does not have to do anything. The state encouraged reaching out to the CoC to obtain their data and strategies from the HHAP 3 application. HHIP Local Homelessness Plan will be similar to the CoC's.

D. Lucero: How much money are you Anthem and California Health and Wellness putting forward to create this plan? And what about creating a Sobering Center?

A. Kemp: Anthem and California Health and Wellness are implementing this plan, it is a Medi-Cal option to participate, the state asked if we would like to participate and we said yes. On the Sobering Center, there have been discussions on creating one at the local level with Enloe Medical Center and with the Jesus in order to implement the CalAIM Incentive Payment Program and Housing and Homeless Inventiveness Program.

A. Abney-Bass added, on the item of creating a Sobering Center, the information is available in the application that is out, but it requires a local partner –and that is what we are missing in this community. Recuperative care is something that Enloe and the Jesus Center have stepped into. The missing piece has always been a local provider, to support it, but not run it.

A. Kemp stated that there are lots of opportunities right now to get funding, they just need local level partners.

E. Mayer: Clarify where the funding comes and goes and how we can ensure that the CoC is supported.

A. Kemp answered that the funding from the CalAIM Inventiveness Program and the Housing and Homelessness Inventiveness Program, the state is providing funding directly into the Medi-Cal Managed Care Plans who will then partner at the local level and reinvest those funds locally. To be able to receive that funding, Managed Care Plans must submit those local homelessness plans to the state by June, 30th 2022. Depending on review and approval, funds may be available by September 2022. There will also be future reporting, and if improvements have been met at the local level, more funds may be drawn from the state.

E. Mayer: How much money would be possible to receive?

A. Kemp stated it is roughly \$5 million, although that number is not promised, it all depends on the application process.

6. Butte County – DESS – Housing & Homeless Programs – INFORMATION:

Presented by: Briana Harvey-Butterfield, Isabel Alaniz-Alvarado, Nick Fashing, Sarah MacArthur, and Patricia (Nike) Morris, all of DESS

B. Harvey-Butterfield, Program Manager of Housing & Homeless gave an overview on what Housing and Homeless Programs of DESS do while working together with ASD, CSD and Employment & Eligibility, and Housing & Homeless branches. The Housing and Homeless Program is referred to as The HHOME Team, which stands for Housing, Homeless, Outreach, (Case) Management and Education. The team provides the administrative support to the CoC; completing grant applications, proposals, monitoring and reporting. They are the CoC Lead Agency and collaborative agent, meaning they apply for funds on behalf of the CoC as well as participate in the governments charter within the CoC. Lastly they are the HIMS/CES Lead Agency, providing training to the community for HMIS users, provide technical updates and manage the CE list.

I. Alaniz-Alvarado, a Housing Navigator with HHOME, provided a briefing on The Housing and Disability Advocacy Program (HDAP), which provides disabled homeless adults intensive case management, disability benefits advocacy and assistance moving into rental housing. Eligible clients must have a physical and/or mental disability that would make them eligible to apply for disability benefits as well being homeless, or at risk of becoming homeless. Services provided are: assistance finding housing, cost of applications, deposits and move in costs, navigation of the Social Security and Veterans benefits process, intensive Case Management, bus passes, providing furnishing, and referrals to other agencies and community resources. HDAP Housing Navigator contact: Isabel Alaniz-Alvarado ialaniz-Alvarado@buttecounty.net and Michael Wright mwright1@buttecounty.net.

N. Fashing, a Program Analyst with Adult Services (ASD) provided a briefing on the Home Safe Adult Protective Services Program (HSAPS). The program assists APS clients that are experiencing or at risk of experiencing homelessness. Services include: housing stabilization, housing navigation, case management, short-term financial assistance, and referrals to programs that provide longer-term services that promote housing stability. A person who qualifies for APS is an individual 60 years or older or an individual 18-59 years old with physical or mental limitations who are unable to meet their own needs or are victims of abuse, neglect, or exploitation. For more information on Home Safe, or to make a referral contact Butte County APS at: 1-800-664-9774.

S. McArthur, a Program Analyst with Children's Services (CSD) provided information on Bringing Families Home (BFH) which is a program that was established to reduce the number of families in the child welfare system experiencing homelessness and to prevent children from being placed into the Foster Care system. Services provided are: case management, housing navigation, short-term financial assistant, making homes more habitable. Persons who are eligible must be in the child welfare system, experiencing or at risk of being homeless, as well as voluntarily choose to participate in the program.

P. Morris, with Employment and Eligibility spoke about the CalWORKs Homeless Assistance (HA) program, through Eligibility. To be eligible for HA you must be CalWORKs recipients or apparently eligible for CalWORKs, meaning dependent families with children who are or are at risk of becoming homeless. Through HA the program can provide up to 16 days of temporary shelter, throughout a 12 month eligibility period. There is an option for expanded temporary HA for families experiencing domestic violence of up to 32 days. For permanent housing HA can provide first and last months' rent and security deposit, or up to 2 months' rent arrearages. Families may also receive temporary or permanent housing through HA if the primary reason is state or federally declared natural disaster. To apply for benefits you may submit an application at: benefitscal.org or getcalfresh.org or call 1-877-410-8803. Housing Support Program (HSP) through Employment Services department provides financial assistance for CalWORKs families with things such as: rental assistance, moving costs, hotel/motel vouchers, landlord recruitment, case management, housing outreach and placement, legal services and credit repair. For more information on HSP contact Patricia (Nike) Morris pmorris@buttecounty.net or Pam Pippin ppippin@buttecounty.net.

B. Harvey-Butterfield gave contact information for DESS Chico: (530) 895-4364 Oroville: (530) 538-7301 and the HHome Team: (530) 552-6200.

7. Chico Pallet Center Update:

Presented by Amber Abney-Bass Jesus Center,

A. Abney-Bass, of Jesus Center reported that as of May 16, 2022 there were 71 individuals enrolled into the Pallet Shelter. In the first 3 weeks of operation, 79 people have been served with 9 leaving and 1 returning back to the shelter. The site is very quiet, Behavioral Health as well as DESS has been onsite regularly, while not required to be involved in services there has been an incredible amount of interest with 27 individuals enrolled in case management. There has been no real concerns regarding behavior or medical issues.

8. Homeless Housing, Assistance and Prevention (HHAP) Round 3:

Presented by: Erin Murray, DESS Housing & Homeless and Sherry Morgado, Housing Tools

E. Murray, Senior Program Analyst of DESS, H&H, stated that the HHAP Program was designed and established to provide regional partnerships and coordination as well as invest in services that are housing first compliant, low barrier, trauma informed and trauma responsive. HHAP Round 3 is a joint application between the County and the CoC for a total of \$3.6 Million dollars. It is required to include a local homelessness action plan, which must show trackable goals in HMIS and align with the system performance measures established by HUD. If certain goals are met by June 30, 2024 the County and CoC will be eligible to a portion of \$180 million in bonus funds. These goals are not yet finalized but have been made available for public comment at this CoC meeting and the Board of Supervisors meeting on Tuesday May 24, 2022

S. Morgado from Housing Tools stated that the HHAP Program is administered at the state level, by the California Interagency Council on Homelessness (CalICH). CalICH provided a template that was used for creating this plan, which requires a snapshot of what homelessness looks like for the CoC, for the County (the CoC and the County are the same jurisdiction). The Landscape Analysis breaks down what our needs and demographics look like in the County, such as living situations, subpopulations, gender demographics as well as ethnicity and race. The template contains HMIS data that is the most current/accurate. CalICH provided 6 Outcome Goals, which are stated in the packet. The Goals are: 1(a) to reduce the number of persons experiencing homelessness/1(b) reduce the number of persons experiencing homelessness on a daily basis. (2) Reduce persons from becoming homeless for the first time. (3) Increase the number of people exiting homelessness into permanent housing. (4) Reduce the length of time persons remain homeless. (5) Reduce the number of people returning to homelessness, after exiting homelessness into permanent housing. (6) Increase successful placement from street outreach. CalICH provided “baseline data” from 2020, derived from HDIS. Using this data, goals are established at the local level to be met by June 30, 2024, if those targets aren’t met we will receive technical assistance from the state.

Questions from Councilmembers:

E. Mayer: How are we framing these objectives? Where are we getting input or feedback from?

S. Morgado stated that these numbers are coming from the CoC staff, E. Murray and B. Harvey-Butterfield and the Housing Tools staff, as well as public input. E. Murray added that we are also taking into account that our county has been experiencing an increase of new services, such as the Pallet Shelter, as well as the conclusion of other services such as ESG Funding and trying to predict those trends and challenges that our community might face.

S. Morgado stated that another required component of the HHAP Plan is the strategies to achieve these outcome goals using the funding that would be provided. Things such as increase in daytime case management for congregate and non-congregate housing, provide funding for street outreach programs heavily impacted areas like Chico and Oroville, provide services across agencies, maintain and expand the HMIS system as well as continue to provide rental subsidies and shared housing through a master lease model.

D. Villasenor: Is the local HHAP Program leading the way for the HHIP Plan or vice versa?

E. Murray stated HHAP has been in communication with HHIP, but they were not involved in the conversations in establishing these goals and strategies. We are sharing information with them, but these specific goals and strategies were created to help our local community and the issues at hand. The HHAP application is available online at: https://bcsh.ca.gov/calich/hhap_program.html. Once the application has been submitted, it is available in its entirety online. Please submit questions or comments to Erin Murray emurray@buttecounty.net

9. Lead Agency/Collaborative Updates: California Emergency Solutions and Housing (CESH) funding is now available through DESS. These funds are for families and individuals experiencing homelessness, as well as housed families and individuals at risk of becoming homeless. Things such as rent, rental application fees, utilities, moving costs, security deposits, and others as listed in the packet. Contact DESS Housing & Homeless Branch at: (530) 552-6200 or housingnavigator@buttecounty.net for more information.

10. ANNOUCEMENTS/NEXT MEETING: *The next CoC Council Meeting will be on Monday June 13, 2022.*

11. ADJOURNMENT: The meeting was adjourned at 3:19 P.M.