



Butte Countywide Homeless Continuum of Care

Butte County Continuum of Care Councilmember Minutes

Monday June 13, 2022

1:00 PM to 3:00 PM

Zoom Meeting Hosted by: Butte County Employment & Social Services

COMMITTEE MEMBERS PRESENT:

Anastacia Snyder, Catalyst
Angela McLaughlin, Greater Chico Task Force
Brad Brunner, Caminar
Don Taylor, DESS H&H
Ed Mayer, HACB
Eric Smith, City of Oroville
Keesha Hills, OSCIA
Meagan Meloy, BCOE
Michael O'Brien, City of Chico
Sarah Frohock, BHCBH
Tami Ritter, BC Board of Supervisors

CoC COORDINATOR: Briana Harvey-Butterfield,
DESS H&H

OTHER ATTENDEES:

Shelby Boston, DESS Director
Lauren Kennedy, North Valley Housing Trust
Melissa Jamison, United Way of Northern California
John Zepeda, VA
Isabel Alaniz-Alvarado, DESS H&H
Tim Hawkins, CAA Butte
Kayla Davis, DESS H&H
Elisa Rawlinson, DESS H&H
Erin Murray, DESS H&H
Wendy Lo, DESS H&H
Michael Wright, DESS H&H
Jay Coughlin, DESS H&H
Pahua Thao, DESS H&H
Patrick Telles, Legal Services of Nor. California
Josiah Vasey, 211
Samantha Davis Ampla Health MMU
Annie Terry, Oroville Rescue Mission
John Fleming, Ampla Health

COMMITTEE MEMBERS ABSENT:

Amber Abney-Bass, Jesus Center
Emily Pereira, Youth for Change
John Mitchell,
Josh Jamison, Oroville Hope Center
Marie Demers, City of Chico
Marin Hambley, Stonewall
Steve Culleton, Town of Paradise

OTHER ATTENDEES CONTINUED:

Teri DuBose, Congressman LaMalfa's office
Tianna Morgan, PM CA Health and Wellness
Angie Little, HACB
Jessica Giannola, CHAT
Kevin Thompson, OSCIA
Sherry Morgado, Housing Tools
Lorena Reed, BCDBH
Shelly Storkan, BCDBH
Nancy Jorth, Youth for Change
James Wilson, Anthem
Samantha Ott, DESS E&E
Caitlin Davis-Rivers, CHAT
Crystal Hutchison, DESS PM
Cassie Miracle, Housing Tools
Mary Newman, Passages
Kelly DeLeon, KRRCR TV
Mary Kay Benson, North State Shelter Team
Debbie Villasenor, Housing Consultant
Erin Kennedy, Boys and Girls Clubs
Pamela Beeman, Interfaith Council
Michael Weber, Chico ER
Amy Bergstrand, City of Oroville
Ann Winters, Chico Homeless Task Force
Erin Kennedy, BCGNV Case Mgmt.
Ana Vicuna, BCDBH
Melody Proebstel, United Way

OTHER ATTENDEES CONTINUED:

Nicole Drummond, CHAT
Tori Apodaca, Action News
Brittany Coleman, BCOE
Debra Lucero, Butte County Supervisor District 2
Cecily Kishbaugh, VECTORS
Theresa Nantor, CHIP
Leslie Johnson, CHAT
Sean O'Shaughnessy, CHIP
Matt Bowen, Legal Serv. of North Valley
Kathleen Sweeny, Office of Tami Ritter
Mary Kay Benson, NSST
Theresa O'Connor, CHAT

Taylor Storey, TNHA
Theresa Juelch, United Way
Tracey Gillihan, 2-1-1
Sierra Schmidt, Home & Heart
Susan Roll, SW CSU, Chico
Charles Withuhn, CHAT
Shelly Watson, Jesus Center
Susan Wilson, Safe Space
Jennifer McCarthy, Assit. CM of Chico

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 1:04 P.M. This meeting is being recorded. Roll call of the councilmembers was completed by A. Snyder whom facilitated the meeting. It was determined that there were enough councilmembers were present to establish a quorum.
- 2. APPROVAL OF MINUTES – ACTION:** A motion was made to approve the *May 16, 2022 Minutes:*
Motion: T. Ritter, BC Board of Supervisors
Second: E. Mayer, HABC
Opposed: None
Abstain: None
- 3. 2022 Point in Time Report – INFORMATION & ACTION: All Voting Members:**
Presenting: Sherry Morgado, Housing Tools
D. Taylor of DESS wanted to remind everyone in the meeting that in the 2022 Point in Time (PIT), we had contracted with Housing Tools to complete the community report. They were contracted because of their familiarity of the PIT count, they have previously written the Community Report for our CoC and it also gives us a nonbiased third party to complete the report. D. Taylor then introduced Sherry Morgado from Housing tools.

S. Morgado gave a presentation on the data collected from the 2022 PIT survey. The 2022 PIT report that she pulled information from is available online at the CoC website at www.buttehomelesscoc.com under Reports on the left hand side. She began by stating that PIT surveys are community driven surveys, they depend on the availability of service provider staff and volunteers, who canvass for individuals who are experiencing homelessness. The effects of The Covid-19 Pandemic and the natural disasters that Butte County has experienced were explained in the introduction, to put into context of previous PIT counts. Housing Tools wanted to show that there has been a great amount of community fatigue and burnout that needed to be memorialized in this report because of these worldwide and local circumstances. This was the Butte CoC's first PIT count with The Department of Employment & Social Services, Housing and Homeless Branch as the Lead Agency. The experiences and lessons learned will be noted for future PIT counts. In the findings, they found that many questions were not answered or left blank, which can show results in an inaccurate way. With a survey that runs off of data, the CoC PIT Subcommittee staff will review deeper into the questions that were asked of the individuals and see if they there were too many questions, if they were just too intrusive or off-putting, or maybe

there should be more training on staff to get these questions answered, so that there isn't missing data for future counts.

The PIT Survey is an unfunded federal mandate required by HUD, so it relies on the local governments and nonprofits in the area to gather resources to be able to carry it out. The goal of the PIT Survey is to help our community to understand homelessness and those experiencing homelessness, by hearing the voices of those that are facing it. It aids in guiding where public funds need to be put into practice, develop effective housing options and services that are responsive to local needs. It is important to note that each PIT count provides a "snapshot," in time, subject to numerous variables many of which are impossible to control, like Covid-19. This should be kept in mind when reviewing the data and previous year's studies. At the December 13, 2021 CoC meeting, the 2022 PIT methodology was presented to the group and announced that there would be a set date to canvass on January 26, 2022 throughout the county. Volunteers were recruited throughout the county, to capture the characteristics of those experiencing homelessness, the prior night. The initial number of volunteers was 233, with only 124 showing up on January 26. After the data is submitted to Housing Tools it is then "cleaned", organized and analyzed.

The CoC conducts one PIT count and the data from that study is used for two reports, the HUD Report and the Community Report. Overall, 1,156 people took the survey resulting in the total number of people entered into the Community Report (which was being reviewed at this meeting), while 1,006 met the HUD definition of homeless resulting in the HUD Report. The HUD definition of homeless, are those that are unsheltered, in emergency shelters, or in transitional housing projects. The Community Report has a broader definition of homeless, which includes those that are temporarily staying with friends or family, who would otherwise be homeless. The Community Report results give a more accurate count of those experiencing homelessness in our region. It is always expected that the PIT study is an undercount.

Of the 1,156 people in Butte County that are homeless, 885 were in Chico, 21 in Gridley/Biggs, 214 in Oroville, and 36 in the Ridge Area. Figure 1 is a data table showing the homeless PIT counts from 2009 to 2022. 2021 years count was low, again because of HUD's last minute decision to continue with the count, Covid-19 and other natural disasters in the community. For over a decade the county has consistently shown a count of over 1,000 individuals.

Household Make up, is divided into three categories: households without children (adults only), households with children and households with only children (minor-aged unaccompanied youth). In the 2022 PIT count, the majority of those surveyed were households without children, 991. Figure 3 shows the breakdown in the 4 areas that were canvassed. The narrative breaks down that information.

The demographics breakdown of those living unhoused is by: age, gender identification, sexual orientation, race and ethnicity.

- a. Age: the highest percentage of those experiencing homelessness are middle-aged adults (25-55), shown in Figure 4 by region.
- b. Gender Identification: those who identify as male continue to be the highest percentage of those experiencing homelessness, Figure 5 by region.
- c. Sexual Orientation: adults completing the survey showed that the primary orientation is heterosexual, with 31% not responding to the question, Figure 6 by region.
- d. Race and Ethnicity: there were some disproportionate disparities in race and ethnicity of percentage homeless to percentage that make up the county, this is stated in the notations. Presented in Figure 7 and 8.

Nighttime Habitation, this is determined on the sheltering status of those included in the survey the night before, so January 25, 2022. An unsheltered person would be anyone who stayed on the streets, their car or vehicle, places that are not meant for human habitation. Since there are no shelters in Gridley/Biggs or on the Ridge, 100% of peoples were unsheltered. Oroville having some available shelters had 36% sheltered and Chico which has the

most sheltering opportunities saw 56% of those as sheltered. This information is reflected in Figure 9. S. Morgado stated that it is anticipated the next PIT count will demonstrate an increase in sheltered people. The Butte CoC has chosen to include homeless people who are in Permanent Supportive Housing, Rapid Rehousing, and Transitional Housing, HUD will not. The housing models by region are reflected in Figure 10. In Figure 11 a data table of where those who were unsheltered where they slept on that night, such as an abandoned building, the streets, or park by region.

Chronic Homelessness, HUD requires CoC's to monitor those that are experiencing chronic homelessness so that those with high vulnerabilities can be prioritized in placement of permanent supportive housing, when it becomes available. 28% of the homeless in Butte County are chronically homeless, which is a drastic drop for 2017 where the number was at 49%. This may be a possibility of a reflection of the efforts that have been made to use Housing First principles and Rapid Rehousing in our area, especially in Chico. The status of chronically homeless is shown in Figure 12. The duration is reflected in Figure 13, where the data shows a greater number of people in the Ridge have been chronically homeless for 2 or more years, when compared to Chico or Oroville.

First Time Homelessness, it was found that 484, or 42% of the people surveyed had been homeless for the first time at the beginning of 2022. 62% of the Ridge Area had been homeless for the first time.

Disabling Conditions, S. Morgado stated that survey questions have changed to better understand our community, instead of just asking do you have one of these conditions, it was asked does having the existence of one of these conditions impair their ability to hold a job or live independently. Figure 15 shows the four disabling conditions. A significant number of people did not answer these questions, reflected under data not collected. Figure 16.1 shows those that have a Developmental disability, 10% stating yes, over 400 people the data was not collected. Figure 16.2 shows their response to HIV status, with only .9% showing that they had HIV. 406 were left with data not collected.

Causes of Homelessness, the question that was asked was, what do you think lead to your homelessness, the respondents were allowed to answer all that applied, of 17 responses. The top four were, employment or financial, family crisis, alcohol or substance use, and forced to relocate or eviction. Figure 17 lists all 17 options and their percentages, excluding refused, which totaled of 50 or 3.1%. Figure 18, was a separate question, asking if Covid-19 was a direct result of homelessness, 133 answered yes.

Barriers to Permanent Housing, respondents were allowed to choose all that apply of 17 choices, excluding refused. Figure 19 shows a list of the barriers by region. The top five responses were: finding affordable housing, no money for rent/deposit, poor or no credit, finding a job and finding services.

Residency, the respondents were asked three questions. 1. How long have they been living in Butte County, shown in Figure 20. 40% of those who answered, have lived here for 10 or more years, while 27% have lived here for 20 or more years. 2. Do they consider Butte County their home shown in Figure 21, 53% stated that they do. 3. Were they living in Butte County when they became unhoused shown in Figure 22, 56% stated that they were. Nearly one-third of those taking the survey did not answer any of the questions.

Education or Educational Attainment, academic achievement is related to employment, financial stability and self-sufficiency. In the survey they were asked their last educational grade level. In Butte County as a whole, 89.5% of the residents have at least a high school diploma and some amount of college education. Of the unhoused in the survey, only 43% have that level of educational attainment. Figure 23, goes into detail of the levels of education by region. 31% of the respondents did not answer the question.

Income and Housing, Figure 24 shows the monthly income levels of the unhoused in Butte County. 193 people answered that they have no income, which was the most commonly answered question. This was then followed by 143 answering \$1000, or less per month. S. Morgado stated that there continues to be an ongoing need for affordable housing funding and subsidies, so that people are able to afford rent. In addition, there is a shortage in

available housing inventory in Butte County, at around 1% vacancy. Even when financial support, such as Rapid Rehousing or Section 8 vouchers become available, there are not very many options. Again, nearly one-third of the people did not respond. Figure 25, shows the sources of income, respondents were able to answer more than one source of income.

Veterans, 73 of the 1,153 respondents noted that they were Veterans, 340 people did not answer this question, meaning that the number could be higher. Though, there has also been increase in funding for Veterans, through the HUD-VASH Program, so that could also be having an impact on the low number.

Domestic Violence, according to The National Network to End Domestic Violence between 22% and 57% of women and children are homeless because of domestic violence. Figure 27 represents the responses to the question of if they are homeless because they are fleeing domestic violence, dating violence, sexual assault or stalking. 179 people responded yes, with 461 not answering the question at all. The second question was, are you a domestic violence survivor? Figure 28 shows that 93 are survivors, with 428 not answering the question.

Youth Homelessness, there are three categories that fall under youth. Minors who are homeless with parents or guardians, minors who are homeless entirely on their own and individuals who are “transition aged-youth,” which are ages 18-24 meaning they can still be subject to the same vulnerabilities that minors are. The PIT surveyed the youth in two ways, through a specialized youth specific survey for the transition aged-youth and one during the household survey by an adult (25+) that was with their minor aged children at the time the survey was taken. Figure 29 shows the age breakouts of the youth experiencing homelessness, stopping at 24 years old. There were 155 youth counted, all data was collected. Figure 30 shows the household type, the 18-24 year olds during this survey were counted as “single adults with no children,” while children with their parents were counted as “adults with children.” Figure 31, shows the sheltered or unsheltered status for the youth with over 90% being sheltered. Figure 32, shows that there were a total of 8 youth that met the definition of chronically homeless. Figure 33, goes over the causes of youth homelessness: employment/financial and family crisis were the most common.

People involved with the Legal System, homelessness and people involved with the legal system are known to have significant connections. Once people become unhoused it is likely they will be in contact with law enforcement and incarceration increases. Figure 34, are the responses of if they had ever been to prison or jail with 496, nearly 43% saying yes, for the County. Figure 35, if they were currently on parole or probation, 656 nearly 57% said no but still about 30% the data was not collected for either question.

Moving Forward as a Community, this part of the survey included preferred housing choices represented in Figure 36. Respondents were able to choose more than one. The three most desired housing options, by 400 or more people were: your own house or apartment, tiny houses and your own room in a shared house. S. Morgado stated that the results are telling that people would prefer their own space, versus a shared space. These types of housing options have been prioritized in our community. Figure 37, shows the different preferred services to be available to those experiencing homelessness from laundry or shower services to case management. Hygiene, physical/mental health and safety were the most important. Figure 38, shows the main reasons that people do not access emergency shelters, they were allowed to check all that applied. Feeling overwhelmed by so many people was the most commonly answered choice, which goes back to people wanting their own space. In conclusion, it was shown that Butte County’s PIT count and our Community Report remains consistent with national research. The Butte CoC and its partner agencies are actively pursuing all potential funding sources to help improve our community’s homelessness problems. It was noted that all of the reports data tables for the 2022 PIT Survey are in Appendix F. S. Morgado quickly showed a Jurisdictional Handout, provided by Housing Tools that shows the demographics of each region surveyed in Butte County, which agencies can bring to meetings.

Questions from Councilmembers:

E. Mayer, noticed that there seemed to be a reduction in the percentage of people that have been from Butte County for 5 years or more and wanted to know if she saw any trends in the people we serve locally and out of the community.

S. Morgado, noted that like stated earlier, nearly one third of the respondents didn't answer the question so she wasn't quite sure how accurate that data was.

T. Ritter, asked in concern of the undercount, is it at all possible for the CoC to submit statistics that we know we have from, for example, BCOE or the County itself of people experiencing homelessness/receiving benefits along with our PIT count, to HUD for a more accurate report?

B. Harvey-Butterfield, stated that there is a comment box in the PIT Survey response that we submit to HUD where we can explain why there is an undercount on the survey day, though it is only 200-250 words.

E. Rawlinson then informed the group that HUD is very specific on what we submit to them. When they're asking us to put a note in, it is specific to the data points from the PIT that we received that day.

B. Harvey-Butterfield, added that the PIT is challenging. It is a good way for us to connect with those that are experiencing unsheltered homelessness as well as connecting with people that are not on services, not in the system or HMIS. In some other counties that are more robust, there are options to upload information from their HMIS system, for more accurate data. We are trying to get ours up to that point, but right now we are just not there yet.

Questions or comments from the Public:

D. Villasenor, wanted to know why permanent supportive housing is linked into being unsheltered or homeless, since with that type of housing the clients are under a lease. She doesn't think it should be mixed into the survey.

B. Harvey-Butterfield, stated that even if people were sheltered they were able to answer community questions, through the community survey which is why that information was collected. It was also noted that it also ties into the housing inventory count, so that's why those respondents were included.

D. Villasenor wanted to know if these questions would be up to debate on the next PIT Survey, because she was concerned that we were including the wrong people in a survey for those that we are trying to get an accurate count on, the unsheltered or homeless.

B. Harvey-Butterfield stated that yes, they can be. We will tentatively be implementing a 2023 PIT survey, the planning for that will begin this summer.

A. McLaughlin, wanted to comment that during the PIT Survey last year, she and her team noticed that nearly half, if not more of the tents that they approached were empty. She found that it was difficult to get an accurate count of people experiencing homelessness. She wanted to know if there was something they could do to improve this issue.

B. Harvey-Butterfield, stated that through our CoC we look at the PIT survey, but also our Coordinated Entry (CE) and HMIS data system to have a broader view on the homelessness in our county. We connect with our partner agencies and organizations to make sure our CE is up to date and accurate. The PIT Survey is just one portion of how we collect this information.

C. Withuhn, stated that there were too many questions on the survey. He thinks that there needs to be fewer questions and more time. He believes this guarantees a severe undercount.

B. Harvey-Butterfield, said that those same opinions have been expressed by others and these issues are being discussed internally. Changes will be made moving forward so that the survey can better serve the community.

T. Apodaca, wanted to know that since this survey reflects an undercount, how does this affect our State and Federal funding?

A. Snyder stated that at this point we don't know, what we do know is that there is a direct correlation between the PIT numbers and CoC funding. How it will play out is unknown

B. Harvey-Butterfield, stated that as we were preparing for this count, HUD itself noted that this year's study may not be comparable to past studies because of Covid. It not only affected volunteers, but affected in her opinion, people that were sick themselves or could have been hospitalized. We are not able to connect with hospitals to get that data. It is yet to be seen on how it will affect funding, but HUD is aware this this has been a challenging year.

M. Weber, wanted to know if the PIT count could be used to indicate countywide housing needs and if that is a part of the discussion in the Community Report.

B. Harvey-Butterfield, responded that there was a specific question asking what people would like for housing and as the CoC moves forward in receiving funding, those answers will be put into consideration.

D. Taylor added that this is only part of the data that is going to inform the CoC or anyone looking at what the housing needs are. Yes, our numbers are undercounted in public spaces but we need to also consider the people in the foothills. People that maybe lost their home in one of the wildfires and are staying on their property in a tent or a trailer, those people are still considered homeless. So, we do and will continue to speak to our legislatures/representatives that there should be different ways of evaluating the different situations going on in our county. Recovery doesn't happen in 2 or 3 years, it may take a decade or longer.

E. Mayer made a comment, that every time we conduct one of these surveys it is always an undercount. There are people that simply don't want to be identified as homeless, when in fact they are. There has been significant population increases in Chico and Oroville, without increases in housing stock which tells us that families are doubled up in homes. They are not found in a survey like this and are not identifying as homeless. The survey does in fact though show us one, who we are serving across the broad spectrum of our community and two, helps us identify underserved populations, for example the Native Americans and Persons of Color. It is an important point for our CoC to be relative to affirmative action. Lastly, we have done such a good job documenting our circumstances within our CoC, we have done well in receipt of State and Federal funding, for things such as HUD-VASH Vouchers and Emergency Housing Vouchers.

M. Meloy, commented that it is unfortunate that HUD implemented the policy that the child has to be with the parent to be considered homeless, because the survey is done during school hours. It automatically excludes families with school aged children, and even children 0-5. She was frustrated that there is no way to capture more families with children in the PIT Community Report.

K. DeLeon, wanted to know from this survey, what is the biggest barrier to get people into housing?

S. Morgado, stating back to the data points, the top barrier was finding affordable housing. Following that was unable to afford rent or deposit, when looking at the income of those experiencing homelessness it very clearly shows that. It speaks to the need of subsidized affordable housing.

A motion to approve the 2022 Point in Time Community Report for Butte County was conducted to accept the report as drafted, for Councilmembers:

Motion: E. Mayer

Second: D. Taylor

4. Lead Agency, Collaborative Applicant, Administrative Entity Updates – *INFORMATION*:

E. Murray gave a briefing that HCD released the NOFA for Emergency Solutions Grant (ESG) Balance of State. They are also conducting a meeting on Thursday June 16, 2022 virtually on that NOFA. She gave directions on how to access the webinar at www.hcd.ca.gov/emergency-solutions-grants > notice of funding > 2022 Balance of State NOFA. Information meetings on ESG NOFA will begin soon.

E. Murray also gave a HHAP 3 update, the CoC went to the Board of Supervisors and public comment was received, the application will be submitted on time as of June 30th.

B. Harvey-Butterfield, stated that Butte County was awarded \$1.5 million in CMSP LICN Implementation Grant funding. Butte County leveraged the Whole Person Care funding that we received, at around \$1 million, we will be using both of those funds to provide a shelter based medical respite program over a three year period, beginning July 1, 2022. Partners include Butte County Behavioral Health, Butte County Employment and Social Services, Enloe Medical Center, Ampla Health and The Jesus Center, as the local homeless center.

D. Taylor added, there will be around 2500 affordable housing units coming to Butte County and he would like to have a community-wide strategy on how to best get our unhoused Butte County residents into those units.

5. Committee Reports – INFORMATION:

Chronic Homelessness: S. Storkan stated there is a meeting on Wednesday June 15th 1:30-3PM. At the meeting Dr. LaRiviere will be presenting on what she has planned for homelessness in Butte County.

Governance: B. Harvey-Butterfield stated that the committee is working on an Equity Policy and Procedure, which we will be able to review and approve at the all member meeting, in November.

Households with Children: there was no update.

HMIS/CES: E. Rawlinson stated there was no meeting in June, the next meeting will be Monday July 11th from 1-3PM.

Veterans: J. Zepeda stated that the Veterans Stand Down is still taking volunteers which is the last weekend in September at the Elk's Lodge, Chico. They are currently having Agency Presentations during meetings, Nation's Finest was the last meeting. The next meeting is scheduled for June 22nd from 2-3PM.

LGBTQ+ & POC: A. Snyder stated there will be some changes, with an announcement to come in August.

6. Coalition and Jurisdiction Reports/Updates – INFORMATION:

Greater Chico Homeless Task Force: A. Winters, stated there will be a meeting Thursday June 16th.

7. Chico Pallet Center Update: A. Abney-Bass was not at this meeting, there is no update.

8. Announcements:

Board of Supervisors, T. Ritter, is receiving the budget on Tuesday June 14, the hearing is set for June 28th.

Oroville City Council, E. Smith there is a lot of affordable housing being built in Oroville. He will report who to contact when he has that information.

9. ANNOUNCEMENTS/NEXT MEETING: There will be no meeting the month of July. The next CoC Council Meeting will be on Monday August 15, 2022.

10. ADJOURNMENT: The meeting was adjourned at 2:52 P.M.