



## Butte Countywide Homeless Continuum of Care

### **BUTTE COUNTYWIDE HOMELESS CONTINUUM OF CARE COUNCIL MEMBER MEETING MINUTES**

**Monday, January 11, 2021**

**1:00 P.M. to 3:00 P.M.**

**Zoom Virtual Meeting Hosted by Butte County Employment & Social Services**

#### **COUNCIL MEMBERS PRESENT:**

Anastacia Snyder, Catalyst Domestic Violence Services  
Don Taylor, Butte County DESS Housing & Homeless  
Emily Bateman, Youth for Change/6th Street  
Eric Smith, City of Oroville  
Josh Jameson, for Stephanie Hayden Oroville Hope Center  
John Mitchell, Homeless/Former Homeless Representative  
Marie Demers, City of Chico  
Sarah Frohock, Butte County Dept. of Behavioral Health  
Tami Ritter, Butte County Board of Supervisors  
Thomas Tenorio, Community Action Agency  
Ed Mayer, Housing Authority of the County of Butte  
Meagan Meloy, Butte County Office of Education  
Angela McLaughlin, Greater Chico Homeless Taskforce  
Deepika Tandon, Chico City Council  
Marin Hambley, Stonewall Alliance  
Keesha Hills, OSCIA  
Joy Amaro, True North Housing Alliance

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

Mike Zucolillo, Town of Paradise

#### **CoC COORDINATOR:**

Briana Harvey-Butterfield, DESS, Housing & Homeless  
(absent)

#### **RECORDING:**

Staci Parisi, Butte County DESS Housing and Homeless

#### **OTHER ATTENDEES:**

Penny Mittag, Butte County DESS  
Renee Duvol, Butte County DESS APS  
Kami Denlay, City of Chico Councilmember  
Crystal Nelson-Mourad, North Valley Housing Trust  
Dawn Blackhorse, Butte College  
Elisa Rawlinson, Butte County DESS H&H

#### **OTHER ATTENDEES CONT'D:**

Tracey (Stogsdill) Gillihan, Butte Glenn 211  
Rachel DeLeon, Butte County DESS  
Annie Terry, Oroville Rescue Mission  
Debbie Lucero, Butte County Board of Supervisors  
MaryJo Alonzo, City of Chico  
Kathleen Sweeney, Supervisor Ritter's Office  
Hillary Crosby, Caring Choices  
Debbie Villasenor, Housing Consultant  
Ana Vicuna, Butte County Department of Behavioral Health  
Lori LaRiviere, MD, TNHA  
Jennifer Wilkins, CSU Chico  
Susan Roll, CSU Chico Basic Needs Program  
Kevin Thompson, OSCIA  
Jay Coughlin, Butte County DESS H&H  
Alicia Pimentel, Anthem Blue Cross Medicaid  
Tara Sullivan Hames, Butte Glenn 211  
Janet Goodson, Oroville City Council  
Luann Manss, Caring Choices  
Stefan Spirk, CAA  
Ronnie Mullins, DESS  
John Fleming, Ampla Health  
Laura Cootsona, Jesus Center  
Lisa Currier  
Kami Denlay, Chico City Council  
Nick Fashing, Butte County DESS APS  
Shelly Forbes, Nation's Finest  
Melissa Frohrip, Nation's Finest (formerly VRC)  
Leslie Johnson, CHAT  
Laura Cootsona, Jesus Center  
Teri DuBose  
Charles Withuhn, CHAT  
Melody Proebstel, United Way  
Mitchell Harrell  
Erica Amaya, Nation's Finest

**ORDER OF BUSINESS:**

- 1. CONVENE MEETING AND ESTABLISH QUOREM:** The meeting was called to order by A. Snyder at 1:05 p.m. This meeting is being recorded. Roll call for Council Members was completed by A. Snyder. It was determined there is enough Council Members for a Quorum. No field introductions were done. If you would like your name listed as an attendee please type your name and agency in the chat box.
- 2. APPROVAL OF MINUTES:** A motion was made to approve the December 14, 2020 and December 21, 2020 Council meeting minutes with the following corrections:

December 21, 2020 minutes: Page 2, Item 2, 3<sup>rd</sup> bullet, replace Oroville Haven of Hope with Oroville Hope Center  
December 21, 2020 minutes: Page 3, first paragraph, change \$300 to \$300,000

Motion: T. Tenorio  
Second: M. Demers  
Opposed: None  
Abstain: None

- 3. WELCOME NEW COUNCIL MEMBERS:** A. Snyder welcomed the following new council members:

Deepika Tandon, Chico City Council  
Keesha Hills, Oroville Southside Community Improvement Association  
John Mitchell, Homeless/Formal Homeless Representative

The new council members were provided with a welcome packet and 2021 CoC meeting schedule.

- 4. 2021 POINT IN TIME (PIT) EXCEPTION:** D. Taylor reported that for the safety of those participating in the Unsheltered PIT, HUD has offered a waiver opportunity for CoC's to opt out of completing the 2021 Unsheltered PIT Count. The Sheltered Count will still be completed. To apply for the waiver, a justification letter must be presented to HUD. The PIT Committee recommends to the CoC Council that the Butte CoC submit a request for the waiver. A waiver justification letter has been completed and is ready to for submittal to HUD.

Question: D. Lucero asked if not completing the Unsheltered PIT will affect future funding streams.  
Answer: D. Taylor stated that HUD and the State have said that they will go back to using 2019 data but cannot guarantee that this will not negatively impact future funding. A large proportion of California CoC's are not completing the Unsheltered PIT.  
Question: D. Lucero asked if we are putting anything into the justification letter regarding the still unhoused Camp fire homeless and the high level of homeless individuals in our County so that our funding does not get reduced.  
Answer: D. Taylor stated we will include language regarding the still unsheltered Camp fire population and large proportion of chronically homeless in our County.

E. Smith added that the North Complex fire has cause increased unhoused individuals in Oroville, and he would like that added to the justification letter.

Question: L. Cootsona asked if there is a possibility of a rescheduled unsheltered PIT in the spring of 2021.

Answer: D. Taylor stated that there is a possibility that will occur and we have extended our contract with Counting Us software counting program to accommodate this.

Question: E. Mayer asked for an update on the 2020 HUD Homeless Grant Application?

Answer: D. Taylor stated that he has received confirmation from our CPD representative that recipients of the 2019 CoC Homeless grant will have their grants renewed by HUD for 2020. D. Taylor does not have a timeline but assured recipients they will be contacted by HUD to renew their 2019 grants sometime in the future.

Question: T. Tenorio recommended D. Taylor ask HUD about data submission timelines for the PIT and to consider this if deciding to reschedule the unsheltered PIT to the spring.

Answer: S. Parisi stated that information received in TA calls with HUD stated the submission date for the PIT count to HUD will not change, and if we complete a spring unsheltered PIT it will be for our information purposes only.

Question: D. Tandon asked when the deadline for submitting the PIT is.

Answer: S. Parisi stated that it is in April.

L. Johnson stated she is concerned about not completing the unsheltered PIT count with the amount of unsheltered homeless individuals currently in the community. The PIT numbers are very important in planning to shelter these individuals. Is there a way to do a less formal unsheltered PIT?

A Snyder responded that there is a risk to individuals to contract COVID while completing the unsheltered count. L. Johnson stated if there is any way to get a count of campsites or individuals that would be helpful.

T. Sullivan Hames states that Butte Glenn 211 can do a call in count. She also states Butte 211 has a lot of homeless data and information that may be helpful for an informal unsheltered count.

D. Taylor stated we do not want to do the PIT if we cannot get an accurate count as it may affect our funding. We are having a shortage of volunteers to conduct the unsheltered PIT at this time and that could affect our funding.

H. Crosby asked how many volunteers have we used in past years.

D. Taylor states anywhere between 45-120, and we need at least 100 volunteers to complete the count accurately.

T. Ritter stated that Chico Police Department is posting 72 hour notices to homeless camps and asked if there is any coordination we can do to get the number of notices that are being posted to give us a number of how many campgrounds and individuals we have unsheltered.

M. Demers said she will present that request to S. Kochems. L. Currier stated that those that have received notices do not know where to go.

D. Lucero responded to T. Ritter that citations would be a good way to get a count. T. Ritter stated that a notice is vacate notice is posted in specific areas. The Chico City Council had directed Chico PD to do an inventory of the

existing camps, and the directive of Chico City Council is that people not be moved out of existing camps, but no new camps should be developed.

D. Taylor stated that sheltered PIT count will be completed as usual and the justification to request a waiver to not complete the unsheltered PIT count will be submitted to HUD.

#### DISCUSSION AROUND 72 HOUR NOTICES TO VACATE BEING POSTED AT CHICO HOMELESS CAMPGROUNDS:

A Snyder stated we need to know how many people are impacted, what is the plan moving forward? Is there something we need to be positioning ourselves related to the notices?

L. Cootsona stated she has no additional information and is disappointed that S. Kochems is not present in the meeting today to address some of the questions regarding City of Chico. A. McLaughlin stated she agreed and this is valuable information we need to be informed of.

T. Ritter stated we have two Chico City Council members in this meeting who can bring this information back to the City of Chico. K. Denlay stated she will communicate this information to the Chico City Council.

L. Manss suggests connecting with S. Huber who has been involved in conversations regarding homeless solutions. The current situation is feeling very disjointed and there is a disconnect between the City of Chico and the homeless advocacy groups.

L. Currier states this should be the highest priority and wants to know how the 72 hour notices will be enforced, so she can communicate to the people in the camps what to expect.

A McLaughlin states there is nowhere for these individuals to go, no shelters are accepting new people, and there is not an approved campsite. J. Mitchell stated the law is clear about what municipalities can do in regards to removing people from public property when there is nowhere for them to go and in regards to their property inform people of their rights in this situation. The Chronic Homeless Committee should get this information out to people on the streets.

T. Sullivan Hames asked if they could get a training on what the rights are in this situation, because Butte 211 is getting a lot of calls from individuals asking what homeless individuals rights are in this situation.

J. Mitchell stated he will collect some information on homeless individual's rights and email it out to the CoC distribution list.

L. Johnson talked to Corey Turner and he wants people to be directed to him for legal services regarding the 72 hour notices to vacate.

J. Amaro responded that Safe Space had a board meeting last Thursday night and they are moving forward to sheltering in churches. It will be 30 bed shelters to accommodate social distancing. M. Hambley added that Safe Space is continuing to look for sites for winter shelters and are hoping to solidify one or two locations for winter

shelters beginning in February. Safe Space is also looking at two building this week to put up a temporary emergency shelter. H. Crosby stated that transportation of homeless individuals to winter shelter locations by Work Training Center is not happening this year.

T. Ritter stated that she put a request in to the County Administrator for transportation of homeless individuals to the winter shelters. The County has supported these transportation operations in the past. The County Administrator has not responded to this request as of yet.

D. Lucero asked if there could be a meeting with City officials to discuss what is going on with the vacate notices and what is the plan to shelter the homeless individuals in the park and campground.

S. Kochems stated that on Friday afternoon she was asked by the Chico City Manager to move forward on the BMX property and ask questions of service providers to see who is interested in operating a legal campground and 30-40 tiny homes on at the BMX property. A. McLaughlin asked what the immediate actions that are being taken are? S. Kochems stated she does not have an answer and is not privy to decisions that the Chico City Council makes regarding this situation

A. McLaughlin asked if it is within the scope of the CoC to ask the City what the plan is. L. Currier stated she thinks the CoC needs to step up in this situation.

D. Taylor stated that the CoC Council will need to discuss this, and that the goal of the CoC is the end homelessness countywide, and not dictate to jurisdictions what they should and should not be doing. L. Currier responded that this is the body that represents our homeless population, and we should take a stance on how to protect homeless individuals.

E. Mayer stated that politically we have to remain neutral to maintain and build relationships. He stated it is reasonable for the CoC to request that a City representative get this information and present it to the Council. A. Snyder asked S. Kochems if she is privy to what the direction of the City is.

J. Mitchell states that it is counterproductive for the City of Chico to not be making us aware of what their plan to address homelessness is. There needs to be more input from all jurisdictions in the CoC as to how they are addressing homelessness.

L. Manss recommends CoC committee members support and connect with the citizen groups that are providing a safety net for the homeless individuals affected by this situation.

A. McLaughlin asked if it is the role of the CoC to offer guidance to the jurisdictions about the best way to address this situation.

L. Cootsona asked if there is somewhere to refer City Council members to see what funding the CoC receives. D. Taylor stated that it would be helpful to have a summary of CoC funding and have it posted on the CoC website. D. Lucero asked if there is a County housing summary available. T. Ritter stated that will be forthcoming.

**5. COUNTY UPDATE:** D. Taylor reported:

- a) Project Room Key (PRK): 105 FEMA qualified persons in hotels with 27 caretakers for a total of 132 individuals currently housed in 91 hotel rooms.
- b) COVID Rehousing Team: Restructuring to meet monthly on the third Thursday of the month. D. Taylor stated there is now a weekly PRK MDT. E. Rawlinson explained the MDT includes case managers, APS, CSD, Enloe Social Workers, and the goal of the MDT is to better coordinate services between agencies working with PRK clients to provide more wraparound services.
- c) HHAP 2.0: D. Taylor reported a survey went out requesting input from the funds from the CoC were directed to the County. The County is working on the HHAP 2.0 application. Objectives and goals will be made based on the results of the needs assessment survey, so please take a moment to complete it when it is emailed out. The County plans to have a combined NOFA for the HHAP 1 and HHAP 2 funding.
- d) ESG-CV2 application was submitted, awaiting notice of award. This funding is not an allocation, awardees will need to submit claims for reimbursement to the State. The CoC needs to come up with a strategy for putting money forward and being able to get claims reimbursed.
- e) Emergency Rental Assistance Program: D. Taylor reported that pay for rent and utility bills units of local governments with populations greater than 200,000 are eligible to receive direct funding from the U.S. Department of the Treasury. \$2.6B is coming to California. Projection for Butte County is \$6.5 million. Application is due 1/12/2021. The County will complete and submit the application by the deadline. Federal government is required to disburse the funds by January 26. Funding is for rental assistance, rental arrears, utilities, utilities in arrears. The County has had a conversation with the Housing Authority of County of Butte to run this program. There are qualifications for this program including unemployment or loss of income due to COVID, 90% is for direct assistance, can use up to 10% to cover administrative costs.
- f) State Budget: D. Taylor reported that on Friday the Governor of CA provided his proposed budget for the FY 21/22 year. A Housing and Homelessness overview was provided by BCSH with highlights: getting all Californians the COVID vaccine, safety and equity for students as they return to the classroom, Emergency Rental Assistance, extensions of eviction protections, expand Project Homekey, funding to CDSS to expand facilities to expand adult residential care facilities for low income seniors. Additional \$500 million for Low Income Housing Tax Credit. In current budget there is \$11.7 million for court trials associated with the cost of fighting evictions and foreclosures.
- g) Business, Consumers, and Financing Council update: HDIS will be launched this Spring. HCFC Action Plan will be completed by March. This is a statewide master plan on how we are combatting homelessness.
- h) Housing and CD update: Housing Accountability Unit \$4.3 million to target what is keeping housing projects from moving forward.

**6. COMMITTEE REPORTS:**

**Governance Committee:** A. Snyder reported that this committee met in January and is reviewing Policies and Procedures and will be bringing forward at next All Member meeting in the Spring.

**Chronic Homeless Committee:** J. Mitchell reported that the committee is trying to focus on data regarding how many individuals and families in Butte County are chronically homeless. The committee is trying to compile data to do some messaging in the community regarding chronic homelessness. They are also working on some resources to provide to homeless individuals regarding their rights. Next meeting is January 19<sup>th</sup> at 9:00 a.m.

**HMIS/CE Committee:** S. Parisi reported the committee met on January 4<sup>th</sup> and reviewed the newly adopted the Butte Countywide Privacy Notice and Public Notice and how to personalize them for your agency and post them on your website. No office hours were held.

**Runaway Homeless Youth:** No report

**Households with Children:** M. Meloy stated she has volunteered to chair this committee and the first meeting is January 5<sup>th</sup> at 1 p.m. via Zoom.

**LGBTQ/POC:** S. Parisi reported that the committee is meeting January 14<sup>th</sup> at 9:00 a.m. Chair and Vice Chair nominations for the LGBTQ/POC and Household with Children Committees will be presented at the February meeting.

**Veterans:** M. Frohrip reported that no meeting was held in January and meetings will resume in February.

**Runaway Homeless Youth:** Reviewing what we accomplished last year and setting goals for 2021. Meeting is tomorrow at 12:30 p.m.

**Households with Children:** T. Hawkins reported that the committee will meet the first Tuesday of every month. The committee met on January 5<sup>th</sup>. At next month's meeting the committee will be reviewing past minutes to see where the committee left off and set goals and visions for the committee.

**Greater Chico Homeless Task Force:** A McLaughlin stated there will be a presentation next Thursday from Caring Choices on the plan for the legal campground.

7. **ANNOUNCEMENTS:** None

8. **NEXT MEETING:** Monday February 8, 2021, Butte County Department of Employment and Social Services to host Zoom Virtual Meeting.

9. **Adjourned:** 3:00 p.m.