



## Butte Countywide Homeless Continuum of Care

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

**Monday, April 19, 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  
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  
Angela McLaughlin, Greater Chico Homeless Taskforce  
Deepika Tandon, Chico City Council  
Marin Hambley, Stonewall Alliance  
Joy Amaro, True North Housing Alliance  
Meagan Meloy, Butte County Office of Education  
Janet Goodson, City of Oroville/Alternate  
Kevin Thompson, OSCIA/Alternate

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

Stephanie Hayden, Oroville Hope Center  
John Mitchell, Homeless/Former Homeless Representative  
Steve Culleton, Town of Paradise  
Ed Mayer, Housing Authority of the County of Butte  
Keesha Hills, OSCIA

#### **CoC COORDINATOR:**

Briana Harvey-Butterfield, DESS Housing & Homeless

#### **RECORDING:**

W. Jay Coughlin, DESS Housing and Homeless

#### **OTHER ATTENDEES:**

Dawn Blackhorse, Butte College  
Suzi Kochems, City of Chico  
Tracey (Stogsdill) Gillihan, Butte Glenn 211  
Debbie Lucero, Butte County Board of Supervisors

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

Debbie Villasenor, Housing Consultant  
Tara Sullivan Hames, Butte Glenn 211  
Luann Manss-DiRienzo, Caring Choices  
Ronnie Mullins, DESS  
Laura Cootsona, Jesus Center  
Melody Proebstel, United Way  
Deanna Schwab, Safe Space Winter Shelter  
Ann Winters, Catalyst  
Armando Hernandez, VECTORS  
Nancy Jorth, Youth for Change  
Brad Brunner, Caminar  
Susan Wilson, Safe Space  
Mary Neuman, Passages  
Pahua Thao, DESS Housing & Homeless  
Elisa Rawlinson, DESS Housing & Homeless  
Masaki Hirayama, VA Northern Ca Healthcare  
Matt Plotkin, United Way  
Crystal Nelson-Mourad, North Valley Housing Trust  
Rob Berry, Chico First  
MaryJo Alonzo, City of Chico  
Alicia Pimentel, Anthem Blue Cross Medicaid  
John Zepeda, Butte County Veterans Service Office  
Nick Fashing, Butte County DESS APS  
Ana Vicuna, Behavioral Health  
Chrissy Quinonez, Oroville Rescue Mission  
Amber Benedict, CHAT  
Rashell Brobst, North Valley Boys and Girls Club  
Minjhing Hsieh, Tzu Chi Foundation  
Curtis Butler, Nation's Finest  
Maisue Thao, Butte College  
Rachel Deleon, DESS  
Talmadge House, Disability Action Center  
Natalie Hanson, Chico Enterprise Record  
Bob Crowe

## 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 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 March 15<sup>th</sup>, 2021 CoC and the April 1<sup>st</sup> ESG-CV 2 meeting minutes. No changes were noted for either minutes.

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

### 3. HMIS/CES COMMITTEE

#### A) HMIS CLIENT INFORMED CONSENT:

Chair A. Snyder announced that HMIS Committee Chair Elisa Rawlinson will present for the HMIS committee. The Informed Consent form is in today's packet. E. Rawlinson announced that the Informed Consent in today's packet has been approved by the HMIS committee and is being presented to the CoC for discussion and approval. The purpose of the informed consent is to open up our HMIS system. Allowing us to improve our services, and agencies to stop duplication of efforts, and increase coordination. If approved today we will begin updating the Policies and Procedures. D. Taylor asked will it open up the system so multiple agencies could coordinate care for a shared client. E. Rawlinson said yes it will, and will also allow immediate coordination among agencies. A. Winter said that she has some concerns, such as the affect it might have for individuals who have experienced Domestic Violence. Also she thinks that 7 years feels like too long for a release to be in place, especially one as all-encompassing as this one. Will the entire document be read to those who give consent over the phone? Lastly what is the intent of having the Domestic Violence Question on the consent? E. Rawlinson said that the Domestic Violence question is asked as part of the Coordinated Entry System. If individuals are enrolled in CES, no specific enrollment questions are able to be seen by everyone, those are agency specific questions. B. Harvey-Butterfield pointed out that there is a separate system for our Domestic Violence partners. Internally we are also working on a referral system, which is not yet in place for an external referral to Catalyst when appropriate. M Hambley asked is the informed consent an 'all or nothing' for clients, or can they opt out. E. Rawlinson said yes it is an 'all or nothing' however clients can ask for a list of which agencies will have access to their information, and it will be on the CoC website so it is easily updated with current agencies. A. Winters said that once again brings her back to the 7 years, and understands that HUD says up to 10 years is ok, however at Catalyst they are only 90 days because client information changes so often, and in this example our agencies will change within the CoC over 7 years from when the client agreed to share the info. A. Snyder said a client is only giving consent to the agencies that are participating today, however in 7 years they will have other agencies looking at their agencies. Same concerns from Youth for Change, 7 years seems too long. B. Harvey-Butterfield pointed out that we are working with a challenging population, and if the consent was for only 1 year, for example, we might miss out on the opportunity to work with a client when we find housing a year and a half after they signed the consent. Our area has a lack of housing, so finding housing is very challenging. However a change

to the 7 years can be made. D. Villasenor said that she was on the committee and a lot of thought was put into this, and would like to start with the 7 years, and get this off the ground. If necessary the time frame could be changed later, however there is a lot of good that can come out of this and she encourages the CoC to adopt it. E. Rawlinson said that currently clients can only be placed in our CES if they have given consent currently and that is consistent with other CoC's. Necessary to coordinate services across the continuum, and use HMIS the way it is intended by HUD. J. Amaro asked if it would ever be possible that we could get to a place where agencies could see other agencies notes. E. Rawlinson said that is an option, but not how our CoC runs the CES system. A. Snyder said she struggles starting at 7 years, and feels starting at 1 year would be better. D. Villasenor said that she understands her hesitation, and asks that A. Snyder consider a friendly amendment to start at 3 years, to get this off the ground and help the clients get services. T. Ritter said she would support and second it going 3 years, it should cover the timeframe that we have for doing a Point in Time survey. M. Demers and Janet Goodson agreed as well.

A motion was made to approve the HMIS Informed Consent as presented, with a change to 3 years for the length of term the consent will last. Approved unanimously.

Motion: T. Ritter  
Second: J. Goodson  
Opposed: None  
Abstain: None

#### B) HOMELESS DATA INTEGRATION SYSTEM PREVIEW

Elisa Rawlinson went over the Homeless Data Integration System available by the State and showed how everyone can access some of the information that is now available. <https://www.bcsd.ca.gov/hcfc/hdis.html>

A. Snyder asked since Catalyst doesn't use HMIS, does this include Catalyst's information. B. Harvey-Butterfield said it should. The data comes from the Quarterly uploads of HMIS data that we do along with CoC's throughout the State. D. Villasenor recommended that the group recognize that this data does not show the gap in services that we are trying to overcome, and is concerned about future allocation of funds that the State might use this data for. The CoC needs to keep their eyes open and know that the whole story is not presented by this data, so we should stay aware. B. Harvey-Butterfield said that is recognized by the group, and that we are working to raise that awareness with the State. Additionally the State is still putting this together and we will continue to be a part of those meeting going forward and express these concerns. D. Lucero asked are we privy to the data that is being collected in terms of the services that it does include. B. Harvey-Butterfield said that we are not at this point, and since every CoC and program is unique, the HMIS is very unique, and the information that is collected is unique as well, so this is something that has taken the State more time to go through and inform us of what is needed, missing, or would like to use. As they let us know we will share it with the CoC. This data is collected by CoC area, so in our area it is countywide data. Looking at the data E. Rawlinson pointed out that the data shows 96% of people accessed services in 1 Continuum of Care, so the data shows people are not moving up and down the State for services.

- 4. SERVICE PROVIDERS/ADVOCATES ASSISTING WITH DOCUMENTATION NEEDS:** Suzi Kochems announced that Point of Contact has recently completed a survey in our local Chico encampments. Through that process a barrier of lack of Identification cards was brought up by many of those surveyed. Since we know that it is hard to get services without a valid ID card, she is wondering if anyone has a system in place that is working

well, or if the CoC should create an ad-hoc group to look into this? L. Cootsona said that the Jesus Center has been doing this for years, and L. Manns with Caring Choices is currently doing this work with Camp Fire victims. A. McLaughlin asked L. Cootsona how the Jesus Center is meeting this need now with the recent move and changes to services. L. Cootsona said that it is true that the Jesus Center closed this service with the Resource Center two weeks ago, but that she was surprised to hear that this is a barrier, since the Resource center has been open 5 days a week for years. Also, they have found the Countywide Service card that they piloted has worked efficiently, and anyone using HMIS can print up these cards and offer them. Currently the police accept them, and allegedly the Post Office does. S. Kochems thanked the group for this feedback, and will contact these groups for more information. A. McLaughlin said that this does seem to be a big issue for services which we will need to figure out. A. Snyder encouraged the group to discuss options and circle back with suggestions next month. B. Harvey-Butterfield said she will put a mailing list together of individuals who are interested in participating if you notate your interest in the online chat box.

**5. SERVICE PROVIDERS/ADVOCATES ASSISTING WITH DOCUMENTATION NEEDS:**

Briana Harvey-Butterfield let the group know that the CoC has been getting emails from the local CalTrans District 3 office when homeless encampments are discovered in unsafe locations. They are emailing to connect with agencies providing outreach services, and to see if outreach services have been provided. B. Harvey-Butterfield would like anyone who is providing outreach and would be willing to have their contact information given to CalTrans when they request outreach groups to work with to let her know in the chat or by email. D. Villasenor thought this would be a great opportunity to offer to collaborate with CalTrans if they would provide a grant that could be used by our network of service providers to expand their outreach. B. Harvey-Butterfield said that she will reach out to her contact to see if this is a possibility and let the group know. L. Manns said that Caring Choices is currently working with a few groups and would be happy to connect these groups, and is interested in any outreach funding that might be available to help in these efforts. A. Snyder said that she sees that many questions are coming up in the chat asking for a report out on the Point of Contact survey. D. Taylor said that the last of the surveys was received on the 15<sup>th</sup>, so data analysis is still being worked on, however once that analysis is done he will be happy to provide that information to the group. A. Snyder said that is great, perhaps a report can be made at the next CoC meeting next month if completed by then. L. Cootsona asked if the data is not yet available, would it be possible to see some of the questions that were asked. D. Taylor said that he will check in with his Director, but that should be possible to do and will follow up with that information.

**6. ESG-CV 2 UPDATE:** Don Taylor gave an update on ESG-CV, the second round of CARE Act funds. The five public meetings were completed on April 1<sup>st</sup> to put together the information needed to award the funds. The awarded provider information is in your agenda packet for review. The County staff will be meeting tomorrow to put together scope of work for each provider and moving forward with Contracts. No questions from the group.

**7. RECORDS REQUEST**

Anastacia Snyder announced that we have responded to the Public Records request. The CoC does not fall under the Public Records request act, however we sent them a bunch of our data records that are public and on our website. Hopefully that will suffice, however we have not heard back from them. No questions from the group.

**8. COUNTY UPDATE:** Pahua Thao gave an update on Project Roomkey. 75 FEMA qualified individuals are in the hotels. 60 North County. 15 South County. A total of 219 people have left for Permanent or Transitional Housing. 512 Cumulative people have been helped through the program. A. McLaughlin asked if there is anywhere a formal

report can be found talking about how many people have been served, demographics, etc. that can be shared to show how successful the program has been. D. Taylor said that he has this information which is shared with the State, and will have staff post it on the CoC website. The group talked about how this is a community effort, and that is why it is referred to as a collaborative, and that is why it is so successful.

D. Taylor brought up the Built for Zero model from community solutions. The group declined our offer to present to the CoC, however they sent some information which was gone over. The Goal is to reach functional zero, and then sustain the gains you have made while adding in new populations to assist reach that goal. The cost is a \$10,000 enrollment fee which includes 2 peer learning sessions and access to their custom data component. Kern County joined built for zero in 2015 and reached functional zero in 2020. This information can be seen on the Built for Zero website. T. Ritter asked since we are looking at a regional approach, would it be possible to partner with Glenn and Tehama and Shasta and go after the most chronic users of Behavioral services? D. Taylor said there would be challenges to trying to leverage funding, and braid funding together regionally. In Kern County, the effort was with one County. D. Villasenor wondered if we could use Project Roomkey as a model, and assess our capacity. We have to be careful to not spread ourselves too thin, and we could splinter our group by focusing on one group or aspect of homelessness. L. Manss said we will need multiple solutions to help those experiencing homelessness. One of the strategies that Built for Zero uses is partnering with local veterans groups, and many of those groups might see this as a bridge to help in this effort.

D. Taylor announced that the County was successful obtaining a 3 year CDBG grant to open a Navigation Center in the South County. The County is still finishing up the marketing and operation plans, but hopes to open it in about 5 months, and it will provide another solution. More to come as it is rolled out.

D. Taylor shared that the initial meeting of the DESS staff meeting with the City of Oroville about how things are going with homelessness and how the City and County intersect, and how to best work together. More to come on that, but wanted to let everyone know what is happening.

B. Harvey-Butterfield announced that HUD has opened the portal to upload the HIC and PIT and county staff will be finalizing the data to upload, and will present the data at the May meeting.

B. Harvey-Butterfield reminded the group that HEAP is wrapping up on June 30<sup>th</sup>, so please make sure everything is being spent and all data is in HMIS.

## 9. COMMITTEE REPORTS:

**Governance Committee:** B. Harvey-Butterfield announced that the committee has been working with Technical Assistance for an overview of the CoC. Also we are still working on the policies and procedures which will be presented at the May meeting.

**HMIS/CE Committee:** E. Rawlinson said with the informed consent now approved the group will now be moving forward with Community Queues, and instituting a referral process in HMIS.

**Households with Children:** M. Meloy said that the committee is working on a few things. They now have a purpose statement, "To collaborate across agencies, leverage funding, and act in an advisory role to the Butte Countywide Continuum of Care on behalf of families and children experiencing homelessness in Butte County." School Districts across the country are getting State and Federal funding for reopening efforts, and one of the accountability requirements is that homeless students are identified and served. So the group is going to put together a letter to send to the 14 school districts and 17 charter schools in the County letting them know we are here and can provide stakeholder feedback as they design their plans. Does this need to be approved by the council? A. Snyder said that is probably more of a Governance issue, so they will add that question to the group's agenda. The Group is also working on a document for quick and easy referrals, probably a google document, also looking at UniteUS. Anyone interested in joining the committee just let her know.

**Veterans:** E. Rawlinson said that the committee is reorganizing, but hopes to start meeting again soon.

**Chronic Homeless Committee:** No report

**Youth Homeless Committee:** E. Bateman reported that they did not meet this last month, the next meeting will be May 12<sup>th</sup> and that they are working on getting the youth advisory council up and running again.

**LGBTQ+/POC:** M. Hambley reported that the group met last month, and meets again April 29<sup>th</sup>. The purpose statement has been created and they are working on a survey to be sent out and potential training.

**Point in Time committee:** B. Harvey-Butterfield said that this is on hold, moving forward for next January.

10. **ANNOUNCEMENTS:** None.

11. **NEXT MEETING:** Monday May 17<sup>th</sup>, 2021, Butte County Department of Employment and Social Services to host Zoom Virtual Meeting.

12. **Adjourned:** 2:57 p.m.