



## Butte Countywide Homeless Continuum of Care

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

**Monday, May 17, 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  
Ed Mayer, Housing Authority of the County of Butte  
Emily Bateman, Youth for Change/6th Street  
Eric Smith, City of Oroville  
Marie Demers, City of Chico  
Marin Hambley, Stonewall Alliance  
Sarah Frohock, Butte County Dept. of Behavioral Health  
Tami Ritter, Butte County Board of Supervisors  
Thomas Tenorio, Community Action Agency  
Kami Denlay, Alternate, Chico City Council  
Keesha Hills, OSCIA  
Joy Amaro, True North Housing Alliance  
Meagan Meloy, Butte County Office of Education  
John Mitchell, Christian Faith Center

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

Angela McLaughlin, Greater Chico Homeless Taskforce  
Deepika Tandon, Chico City Council  
Stephanie Hayden, Oroville Hope Center  
Steve Culleton, Town of Paradise

#### **CoC COORDINATOR:**

Briana Harvey-Butterfield, DESS Housing & Homeless

#### **RECORDING:**

W. Jay Coughlin, DESS Housing & 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  
Tara Sullivan Hames, Butte Glenn 211  
Goldie T. House, DAC

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

Debbie Villasenor, Housing Consultant  
Lisa Courier, Crisis Care Advocacy and Triage (CCAT)  
Nancy Jorth, Youth for Change  
Scott Huber  
Shelby Boston, DESS Butte County  
Pahua Thao, DESS H&H  
Ana Vicuna, BCDBH  
Chrissy Quinonez, Oroville Rescue Mission  
Crystal Nelson-Mourad, GCHTF, NVHT  
LuAnn Peitz, MSW Intern-DESS H&H  
Armando Hernandez, VECTORS  
Susan Roll, Social Work & Basic Needs at Chico State  
Shelly Torkan, BCDBH  
Nick Fashing, DESS-APS, Home Safe  
Makayla Chacon, Catalyst  
Hilary Crosby, Caring Choices  
Mary Neumann, Passages  
Susan Wilson, Safe Space  
Lydia Jimenez, Cal OES  
Laurie Maloney, Point of Contact  
John Zepeda, Butte County Veterans Services  
Leslie Johnson, CHAT  
Bob Traush, CHAT  
Elisa Rawlinson, DESS H&H  
Angie Little, Housing Authority of the County of Butte  
Mark Alvidrez, CHAT  
Melody Proebstel, United Way of Northern California  
Tzeitel Wendel, Nation's Finest  
Masaki Hirayama, VA Northern Ca Healthcare System  
Scott Kennelly, BCBH  
Kathleen Sweeney, Tami Ritter's office  
Deanna Schwab, Safe Space  
Charles Withuhn, North State Shelter Team  
Don Taylor, DESS H&H Branch  
Danette York, Public Health

**OTHER ATTENDEES CONT'D:**

Annie Terry, ORM  
Susan Wilson, Safe Space  
Rob Berry  
Lisa Sloane, TAC  
Laura Cootsona, Jesus Center  
Amber Abney-Bass, Jesus Center

**ORDER OF BUSINESS:**

1. **CONVENE MEETING AND ESTABLISH QUORUM:** The All Member meeting was called to order by A. Snyder at 1:07 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 April 19<sup>th</sup>, 2021 CoC meeting minutes. No changes were noted.  
Motion: T. Ritter  
Second: K Hills  
Opposed: None  
Abstain: K. Denlay
  
3. **BUTTE COUNTY HOMELESS CONTINUUM OF CARE PRESENTATION:** Chair A. Snyder announced that today a comprehensive presentation will be given to the CoC. Lisa Sloane with TAC has worked with the group to put this together, and this information will also be used for the presentation to the City Council on June 15<sup>th</sup>. B. Harvey-Butterfield pulled up the slide show for the group to follow along with (in agenda packet). Lisa Sloane with TAC was introduced by Chair A. Snyder, she has been instrumental with the Governance Committee, and this presentation is mostly her work. She has been helping our CoC since the Camp Fire affected our region. Tom Tenorio was the first presenter and shared how the CoC has developed over the years. The CoC was created by HUD in the late 1980's. During the 1990's HUD developed the process more for communities to get grants, and in 2003 the CAA was successful in getting the first grant in our region. At first the Greater Chico Homeless Task Force acted as the local CoC, and overtime more opportunities for organizations to compete for dollars came along. In 2008, and launched in 2009, a planning group of stakeholders came together to create the CoC that we are familiar with today. In 2015, the CoC completed the transition to comply with the HEARTH Act including a new Governance Charter, MOU's between the CoC and the HMIS Lead Agency and the CoC Lead Agency and Collaborative Applicant. A. Snyder thanked Tom for his presentation and early contributions to get the CoC moving along. A. Snyder went over the CoC Roles and Responsibilities which include the PIT, operating the Coordinated Entry System (CES), Designating and operating a Homeless Management Information System (HMIS), designing and implementing the process associated with applying for CoC Program funds (through HUD), and CoC Planning (HUD provides a small grant). Danette York asked about HMIS and how HMIS is created and operated. B. Harvey-Butterfield said the HUD requires an HMIS be operated, however the local CoC determines how it looks and operates and what software is used. Our CoC uses Clarity, and Catalyst uses Oznum, which is a comparable program, however their data does not go in the CoC HMIS system. Anyone can be a member of the Continuum of Care as seen on the Butte County CoC Organizational Structure slide, there is a

Board elected from the continuum (12 Regular, 3 Coalitions, 5 Jurisdictional). There is a lead agency, collaborative applicant and HMIS lead which is filled by Butte County Department of Employment and Social Services. HUD highly recommends a variety of committees which we have, and we have added a few additional ones when we have seen the need (such as the new LGBTQ+ POC committee). D. Taylor talked about the components that make up the Continuum of Care. The general idea behind the CoC is to coordinate the housing and services available in our geographic continuum. This requires collaboration with the ESG recipients in our region and is a large undertaking. A centralized Coordinated Entry System allows a standardized approach to assess the needs within our region for housing and services. 2020 HIC data was presented as an example of data we use. The 2021 HIC data was submitted to HUD last week and soon we will be able to use that data to help assess our regional need. The PIT count is done annually, sheltered every year, and unsheltered every other year. This year's unsheltered count was postponed until 2022 due to COVID. 319 emergency shelter beds were available on the night the PIT was done for the example presented. C. Withuhn asked if this data was Butte countywide, and said looking at the data is it correct that we had 888 beds and have about 1800 people homeless correct? D. Taylor said yes it is Countywide and we had 885 total beds among the different categories and it is correct that we had about 1800 people homeless when the data was collected. E. Smith asked about the HMIS data which is collected, how is it utilized and who uses it? D. Taylor said in a few slides we will talk about that, but we use it to plan and strategize is the short answer. L. Sloane said that every CoC in the country is required to put their data in HMIS, and the CoC programs have never had their funding cut since HUD can use this data to show Congress how the money is being put to work on the ground. This program can show the outcomes because of the HMIS data. K. Denlay asked if there was a rough estimate the percentage of 885 year round beds that provide mental health services for our region. HUD data shows that around 78 % of our homeless are experiencing Mental Health illness. D. Taylor said there is a break down on the larger report that will come out. L. Sloane provided the following link: [https://files.hudexchange.info/reports/published/CoC\\_HIC\\_CoC\\_CA-519-2020\\_CA\\_2020.pdf](https://files.hudexchange.info/reports/published/CoC_HIC_CoC_CA-519-2020_CA_2020.pdf) D. Taylor went over the slide showing how CoC Programs are funded, and an overview of current homeless resources. Only two sources of funding are annual, the other funding sources are one-time funding with various end dates. The annual funding is competitive funding, where we submit a regional application and compete against other CoC's for funding. Tier II projects are especially competitive. The CoC Annual funding process is allocated through the NOFA or RFP process. These reflect both the activities that are eligible for funding and the CoC priorities. The CoC establishes a scoring process for the NOFA/RFP and convenes a ranking committee of individuals who are not requesting funding. The process is fair and equitable and the Collaborative applicant drafts and submits applications on behalf of the CoC and selected applicants for funds. HUD contracts directly with providers, not the CoC.

K. Denlay asked who creates the scoring process. Is it individuals not seeking funding? D. Taylor said typically it is the scoring committee or the Collaborative applicant, following HUD guidelines. K. Denlay asked if past sample score sheets are available. D. Taylor said that the score sheets change each year based off HUD NOFA's, when this year's NOFA comes out it will be available for everyone to see. E. Smith asked if DESS is the Department that does the collaborative applicant work. D. Taylor said yes, it is the DESS HHOME team. D. Taylor began the next part of today's presentation on who is homeless and why, and presented the 2020 HMIS data about the populations served by the CoC. HMIS data standards are established by HUD and HHS and Department of Veterans Affairs to standardize the data collected across the continuum. Any time changes are announced they are integrated into our HMIS system by the HMIS lead agency, HHOME Team. A monthly meeting occurs to ensure changes to the CES system are implemented system wide. The CoC has successful outcomes as shown with our HMIS data. 54% of persons in TH/RRH exited to PH. 88% of persons in PH over six months. However, one of the challenges is finding affordable housing, for those in TH, average days from

entry to exit into PH is 304 days. The data can be used to guide our strategies. Ed. Mayer pointed out that when the CoC started the idea was to move an individual from homeless status all the way through the services necessary to get permanent housing. Now we are under the Housing First concept and put individuals into housing and then find the services they might need. Our problem is that it takes over 300 days to get someone into a permanent housing situations. Section 8 now takes over a year to find a unit to rent. Lack of permanent stock and opportunities is where we are really stuck. S. Wilson asked about the population served slide, and wondered if we could sort beds available by which populations are served? D. Lucero said on that same slide, it seems a very high percent are involved with Domestic Violence. How many clients are we having difficulty housing. A. Snyder said she does not have exact numbers, but they do track when they cannot house someone, and they have been impacted and not been able to house individuals in the shelter, and even in hotels, as hotels have been filled during fire season for example. Lack of housing is definitely an issue faced. D. Lucero asked comparatively how does Butte compare to other communities, are we similar? D. Taylor said we have had a hard time comparing data, however the State has rolled out the HDIS system and that will make that comparative data much easier access in the months to come since the data sets will be in one system. E. Rawlinson put the following link in the chat for the group: <https://www.bcsb.ca.gov/hcfc/hdis.html> and mentioned that it is only data for active services in HMIS, not all services that are being provided in our region.

Lisa Sloane presented the background for the recently conducted survey of encampments and on the street. 115 persons were interviewed, 44 questions, and not all questions were answered by everyone. The survey is “self-reporting” and TAC did an analysis of the results for Butte County. Questions such as when born, gender, race, ethnicity, veteran status were asked. A set of questions specifically about their homeless status was asked, such as how long homeless. A set of questions about Housing and Services in the region was asked such as what barriers are preventing them from accessing permanent housing. These questions and responses are available in the packet.

B. Harvey-Butterfield announced that she was happy to bring forward guests to share success stories. M. Alvidrez introduced T. Medlin a resident at one of the CHAT houses, the Mercy house, which helps individuals with pre-existing health conditions. T. Medlin shared her story of becoming homeless because of losing her housing when her roommate became sick and could no longer have her in the home. She ended up living out of her car until 211 and Coordinated Entry connected her to CHAT, and she became one of the fortunate ones to be housed. She wishes there were more facilities like this, because really anyone can become homeless when one thing goes wrong. Thank you all for your hard work. S. Storkan with Behavioral Health read a story from one of her clients at Avenida Apartments, and how it changed her life. Having an apartment made many positive changes in her life, like being able to keep care of herself and rebuild good relationships with her 5 grown children. She has had 3 jobs since having housing and feels safer. She has been drug free for 4 years and is going to church on Sundays. M. Chacon, the housing coordinator with Catalyst, told a story of a gentleman who had fled from his partner due to domestic abuse. After couch surfing they were able to get this individual into transitional housing, and after 8 days Catalyst was able to use Rapid Rehousing funding to get him into housing. They have worked with him for 2 years, helping get transportation going, and getting a 3 bedroom home maintained which allows full time employment and closing their Child Services case after 2 years. They have just been called off the Section 8 wait list and it is all due to Rapid Rehousing funding available. E. Rawlinson shared a county success story with the HDAP program who had entered the HDAP program at the age of 38 after serving in the military for 16 years. After being hit by a road side bomb, he suffered a traumatic brain injury and ended up on the street after being release. Within one year of HDAP, he went from a park bench to housing and contact with his children. He has

begun to pay child support and been connected with his mother, bought a new car and is applying for a home loan. Services such as Veteran's service office, Nation's finest, Social Security, Child Support, CHAT, ARC, Feather River, and DESS all connected to make this possible. B. Harvey-Butterfield and A. Snyder thanked all of the presenters.

4. **2021 POINT IN TIME (PIT) / HOUSING INVENTORY COUNTY (HIC) REPORT:** B. Harvey-Butterfield introduced the HHOME team intern Luann Peitz who worked hard on getting the PIT and HIC report done and submitted this year. We will be posting the HUD reports on the CoC website when we receive them in the near future. L. Peitz presented the 2021 Housing Inventory County and Point in Time counts. This year we held the HIC and PIT on January 26<sup>th</sup>. Due to COVID the HIC and PIT were impacted. We were unable to conduct the unsheltered count. The HIC attempts to count the total amount of beds filled under a specific night, PSH 596 beds, RR 201 bed, TH 280 beds, ES 493 beds. No Safe Haven beds in Butte County. 1093 persons were counted and 1470 beds with a 74% utilization rate. Because of COVID these numbers can't be compared to previous years. The PIT is a count of unsheltered and sheltered individuals. 499 individuals were counted in Emergency Shelter and Transitional housing in the sheltered PIT. This year. For more details, we will be uploading the data once confirmed by HUD to the CoC website. A. Snyder thanked L. Pietz for her presentation.
5. **APPROVE COMMITTEE CHAIR AND VICE CHAIR POSITIONS:**
  - A) **Veterans** – A. Snyder said a motion and approval is needed to approve John Zepeda as the new Chair, and Cutis Butler as the vice chair of the Veterans Committee.  
Motion: T. Ritter  
Second: E. Mayer  
Opposed: None  
Abstain: None
6. **APPROVE POLICY AND PROCEDURE UPDATES:** B. Harvey Butterfield said that the Governance committee has presented the new policies which are in your packet on page 101. We will be using survey monkey for voting today.
  - A) **Agenda Items Policy** - B. Harvey-Butterfield went over the proposed Agenda Items Policy. No questions were asked. E. Rawlinson posted the survey monkey link for voting members to vote on. 12 yes votes, none opposed.
  - B) **Support Letter Policy** – B. Harvey-Butterfield went over the Support Letter Policy. No questions were asked. E. Rawlinson posted the survey monkey link for voting members to vote on. 14 yes votes, none opposed.
7. **COUNTY UPDATE:** Pahua Thao gave an update on Project Roomkey. 63 FEMA qualified individuals are in the hotels. 48 North County. 15 South County. A total of 238 people have left for Permanent of Transitional Housing. D. Taylor announced that the County is extending their contracts to September 30, 2021 to align with FEMA guidelines, we don't know if PRK will go that long, and no official end date announced. D. Taylor announced that HUD will be doing a monitoring of the CoC activities the first week in June. The State released the May revise, and the Governor has put in a \$12 billion commitment towards addressing homelessness. Staff is still looking over what is in the programs, and a reminder this is proposed and won't be final until the legislation is finalized by the legislature and approved in June/July. More to come on that. Emergency Housing Vouchers have been released and there is a close tie between the CoC and the Housing Authority. 116 were awarded to Butte County, and the Housing Authority is taking steps to accept them. An MOU between the CoC and the Housing Authority is being put together

by the HHOME team. E. Mayer said that the Section 8 waitlist is open until Saturday the 22<sup>nd</sup>. Please help get anyone you think might qualify to sign up for Section 8. Typically open once a year, but this is the first time since after camp fire disaster. A lottery will be done from the applications received and will accept 2400 applications, and within a year those will have a voucher opportunity guaranteed within the year. HUD awarded the Emergency Housing Vouchers from a new congressional allocation program. They will last 2-3 years, so temporary. Because of the good work of the CoC and the Point in Time studies we were awarded 116 Vouchers. E. Mayer's concern is whether it is realistic that we can get 116 vouchers in place within the time frames proposed. But over all good news. A. Snyder asked if these can be used to keep someone in a Rapid Rehousing program coming to an end housed. E. Mayer is hopeful that is true, but it is early in the process. D. Taylor said based on the amount of Emergency Shelter beds based on our latest HIC and PIT our HHOME team will be going to the Board of Supervisors asking for an extension of the Emergency Housing Crisis Declaration. D. Villasenor said that she is excited to see more dollars coming out for Project Homekey, but in those funding sources being rolled out those dollars are for Brick and Mortar, but not operation. So you can build a 30% of AMI Housing First model, but there are still no operational dollars to operate. Still struggling in Butte County to get the necessary revenue to operate these projects without funding. Housing Authority Project Based vouchers are helpful, but we still need new construction. D. Taylor agreed, and said we will continue articulating that need with our State partners. E. Mayer said the larger picture we are facing is that we are really missing out on Housing Stock, however we do have lots of projects that will be delivered in the Fall of 2022 and Early 2023. Almost 1700 units of affordable housing are being tracked by the Housing Authority right now, so the game is how do we hold on for the next 2 years, and stabilize those who are homeless to get there. A. Snyder asked about the Crisis Shelter Declaration, and concerns about other declarations ending in other jurisdictions. D. Taylor said that the only one he can address is HEAP funding, and there would be some immediate impacts for that funding, however that funding is only through June 30<sup>th</sup>. There was some concern about CESH, however after reaching out to the State, D. Taylor received confirmation that CESH funding will not be affected by a lack of a Crisis Shelter Declaration in any jurisdiction. We just received the info, and will be letting all of our CESH awardee's know that information soon.

## 8. COMMITTEE COALITION AND JURISDICTION REPORTS/UPDATES:

**Governance Committee:** No additional report out. Refer to item 6.

**HMIS/CE Committee:** S. Frohock announced that the committee is instituting a new data quality process for all partners to clean up our data. Looking to put together a how to guide for using the informed consent. The Bitfocus contract starts June 1<sup>st</sup> giving an additional 20 users for a total of 120.

**Households with Children:** B Harvey-Butterfield said that M. Meloy posted in the chat that the group is working on connecting with school districts for students dealing with homelessness and summer learning opportunities. Anyone interested in joining the committee just let her know.

**Veterans:** John Zepeda said that the committee is currently working on the mission statement, and meets every 6 weeks. Also working on some goals for homeless veterans.

**Chronic Homeless Committee:** E. Rawlinson reported that the committee will be meeting next week.

**Youth Homeless Committee:** E. Bateman reported that they met last week and discussed bringing in speakers to address youth homelessness and talking about the activities for November Homeless Runaway and Youth month. Next meeting will be June 14<sup>th</sup> at 12:30. If you would like to join please email.

**LGBTQ+/POC:** M. Hambley reported that the group met and is still working on finalizing the questions for their survey. Next meeting is the third Thursday of the month at 2 pm.

**Point in Time committee:** B. Harvey-Butterfield said that no new information, she is touching base with Suzi Kochems to start the committee meetings in June, to get ready for the 2022 Point in Time count.

**9. ANNOUNCEMENTS:** None.

**10. NEXT MEETING:** Monday June 21<sup>st</sup>, 2021, Butte County Department of Employment and Social Services to host Zoom Virtual Meeting.

**11. Adjourned:** 3:03 p.m.