



## Butte Countywide Homeless Continuum of Care

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

**Monday, June 21, 2021**

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

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

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

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

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

Kami Denlay, Chico City Council  
John Mitchell, Christian Faith Center  
Steve Culleton, Town of Paradise

#### **CoC COORDINATOR:**

Briana Harvey-Butterfield, DESS Housing & Homeless

#### **RECORDING:**

W. Jay Coughlin, DESS Housing & Homeless

#### **OTHER ATTENDEES:**

Rob Berry, Chico First  
Deanna Schwab, Safe Space  
Katy Thoma, Chico Chamber  
Tracey (Stogsdill) Gillihan, Butte Glenn 211

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

Elisa Rawlinson, DESS Housing & Homeless  
Chrissy Quinonez, Oroville Rescue Mission  
Pahua Thao, DESS Housing & Homeless  
Lisa Currier, Crisis Care Advocacy and Triage  
Melissa Jamison, United Way  
Erin Murray, DESS Housing & Homeless  
Debbie Villasenor, Housing Consultant  
Caitlin Davis- Rivers, CHAT  
Wendy Lo, DESS Housing & Homeless  
Javi Pinedo, HACB  
Amber Benedict, CHAT  
Laura Cootsona, Jesus Center  
Leslie Johnson, CHAT  
Jenn Spatz, CHAT  
Cristi Roach, DESS  
Mary Neumann, Passages  
Angie Little, Housing Authority of the County of Butte  
John Zepeda, Butte County Veterans Services  
Josh Jamison, Oroville Hope Center  
Amber Abney-Bass, Jesus Center  
Mark Alvidrez, CHAT  
Laurie Maloney, Point of Contact  
John Fleming, Ampla Health  
Melody Proebstel, United Way  
Amilcar Avendano, Caring Choices  
Hilary Crosby, Caring Choices  
Tiffany Danger  
Mary Kay Benson, North State Shelter Team  
Kathleen Sweeney, Tami Ritter's office  
Monserrat Celalla, E Center Head State  
Rachel DeLeon, DESS Eligibility  
Debra Lucero, Butte County Board of Supervisors

**ORDER OF BUSINESS:**

- 1. CONVENE MEETING AND ESTABLISH QUORUM:** The Council Member 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 May 17<sup>th</sup>, 2021 CoC meeting minutes. No changes were noted.

Motion: E. Mayer  
Second: N. Demers  
Opposed: None  
Abstain: None
- 3. STONEWALL ALLIANCE PRESENTATION:** Chair A. Snyder announced that the meeting will start with a presentation by Marin Hambley of Stonewall Alliance. A copy of the training is in today's packet. Marin said today's presentation will introduce folks to the trainings that Stonewall offers specifically around how to make housing services more inclusive to the LGBTQ community and more accessible for Trans and LGBTQ people who are homeless. Stonewall trainings work to remove Transphobia from the environment instead of removing Trans people from the environment. The training will go over introductions, agreements, our own roles and identities and what it means to do this work and understanding these systems, key terms, understanding trauma, and look at trauma informed care and the idea of the Zone of Helpfulness. Marin noted that the US transgender survey from 2015 found that nearly one-third of Trans people have experienced homelessness at some point in their lives and more than one quarter of Trans people avoided shelters when homeless for fear of mistreatment. Anyone trying to access services is deciding if they belong there and a lot of that decision happens in the initial intake when individuals are introduced to the environment. If you would like a training scheduled contact Marin at [marin@stonewallchico.org](mailto:marin@stonewallchico.org) or call 893-3336. A. Snyder asked if anyone had any questions, no questions were asked and then said that the trainings are very helpful and encourages agencies to reach out for trainings. E. Mayer pointed out that it was Pride Month. The group thanked Marin for the great presentation.
- 4. EMERGENCY HOUSING VOUCHERS:** A. Snyder said that this item will be an Action item for the Council to enter into an MOU with the Housing Authority for Emergency Housing Vouchers that are available. E. Mayer said that this is a brand new program from the America Recovery Act, and 116 vouchers were awarded to Butte and Glenn Counties. The allocation proposed for the vouchers would give 89% (103) of the vouchers to Butte County and 11% (13) to Glenn County. 25% of these vouchers (26) would be distributed with the CoC Coordinated Entry list and the remaining 77 vouchers would be distributed among 10 other community agencies which have requested vouchers. Any awarded vouchers from the Coordinated Entry list will necessitate a Housing Navigator and Case Management assigned to them. As soon as the MOU is signed the Housing Authority can begin allocating the vouchers. HUD would like vouchers to start being assigned by July 1<sup>st</sup>. M. Demers asked if there is a timeframe on the vouchers for how long they are valid. They are valid for 120 days once assigned, and then once used for nine years, and he believes they will convert to long term. D. Villasenor asked what the plan is for agencies that might not be able to use the proposed allocated vouchers, will they be redistributed. E. Mayer

said they are very motivated to see the vouchers used, so they are moving quickly and have passed out application packets last week and will be taking it one day at a time to see how the usage goes. Extra staffing has been brought on board to help speed the process, but they really need the agencies to help their clients use these vouchers. If agencies cannot use their allocated vouchers, they will look towards reallocations. E. Mayer said he wants to make sure that the group thinks this allocation makes sense. H. Crosby with Caring Choices said it looks good. E. Mayer said the next step would be to address the MOU with the Council. It has been put together by the County based on the HUD boilerplate and doesn't assign dollars, just involves referrals and would like to get it signed today as it is very time sensitive. B. Harvey-Butterfield said that the MOU is still going through the County process, and will go to the Board in July, however is back dated to begin July 1<sup>st</sup>. If the CoC Council directs to proceed then the MOU will be sent to the Board for approval. E. Rawlinson clarified that the MOU for the Housing Authority and the CoC is just for the 26 vouchers for the CoC, and the other agencies will need to enter into their own MOU agreements with the Housing Authority. A. Snyder said she understands the need to get the process going quickly, but we will need to follow the process laid out to get all necessary approvals. E. Mayer said if the CoC signs today, the Housing Authority can move forward with the knowledge that the Board of Supervisors will sign at a later date. A motion for the Continuum of Care to agree to the MOU was made by M. Demers and seconded by T. Tenorio. A. Snyder asked for comments or questions. T. Ritter asked if she would need to abstain. A. Snyder said that would be T. Ritter's call as the agreement does not benefit her, and is not monetary. T. Ritter said then she will vote. No abstentions, all in favor, motion passed unanimously.

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

A. Snyder said that E. Mayer or someone from his organization will be contacting all of the other agencies to get MOU's going. D. Villasenor said their MOU was already submitted, when will she hear back that it is executed by the Housing Authority. E. Mayer said that info will be coming today or tomorrow. E. Rawlinson said that agencies should start identifying individuals for the vouchers now. A. Snyder said she would like to connect on how those forms need to be filled out. E. Rawlinson said agencies should connect with Javi at the Housing Authority for that assistance. L. Johnson asked how the individuals coming off Coordinated Entry will be placed, and if our agencies could commit to getting one house for individuals to access. To meet that success each of those 26 vouchers will need to be followed by the Housing Navigators to make sure the program is successful. E. Rawlinson said that the Housing Navigators will pull individuals off Coordinated Entry and then connect them with agencies to find housing options. The agencies will need to provide Case Management and the Housing Navigators will provide oversight. D. Villasenor said if we can't find units, we hope we can reallocate those vouchers so they can be used instead of losing them in our area. E. Mayer said that will be the plan, the hope is to lease people up in place. Individuals who might hold a homeless qualification, but are currently in a housed situation, so we can house them in place. It could have been the solution to put all of the vouchers out for individuals who are homeless, but it is understood that the barriers in place would prevent a majority of that population from being able to lease up quickly. E. Mayer said fees earned up front will enable future landlord incentives and other programs to make this successful. The Glenn County Community Action Dos Rios Community of Care will be the point of contact for the Glenn County vouchers available.

5. **COUNTY UPDATE:** B. Harvey-Butterfield announced that the CoC Website has been updated and said to look out for the official email announcement soon. Please take a moment to review the updated website and let us know of any changes you might see. Kudos to the staff for getting this done. Currently transitions are being made to Project Room key (PRK), and a contract with United Way using ESG-CV2 funds has been signed and the current PRK participants have been given an option to continue with the program and if they do the United Way will be the lead on activities. No other updates. A. Snyder asked if anyone from the City might have any updates on the ongoing court case about the homeless and City of Chico. M. Demers said she did not have any information on that. No updates, just what is in the local news articles. D. Lucero said that the article says that the court date has been postponed until July 6<sup>th</sup> to give the City more time to come into compliance according to the ER article. A. Snyder said some information is coming out, so thank you for that.

6. **COMMITTEE COALITION AND JURISDICTION REPORTS/UPDATES:**

**Governance Committee:** No report.

**HMIS/CE Committee:** E. Rawlinson said that the committee met last week and went over the opening up of our HMIS systems. With a few exceptions, agencies can see other programs information which helps see what programs clients have accessed and what works.

**Households with Children:** No report.

**Veterans:** John Zepeda said that the committee is in the process of putting a stand-down together for Butte County on October 1<sup>st</sup> 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> at the Chico Elks lodge where local homeless veterans will be able to get items donated from the community and health services will be available along with information from local agencies. Ron Mathison 530-321-4040 is the point of contact. He sent a flyer to B. Harvey-Butterfield for distribution and she will send it out following the meeting. A history and explanation of stand-downs was given.

**Chronic Homeless Committee:** E. Rawlinson reported that John Mitchell stepped down as the chair and that the last meeting was canceled. At the next meeting a new chair will be selected and announced at the July meeting.

**Youth Homeless Committee:** E. Bateman reported that they met and a presentation was given about services that are available from Butte College. Focusing on light up the night, where green lights are put outside their buildings to show support of homeless youth. July 14<sup>th</sup> at 12:30 will be the next meeting over Zoom.

**LGBTQ+/POC:** M. Hambley reported that the group meets monthly, and the next meeting is this Thursday at 2 pm on Zoom to finalize the questions for a survey. Email Marin or Pahua if you would like an invite.

**Point in Time committee:** B. Harvey-Butterfield said that she is starting to prepare for meetings for the Point in Time, if you are interested in helping this coming January let her know.

**Greater Chico Homeless Task Force:** A. McLaughlin said that the GCHTF had a contractor come to the last meeting to discuss some of the barriers for creating affordable housing. Meetings are the third Thursday of every month from 10-12 and the group is hoping to meet in person next month.

**Other jurisdictional representatives:** No reports

7. **ANNOUNCEMENTS:** M. Demers, City of Chico, shared that one affordable housing project is underway, Creekside Place with 101 units for Seniors, and 15 of the units for individuals with Mental Health issues facing homelessness. Northcreek crossing with 106 units just closed and will start construction in the next few weeks. L. Currier thanked Anastacia and Don for the presentation to the City Council the other day. E. Rawlinson announced that this Thursday June 24<sup>th</sup> there will be an event for Camp Fire survivors in the unincorporated areas of Butte County in Paradise to connect them with services which are available. 20 agencies have signed up to attend, and Enloe will provide vaccines at the event. If you or your agency would like to attend, let her know and you will need

to show up by 9 am to set up. J. Zepeda asked if tables and chairs would be provided. Limited tables and chairs will be provided by the Paradise venue, limited wifi and that this will be an outside event due to COVID. L. Johnson introduced Jennifer Spatz the new Executive Director of CHAT. The group welcomed her. A. Snyder announced that the next meeting will hopefully be a hybrid meeting as the CoC moves back towards meeting in person.

8. **NEXT MEETING:** Monday July 19<sup>th</sup>, 2021, Butte County Department of Employment and Social Services to host in person and Zoom Virtual Meeting.
9. **Adjourned:** 2:34 p.m.