



Butte Countywide Homeless Continuum of Care

Point in Time Committee

Wednesday, May 29, 2024 3:00 p.m. – 4:00 p.m.

Zoom: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/89007971490?pwd=TzN3aEtiZ3U4VEtNdGM2OFczNWZlZz09>

Phone: +1 669 900 9128

Meeting ID: 890 0797 1490 **Password:** 161492

PIT COMMITTEE MEMBERS:

- | | | |
|------------------------------------|------------------------------------|-----------------------------------|
| Aimee Decker, Nation’s Finest | Jennifer Zellers, Youth for Change | |
| Amber Abney-Bass, Jesus Center | Jennifer Wilking, Chico State | Meagan Meloy, BCOE |
| Annie Terry, ORC | Josh Jamison, OHC | Michael Wright, DESS HH |
| Austin Herbaugh, DESS PIO | Kaitlyn Sherrill, DESS HH | Nancy Jorth, Youth for Change |
| Briana Harvey-Butterfield, DESS HH | Keesha Hills, Haven of Hope | Pahua Thao, DESS HH |
| Charles Withuhn, NSST | Kenneth Huenink, DESS HH | Shelly Forbes, Nation’s Finest |
| Codie McCormack, Caminar | Kevin Thompson, Haven of Hope | Shelly Storkan, BCDBH |
| Deborah Taylor, VA | Laura Smith, DESS HH | Shelly Watson, Jesus Center |
| Dee Price, DESS HH | Lisa Angle, DESS HH | Susan Roll, CSU, Chico |
| Elisa Rawlinson, DESS HH | Lisa Torres, OSCIA | Taylor Bunch, TNHA |
| Erin Murray, DESS HH | Leslie Johnson, CHAT | Tami Ritter, Board of Supervisors |
| Erin Spasbo, DESS HH | Lorena Reed, BCDBH | Tracey Stogsdill-Gillihan, 211 |
| Gabriell Beck, DESS HH | Lynann Pillely, ORC | Vern Hartman, Gridley Lions |
| Isabel Alaniz-Alvarado, DESS HH | Lyndall Ellingson, Chico State | Wendy Cumberland, DESS HH |
| Jay Coughlin, DESS HH | Maisue Thao, Butte College | Wendy Lo, DESS HH |
| Jaymee McLaughlin, CUSD | MaryJo Alonzo, City of Chico | |

Chairperson: Jay Coughlin
Second Chairperson: Erin Murray

Recording: Jay Coughlin

AGENDA

- | | |
|---|-------------|
| 1. Call to Order | J. Coughlin |
| a. Welcome, updates and announcements | |
| 2. Approval of April 24 th , 2024 Minutes – ACTION | J. Coughlin |
| 3. Unsheltered PIT Survey Questions | J. Coughlin |
| a. Review and discussion of Survey Questions | |
| 4. HUB locations | J. Coughlin |
| 5. Adjourn | All |
| a. Next meeting Wednesday June 26 th , 2024 3:00 – 4:00 p.m. | |



Butte Countywide Homeless Continuum of Care

Point in Time Committee
Wednesday, April 24th, 2024
3:00 P.M. to 4:00 P.M.
Butte County Employment and Social Services
Zoom Virtual Meeting

COMMITTEE MEMBERS PRESENT:

Aimee Decker, Nation’s Finest
Amber Abney-Bass, Jesus Center
Austin Herbaugh, DESS PIO
Erin Spasbo, DESS HH
Isabel Alaniz-Alvarado, DESS HH
Jay Coughlin, DESS HH
Jennifer Zellers, Youth for Change
Kaitlyn Sherril, DESS HH
Laura Smith, DESS HH
Lisa Angle, DESS HH
Lynann Pilley, ORC
Mary Jo Alonzo, City of Chico
Nancy Jorth, Youth for Change
Shelly Storkan, BCDBH

COMMITTEE MEMBERS ABSENT:

Annie Terry, ORC
Briana Harvey-Butterfield, DESS HH
Charles Withuhn, NSST
Codie McCormack, Caminar
Deborah Taylor, NorCal VA
Dee Price, DESS HH
Elisa Rawlinson, DESS HH
Erin Murray, DESS HH
Gabriell Beck, DESS HH
Keesha Hills, OSCIA
Kenneth Huenink, DESS HH
Kevin Thompson, OSCIA
Jennifer Wilking, Chico State
Josh Jamison, OHC
Leslie Johnson, CHAT
Lisa Torres, OSCIA
Lorena Reed, BCDBH
Lyndall Ellingson, Chico State

Meagan Meloy, BCOE
Maisue Thao, Butte College
Michael Wright, DESS HH
Pahua Thao, DESS HH
Shelly Forbes, Nation’s Finest
Shelly Watson, Jesus Center
Susan Roll, CSU Chico
Tami Ritter, Board of Supervisors
Taylor Bunch, TNHA
Tracey Stogsdill-Gillihan, 211
Vern Hartman, Gridley Lions
Wendy Cumberland, DESS HH
Wendy Lo, DESS HH

RECORDING:

Jay Coughlin

ORDER OF BUSINESS:

- 1. CALL TO ORDER:** Committee Chair J. Coughlin called the meeting to order at 3:01 P.M. The following announcements were made. Aimee Decker with Nation’s Finest announced that they are holding a fundraiser on May 3rd for homeless Veterans all day at Buffalo Wild Wings and invited all to attend. Also, Nation’s Finest will be holding an open house on May 17th from 9 am – 11 am at 553 Wall Street, come down and see the new facility. There is lots of free parking in the back. No other announcements.
- 2. APPROVAL OF MINUTES:** On a motion by Shelly Storkan, seconded by Nancy Jorth the minutes of March 27th 2024 were approved. 4 abstentions. Lisa Angle, Amber Abney-Bass, Mary-Jo Alonzo, Aimee Decker.

- 3. UNSHELTERED PIT SURVEY QUESTIONS:** J. Coughlin said that the questions used for the previous PIT have been included in your packet, and last month we were able to get through the first 22 questions and any suggested changes are in the minutes from the last meeting in your packet. J. Coughlin asked if anyone would like to talk about a specific question, otherwise the group will start at number 23 and work through the remaining ones today. No specific request was made. J. Coughlin said that after the group finishes making their suggested changes to the questions he will be sending off a request to Housing Tools to provide feedback and get their input.

The committee discussed question numbers 23 – 35 at today’s meeting and suggested the following:

Question #23: A. Abney-Bass asked why we needed to ask about the specific names of a school. The thought process last year was if the name was added it could give us some additional data points, so we could possibly do outreach to a listed school for example, however to date the information hasn’t been used. A. Abney-Bass said in general she thinks we should be trying to make the questions less complicated for the process, and when we add information that this information is valuable “The juice is worth the squeeze”. Asking for a specific name can sometimes ask like we are saying ‘prove it’. A. Herbaugh said that also, he thinks the Universities keep track of their own homeless populations pretty well. The group decided to remove “Name of school”, and just keep currently in school as long as this won’t affect longitudinal data.

Question #24: No suggestions. Leave as is.

Question #25: No suggestions. Leave as is.

Question #26: A. Abney-Bass asked if the intent of the question was when they became homeless the first time ever or during their current experience of homelessness. The desire is to collect the data from the current episode of homelessness. The group discussed the intent of the question and decided to leave it as is at this time, but to see if housing tools has a suggestion for changing the question to make it potentially clearer to those responding.

Question #27: No suggestions. Leave as is.

Question #28: M. Alonzo said that the following questions do seem very long, however using the flash card was helpful. It is hard to say how useful all of the information is and if we use it, but otherwise good information to have. A. Herbaugh asked if the volunteers are supposed to read every item listed or just mark a question if someone says that they stayed in that location. J. Coughlin said currently the training and expectation is that every question and listed potential answers are read in their entirety. However this can be changed by the committee if desired. A. Herbaugh said that he thinks it would make more sense as a volunteer to ask the question and then just check or write down what applies. A. Abney-Bass asked that we add something here to this question about Medical Respite or Hospice. We continue to hear how people experiencing homelessness are experiencing these needs. The group decided to add Medical Respite or Hospice as a potential answer to this question.

Question #29: M. Alonzo asked with this question being so large, do we get a good response rate from this question. From what she remembers when individuals got here, the responses did not really fit most of the answers given. The longitudinal study would show some of that information, and looks like a high percentage did respond. The group discussed the approach volunteers could do with questions like this, and possibly rearranging questions on the list to deal with response fatigue, if it would affect data collection.

Question #30: A. Herbaugh suggested grouping some of the more common ones together might be a good option. A. Abney-Bass said thinking about the low lease up rate for Section 8 vouchers, if there was a way to gather that data. M. Alonzo asked if that is just the time they are on the waiting list, or unable to use it once granted. A. Abney-Bass said maybe an answer for unable to use a voucher that was received and an answer to the question that says they were just on the waiting list and never received a voucher. M. Alonzo said she is pretty sure that this data is available from Housing Authority, and some changes in legislation are coming down to address these barriers. A. Abney-Bass said it might be helpful for the CoC to have the data in this format. No strong feelings from the group against adding these to the list of potential answers. No other changes suggested.

Question #31: A. Abney-Bass suggested that the question would be better if it addressed some of the listed answers are not “money”. A. Herbaugh suggested “How do you support yourself financially”. The group liked this and suggests changing the question to “How do you support yourself financially”.

Question #32: No suggestions. Leave as is.

Question #33: No suggestions. Leave as is.

Question #34: No suggested changes. A. Abney-Bass just said all of the response are really good options for people, however rearranging these so it doesn't lead with “I don't like the staff”. Potentially move the first responses to ones that deal with the environment. M. Alonzo suggested removing all of the listed questions and just leaving a space for the individual to give their answer/answers. A. Abney-Bass said she agrees, the feedback from individuals without the listing would be helpful, or to just leave answers that have historically received the most feedback. A. Herbaugh said he thinks removing the answers and just asking the question and filling in the response would be the most helpful as well. M. Alonzo said a lot of the feedback we have received in the past is that the listing of questions/answers feels like too much, and this would be one example of making this survey easier to ask and respond to. The group agreed that removing all of the answers is the preferred option and made that suggestion.

Question #35: No suggestions. Leave as is.

J. Coughlin congratulated the group on getting through all of the questions. Next month we will review the suggestions from March and April and put together this year's survey for approval at the June PIT meeting.

Suggestions from the March PIT meeting for potential changes:

Question #1: Add an option for ‘What is your street name” or “Nick name” or “what you prefer to be called” when individuals are hesitant to give their Name or initials.

Question #4: J. Coughlin said that A. Abney-Bass requested to add the Jesus Center/Renewal Center as an option. It was suggested to update Pallet Shelter to Genesis Shelter. E. Murray asked the group if it was helpful to have all of these options listed, or since the interviewer is supposed to read all of the questions as listed does it just make the process longer, her suggestion would be to remove the options after Emergency Shelter. The group agreed that it might not be necessary to list all of these options since most individuals that are surveyed know where they were staying the night before. J. Coughlin said that he will make a note to look at updating the training to address the time necessary to ask all of the questions.

Question #16: The group suggested looking at updating the questions to ‘are you experiencing a Behavioral Health issue that limits your ability to hold a job. J. Coughlin said he will let the group know what the official HUD language is once we get the finalized HUD questions.

Question #22: Remove ‘a’ in front of “a duty”

4. **UNSHELTERED PIT IDEAS:** J. Coughlin asked for any additional PIT ideas, no new feedback at this time.
5. **ADJOURNMENT:** . No other announcements, the meeting was adjourned at 4:03 P.M.

2025 Unsheltered PIT Survey

All questions in red are HUD required questions.

All questions in black are local questions.

1. What is your name?

- First Name: _____
- Last Name: _____
- If hesitant, ask "What are your initials?" _____
- Person refused

2. Have you already been interviewed for the 2023 PIT Count? (If yes, STOP)

- Yes
- No

3. What area did you stay in last night?

- Biggs
- Chico
- Gridley
- Oroville
- Paradise
- Magalia
- Other location in Butte County: _____
- Outside Butte County: _____

4. Where did you sleep the night before the Count?

(If option in bold/highlight is selected, continue with the survey)

- Abandoned building**
- Under bridge/ overpass**
- Bus/ train station**
- Vehicle/ boat/ RV**
- Outdoor encampment**
- Park**
- Street or sidewalk**
- Emergency shelter (Torres, Sabbath House, Safe Space, ORM, Pallet Shelter, Catalyst Shelter, Etc.)
- Transitional housing
- Hospital
- Treatment program
- Jail
- Hotel/Motel paid for with own money
- Hotel/Motel paid for by an agency
- Temporarily with friends or family (couch surfing)
- House or apartment-rent/own
- In a place being evicted from
- Other location: _____

2025 Unsheltered PIT Survey

5. What is your gender? (Choose all that apply)

- Male
- Female
- A gender that is not singularly 'Female' or 'Male'
- Transgender
- Questioning
- Person doesn't know
- Person refused

6. How do you identify your sexual orientation? (choose all that apply)

- Straight or heterosexual
- Lesbian, gay, homosexual, or same gender loving
- Bisexual or pansexual
- I identify as: _____
- Person doesn't know
- Person refused

7. What is your date of birth?

- ____ / ____ / ____
- Person doesn't know
- Person refused

If refused to answer date of birth, ask "How old are you?" _____

If refused to answer age, ask "What age range do you fall into?"

- Under 18
- 18-24
- 25-34
- 35-44
- 45-54
- 55-64
- 65+

8. What is your race?

- American Indian or Alaska native
- Asian
- Black or African American
- Native Hawaiian/Pacific Islander
- White
- Other: _____
- Person doesn't know
- Person refused

2025 Unsheltered PIT Survey

9. Are you Hispanic/Latino?

- Yes
- No
- Person doesn't know
- Person refused

10. Is this the first time you have been homeless?

- Yes
- No
- Person doesn't know
- Person refused

11. How long have you been homeless this time? (Only include time in shelters and/or streets)

- 0 to 3 months
- 4 to 6 months
- 7 to 11 months
- 1 to 2 years
- 2 to 3 years
- 3 years or more

12. How many months did you stay in shelters or on the streets over the past 3 years?

- 0 to 3 months
- 4 to 6 months
- 7 to 11 months
- 1 to 2 years
- 2 to 3 years
- 3 years or more

13. How many separate times have you stayed in shelters or on the streets in the past 3 years?

- Fewer than 4 times
- 4 or more times
- Person doesn't know
- Person refused

2025 Unsheltered PIT Survey

14. Do you have any Substance Abuse Issues?

- No
- Alcohol abuse
- Drug abuse
- Both alcohol and drug

(If "yes") is this a long-term disability that impairs your ability to hold a job or live independently?

- Yes
- No
- Person doesn't know
- Person refused

15. Do you have a Chronic Health Condition?

- Yes

(If "yes") is this a long-term disability that impairs your ability to hold a job or live independently?

- Yes
- No
- No
- Person doesn't know
- Person refused

16. Do you have a Mental Health Problem?

- Yes

(If "yes") is this a long-term disability that impairs your ability to hold a job or live independently?

- Yes
- No
- No
- Person doesn't know
- Person refused

17. Do you have a Physical Disability?

- Yes

(If "yes") is this a long-term disability that impairs your ability to hold a job or live independently?

- Yes
- No
- No
- Person doesn't know
- Person refused

2025 Unsheltered PIT Survey

18. Do you have a Developmental Disability?

- Yes
- No
- Person doesn't know
- Person refused

19. Do you have AIDS or an HIV related illness?

- Yes
- No
- Person doesn't know
- Person refused

20. Are you experiencing homelessness because you are fleeing Domestic Violence, Sexual Assault, or Stalking?

- Yes
- No
- Person doesn't know
- Person refused

21. Are you a victim/survivor of Domestic Violence?

- Yes
- No
- Person doesn't know
- Person refused

22. Are you a veteran? (Have you served in the US Armed Forces OR been called into a duty as a member of the National Guard or as a Reservist)

- Yes
- No
- Person doesn't know
- Person refused

23. What was the last grade level you completed in school?

- Less than 8th grade
- Less than 12th grade
- High School Graduate or GED
- AA Degree
- Some College
- College Degree or More
- Currently in school (If checked, provide name of school)

Name of school: _____

- Person doesn't know
- Person refused

2025 Unsheltered PIT Survey

24. Were you ever in foster care or stayed in a group home?

Yes

(If "yes") Were you exited from foster care or group home into homelessness?

Yes

No

No

Person doesn't know

Person refused

25. Are you currently on probation and/or parole? (Only ask if client is over 18 yrs old)

Yes

(If "yes") Were you released from custody into homelessness?

Yes

No

No

Person doesn't know

Person refused

26. Were you living in Butte County when you became homeless?

Yes

No

Person doesn't know

Person refused

27. How long have you been in Butte County? If in and out, what is the TOTAL amount of time?

More than a month but less than 1 year

1-2 years

3-5 years

6-9 years

10-19 years

20+ years

Person doesn't know

Person refused

2025 Unsheltered PIT Survey

28. What housing and/or sheltering options would you be interested in? (Check all that apply)

- A parking lot with security where you can safely sleep in your car or RV
- Large shelter with individual rooms for each person
- Outside space that is legal to camp
- Sharing a room in a house or apartment
- Shelter with large shared sleeping space with pets allowed
- Shelter with large shared sleeping space without pets
- Tiny house
- Your own room in a shared house or apartment
- Your own house or apartment
- Person doesn't know
- Person refused

29. What do you think led to your homelessness? (Choose all that apply)

- Age out of foster or group home
- Alcohol or substance use or abuse
- Domestic violence or partner abuse
- Direct result of COVID-19
- Employment or financial reasons
- Family crisis such as a death or serious illness in the family, divorce, family conflict, or another family problem
- Forced to relocate from home or evicted
- Incarceration
- Leaving your house due to intolerance of your sexual orientation or gender identity
- Medical or disability problems
- Mental illness
- Natural or other disasters
 - Are you survivor of the 2017 Wall Fire?
 - Are you a survivor of the 2018 Camp Fire?
 - Are you a survivor of the 2020 Bear/North Complex Fire?
- Are you a survivor of another disaster? Please state: _____
- Parent or foster parent abuse
- Personal choice to be homeless
- PRCS (Post Release Controlled Supervision)
- Recent immigration
- Substandard housing
- Other: _____
- Person Doesn't Know
- Person Refused

2025 Unsheltered PIT Survey

30. What barriers prevent you from accessing permanent housing (choose all that apply)?

- Criminal History
 - (If criminal history is checked) Were you convicted of 290 offense?
- Finding affordable housing
- Finding a job
- Finding services to help me
- I don't like the housing options available to me
- Lack of an ID card
- Lack of local services
- Managing my mental health
- No money for rent or deposit
- Pets
- Poor/no credit
- Rental History
- Substance Use
- Transportation to services
- Nothing, I prefer to be homeless
- Other: _____
- Person Doesn't Know
- Person Refused

31. How do you get money? (Choose all that apply)

- Child support or alimony
- Food Stamps (CalFresh)
- Friends or family
- General Assistance (GA)
- Job or paid internship
- Odd jobs
- Panhandling or busking (street performance)
- Pension or retirement
- Recycling
- Supplemental Security Income (SSI)
- Social Security Disability Insurance (SSDI)
- Student aid or grants
- Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF or CalWORKs)
- Temporary or seasonal (harvest) employment
- Unemployment benefits
- Veteran's benefits
- Other: _____
- Person Doesn't Know
- Person Refused

2025 Unsheltered PIT Survey

32. What is your household's approximate monthly income? (Choose one)

- No income
- \$1-\$150
- \$151-\$250
- \$251-\$500
- \$501-\$1,000
- \$1,001-\$1,500
- \$1,501-\$2,000
- Over \$2,000
- Person Doesn't Know
- Person Refused

33. Which of these services would you use? (Choose all that apply)

- Access to electricity
- Court transportation and support
- Detox center
- Drop in center for clothes, computer use, food, mail, and support
- Free laundry service
- Life coach/case manager/mentor
- Mobile shower
- Needle exchange program
- Phone charging stations
- Safe kennel provided for pets
- Safe medicine storage
- Safe personal property storage
- Temporary housing when sick
- Transportation to appointments
- Warming/cooling centers
- Other: _____
- Person doesn't know
- Person refused

34. If you don't use Emergency Shelters, why not? (Choose all that apply)

- I don't like the staff
- I don't like where it is located. "It's difficult for me to get there"
- I don't need to
- I feel overwhelmed being around so many people
- I feel unsafe
- I have been kicked out of the shelters and have not asked to go back
- I have too much stuff to store there
- I'm afraid of getting sick with all the people in one place
- I prefer to camp outside
- I think my children would be unsafe
- It's too noisy
- The shelter is low-barrier and it triggers me.
- There are too many rules

2025 Unsheltered PIT Survey

- They don't allow medicinal Marijuana
- They don't allow my family to stay together
- They don't allow people to use drugs or alcohol before signing in
- They don't allow pets
- They don't know how to shelter transgender people
- There is somebody else in shelter that I cannot be around.
- They require religious participation to stay
- Other: _____

35. Additional information: