



Butte Countywide Homeless Continuum of Care

Point in Time Committee

Tuesday, October 6th 2020

3:00 P.M. to 4:00 P.M.

Butte County Employment and Social Services

Zoom Virtual Meeting

COMMITTEE MEMBERS PRESENT:

Briana Harvey-Butterfield, DESS HH
Dawn Blackhorse, Butte College
Elisa Rawlinson, DESS HH
Emily Bateman, Youth for Change
Jay Coughlin, DESS HH
Marie Demers, City of Chico
MaryJo Alonzo, City of Chico
Pahua Thao, DESS HH
Sherisse Allen, Housing Tools
Staci Parisi, DESS HH
Suzi Kochems, City of Chico

COMMITTEE MEMBERS ABSENT:

Audrea Badial, VRC
Benson, Community Member
Don Taylor, DESS HH
Erica Amaya, Nation's Finest
Jennifer Zellers, VRC
Joy Amaro, True North
Laura Cootsona, Jesus Center
Lisa Currier, CCAT
Melissa Frohip, Nation's Finest
Meagan Meloy, BCOE School Ties
Sarah Frohock, BCDBH
Scott Walker, Caminar
Shelly Watson, Jesus Center
Tami Ritter, Board of Supervisors

RECORDING:

LuAnn Peitz, DESS HH Intern

OTHER ATTENDEES:

Amber Benedict, Youth for Change

ORDER OF BUSINESS:

- 1. CALL TO ORDER:** The meeting was called to order by Briana Harvey-Butterfield at 3:04 P.M. and she facilitated the meeting.
- 2. INTRODUCTIONS:** All PIT Committee Members added their name to the CHAT Box to identify and introduce themselves.
- 3. APPROVAL OF MINUTES from September 1, 2020:** A motion to approve the minutes as is made by Marie Demers and seconded by Dawn Blackhorse. Motion was approved.
- 4. ANNOUNCEMENTS:** Briana Harvey-Butterfield shared that Marie Demers contacted Verizon and they agreed to allow us to utilize their devices for our Point in Time Count. Marie Demers stated once

we get closer we will have an idea of the number of tablets we will need and other accessories like cell phones that can be used in the HUB along with hotspots. Briana Harvey-Butterfield shared that Laura Cootsona and Amber from the Jesus created outreach flyers for the Point in Time Count. Briana Harvey-Butterfield pointed out that we do not know what the Unsheltered PIT Count will look like or even if it will happen as we are waiting for an announcement on COVID-19 protocols from HUD. She continues that we may have to incorporate some HUD required COVID-19 questions into our survey, but we haven't heard officially. She states that we are looking at using DESS employees to make cold calls to homeless program participants to make our unsheltered count more successful. Marie Demers suggested to translate the outreach flyers. Briana Harvey-Butterfield responded that they will be translated into Spanish and Hmong. Emily Bateman states for the youth count they will engage school targeted case managers to administer the PIT survey. Briana Harvey-Butterfield stated 211 will be a partner we will look into contacting for helping with the PIT Survey. Sherisse Allen shared that 211 allows the survey to be given multilingual. Staci Parisi shared that Catalyst will be doing a Domestic Violence training.

5. **Finalize Survey Questions:** Briana Harvey-Butterfield asked if there were any suggestions to the PIT Survey Questions that Housing Tools created. Minor adjustments were made, such as the suggestion from Shelly Watson to expand the question regarding natural disasters to specify which natural disasters had displaced them. Briana Harvey-Butterfield asked if there were any questions to be added and Emily Bateman responded she might want to add a youth question. Marie Demers stated that she would like to keep the questions as similar to past questions as possible as longitudinal data is important.

6. **INCENTIVES FOR HOMELESS PARTICIPANTS:** LuAnn Peitz share that we would purchase gift cards from these locations McDonalds, Burger King and Taco Bell. LuAnn Peitz continued Housing Authority informed us that we have 422 cards in our possession. She continues that in the 2019 PIT Count there were over 2000 people surveyed including those in FEMA trailers and only 1245 cards purchased but with the recent fire we are anticipating a higher homeless population or count. She continued that we propose to purchase 1578 cards to have a total of 2000 cards. The committee looked at the PIT card locations and quantities purchased for the last few PIT Counts. Briana Harvey-Butterfield shared that we plan to purchase and distribute the cards similarly to how the 2017 and 2015 PIT Counts distributed them. Suzi Kochems asked if we would distribute a card to each person or just to the head of the household. Sherisse Allen responded that we would distribute a card per survey per person. Sherisse Allen shared a challenge was volunteers take a certain number of cards for who they believe they will survey but the actual number they survey could be a lot less than anticipated. She continues with the result is they have extra cards in hand and by the end of the day there may be no cards left because people have extras in their possession; this is what happened in the 2017 PIT Count. Sherrisse Allen suggests that we buy 30% more cards than we anticipate using. Briana Harvey-Butterfield recommended that we buy 30% more cards than we anticipate needing for a total of 2600 cards. Sherisse Allen asked if the restaurant cards expire because we want to know if we can roll them

over to next year. Dawn Blackhorse stated that there is a service fee that happens annual if the card isn't used within a year. Briana Harvey-Butterfield stated she would follow up with this question.

- 7. IDENTIFY GEOGRAPHIC LEADERS:** Briana Harvey-Butterfield asked if there was anyone who would like to volunteer for a Hub leader for Chico, Oroville, Gridley/Biggs, and Paradis/Magalia. She continues that we are reaching out to Oroville, Gridley/Biggs, and Paradis/Magalia partners who are interested in being the Hub leader for their respective area. She then asked if anyone would be interested in volunteering for the Chico Hub leader position? Suzi Kochems asked for clarification on what it would entail. Briana Harvey-Butterfield responded with listing some of the duties like providing trainings, finding volunteers, identifying unsheltered areas, and helping to organizing volunteers. Marie Demers suggested contacting Scott Walker from Caminar. Suzi Kochems volunteered to help and be a Co-leader. Sherisse Allen suggested that we reach out to Safe Space for a Co-Chico Hub Leader. Marie Demers asked if the Oroville Rescue Mission will participate this year. Briana Harvey-Butterfield responded yes they will be participating with Haven of Hope and the Hope Center, but we are looking for a lead agency. Briana asked for feedback regarding methodology in a survey question her concern was related to people refusing to answer questions. She explained there is two ways that we can try to obtain information we can use the extrapolation method where people can refuse to answer or surveyors make educated guesses. Marie Demers stated that visual assessment is acceptable although it can be totally wrong but she states you have to put something down. Sherisse Allen stated she believes we need to do our best educated guess. She continues with explaining how extrapolation works and how flawed it is.
- 8. NEXT MEETING:** Thursday, November 5, 2020; 3:00 – 4:00 p.m.
Butte County Department of Employment and Social Services, Virtual Meeting via Zoom
- 9. ADJOURNMENT:** The meeting was adjourned at 3:59 P.M.