



Butte Countywide Homeless Continuum of Care

BUTTE COUNTYWIDE HOMELESS CONTINUUM OF CARE VETERANS

MEETING MINUTES Wednesday March 30, 2022 2:00 P.M. to 3:00 P.M. Virtual Meeting

COUNCIL MEMBERS PRESENT:

John Zepeda, Butte County Veterans Service Officer
Elisa Rawlinson, DESS Housing & Homeless
Dan Torres, Butte College
Nikki Balboa - VA
Javi Pinedo - Housing Authority
Lisa Hedemark - True North
Brittany - True North
Deborah L. Taylor - VA
Michael Wright, DESS Housing & Homeless
Isabel Alvarado-Alaniz, DESS Housing & Homeless
Pahua Thao - DESS Housing & Homeless

Lori LaRiviere, MD
Larry Longwell, CSU Chico

RECORDING:

Kayla Davis, DESS Housing & Homeless

ORDER OF BUSINESS:

- 1. CALL TO ORDER:** The meeting was called to order at 2:05pm by Chair John Zepeda.
- 2. INTRODUCTIONS:** Lisa Hedemark and Brittany (case manager) introduced themselves from True North Housing Alliance. John asked for anyone that didn't receive agenda to email him to update our VA Sub-Committee distribution list.
- 3. APPROVAL OF MINUTES:** Minutes from last meeting were approved with Dr. Lori LaRiviere abstaining.
- 4. VFW CAR SHOW:** Car show scheduled for this coming Saturday April 2, 2022 from 9am-3pm at Chico Elks Lodge, all proceeds go to the VFW Relief Fund. This relief fund has helped veterans in dire need maintain food, shelter and things like that (example: this fund helped a veteran get a new transmission for his vehicle to be able to return to work). There will be a tri-tip BBQ and car show.
- 5. AGENCY UPDATES:** Dr. Lori La Riviere provided an update on Intentional Sustainable Wellness (ISW); we should be focusing on "homing" and getting people into an adequate place they can feel at home. Feeling at home includes privacy, dignity, and safety.

Dr La Riviere has been working with an urban design planner in the community who has developed a single room occupancy and she believes that with modifications of current structures that are available, we can create places for an efficiency type of apartment that would be a reasonable cost and would provide individual space and a space for community healing. The idea is to reach out through an Assertive Community Treatment Model and Assisted Outpatient Treatment used for people that are part of vulnerable populations. This would be valuable for veterans and reduce barriers to adequate shelter. Will hopefully be able to start providing street outreach and psychiatric services through ISW in the next few months to our entire community. The hope is that within the next 12 weeks she can go out on the street and provide psychiatric care including assessment, diagnosis, treatment, identify if someone has a true disability, fill out necessary Social Security documentation and necessary referrals to agencies from the Continuum of Care. Best contact - drlorila@gmail.com - include "Want to know more about ISW" in the subject line. Information also available on website IntentionalSustainableWellness.com.

Dr. LaRiviere also provided an update on the Butte County Stand Down; there is a website, buttecountystanddown.org for more information including save the dates. Volunteers needed - some organizations will pay employees to volunteer for the Stand Down. Need volunteers for set up Monday September 26th through Wednesday September 28th, the actual Stand Down event Thursday September 29th through Saturday October 1st, and help with site breakdown from Sunday October 2nd to Tuesday October 4th. This year's Stand Down will not be under the Vietnam Veteran's of America any longer; working with North Valley Community Foundation in hopes of having a fund to help support the Stand Down this year. info@buttecountystanddown.org to volunteer, and will eventually have forms to sign up for specific days/times. Meetings are the third Friday of every month at 1:00pm; if you have any interest in participating and potentially becoming a committee member, they are requiring written submission about why you want to be on the committee and what you can bring to the committee.

Lisa Hedemark provided a presentation from True North Housing Alliance (Torres Shelter) - True North is a provider of the CoC, provide emergency shelter, transitional housing, permanent supportive housing, bridge housing and rapid rehousing. Located at 101 Silver Dollar Way, Chico, CA - they serve adult women and men at the Torres Shelter location, women and families at the Aurora North Bridge Housing location and operate a transitional housing for men along with several permanent supportive housing options for men and women. Torres Shelter has 140 bed capacity, current census around 90 individuals. Hoping to increase census as COVID policies relax. Aurora North Bridge Housing can house around 32 individuals, and transitional/supportive houses have capacity of 4-7 beds. Torres Shelter guests that have not previously stayed more than two times can check in between hours of 2pm and 6pm by coming to the intake door that faces Silver Dollar Way; if an individual has more than two stays and/or left due to negative circumstances, they will need to call to schedule a reconsideration appointment. Guests on suspension need to call for a return date. If a guest tests positive for any substances they can still enter but will be separated from general population until testing clean. Torres Shelter is currently undergoing remodel to add additional beds, storage, gender neutral dorm and lounge area for clients - currently wrapping up Phase 1. When courtyard is completed in parking lot area they will become low barrier. Phase 2 will include expanding the building out to the sidewalk to be used as massive intake area and service navigation hub. Clients assigned a case manager at check-in and will meet with clients within 7 days; will complete assessment to determine barriers and needs, can assist client in contacting services to move client forward. CM goals are to move client forward by working on stability, income, and then housing. Currently serving 4-6 veterans and working on getting them connected to services; barriers include income limits, willingness to connect and knowledge of resources. In collaboration with other agencies, they have had success with getting vets connected to services and ultimately housed. Goal is to place vets in a home where they can live a life they deserve. Info at truenorthbutte.org.

AM VETS does Bingo at the Memorial Hall the first Saturday of every month 4:30pm-9pm. Age 18+

VFW does Bingo the 2nd and 4th weekends at the VFW Hall, opens at 4:30pm, tickets start being sold at 5pm. 18+

ADJOURNMENT / NEXT MEETING: Meeting was adjourned at 2:57pm. Next meeting scheduled for Wednesday May 11, 2022 at 2:00pm via Zoom. If there is an agency that would like to present, let John Zepeda know.