



Butte Countywide Homeless Continuum of Care

Homeless Veterans Subcommittee

May 11, 2022

2:00 PM to 3:00 PM

Butte County Employment and Social Services – Virtual Meeting

COMMITTEE MEMBERS PRESENT:

John Zepeda, Butte Co VSO
Elisa Rawlinson, DESS HH
Deborah Taylor, LCSW VA
Aimee Decker, Nation's Finest
Javi Pinedo, HACB
Larry Langwell, CSU – Chico

OTHER ATTENDEES:

Jay Coughlin, DESS H&H
Michael Wright, DESS H&H
Kaitlyn-Storm Sherrill, DESS H&H
Kayla Davis, DESS H&H
Isabel Alaniz-Alvarado, DESS H&H
Lisa Hedemark, DESS H&H
Cecily Kishbaugh, VECTORS

COMMITTEE MEMBERS ABSENT:

Shelly Storken, Behavioral Health
Michael Smalls, EDD
Dan Torres, Butte College
Nikki Balboa, LCSW VA
Deborah Taylor, LCSW VA
Pahua Thao, DESS HH
Elisa Rawlinson, DESS HH
Ron Matheson, VVA
Sarah Frohock, Behavioral Health
Dr. Lori LaRiviere, MD
Roger Lewis, Veterans Administration

RECORDING:

Erin Spasbo, DESS H&H

ORDER OF BUSINESS:

- 1. CALL TO ORDER:** The meeting was called to order by Committee Member John Zepeda, Butte County VSO at 2:03 P.M.
- 2. INTRODUCTIONS:** All – John Zepeda stated the Stand Down is happening so if you would like to volunteer for that, let him know. It is an ongoing thing until September and they're consistently looking for people to help. Cecily Kishbaugh, is the new Executive Director of VECTORS and the new Stand

Down Service Provider. Erin Spasbo, is the new Administrative Assistant for DESS HH, she will be doing the CoC committee minutes moving forward.

3. **APPROVAL OF MINUTES – ACTION:** The minutes for March 30, 2022 were approved by all attending. E. Rawlinson is abstaining from the vote, as she was not there.
4. **AGENCY INTRODUCTION – NATION’S FINEST:** Aimee Decker is the Director at Nations Finest. They have 3 Case Managers and 1 Program Manager. They work with homeless Veterans, or any Veteran at risk of becoming homeless. If they are at risk of becoming homeless, they are required to provide a pay or quit notice so that they can help house them and get them situated with case management. They have a variety of programs and services that they provide for Veterans. They have a program called Shallow Subsidy, if a Veteran doesn’t qualify for a HUD voucher, this program provides low-income Veterans a fixed rental subsidy of 50% of their shelter cost for up to 2 years. Requirements for the program are: need a DD-214 to be eligible to work with them as well as meet the HUD AMI requirements for income. J. Zepeda stated that they have a lot of Veterans who come into the VSO, who seem to need emergency help. His advice is to send them to Nations Finest, for the case management, etc A. Decker added that Nation’s Finest is open M-F 8-5PM, there is always somebody available for help or they can call and make an appointment. Lastly she stated that they work off of a lot of referrals, so send Veterans their way. Nations Finest is located at 110 Amber Grove in Chico, Ca (530) 809-2831.
5. **AGENCY INTRODUCTION – NORCAL VA FOSTER HOME PROGRAM COORDINATER – DENNEZE NELSON, LCSW:** this presenter was not at the meeting, they are going to save for next time.
6. **“SECRET” PRESENTOR – DEBORAH TAYLOR, VA:** E. Rawlinson was presented an award from the VA, a “Certificate of Advocacy” for her hard work as their HMIS Representative. The award is “In recognition of your exhibition of the Core Value of Advocacy being truly Veteran-centric by identifying, fully considering, and appropriately advancing the interests of Veterans and other beneficiaries.” Signed by the Assistant chief of Social Work Services for our VA area, Masaki Hirayama. They acknowledged the inclusivity of her adjusting questions in HMIS to capture Veterans that are in the family, outside of the Head of Household.
7. **TRAVIS AFB AIR SHOW:** The Travis AFB air show will be May 14th – 15th, 2022 open to the public and free, put on by Wings Over Solano in celebration of the Air Force Bases’ 75th Birthday. There is also a fundraiser on May 12th, 2022 at Parkside Pubhouse, where the proceeds will go to VECTORS food pantry. The food pantry is a great resource for Veterans who are low income, it is open once a week. She also stated that the pantry feeds 40 – 50 Veterans a week.
8. **ANNOUNCEMENTS/NEXT MEETING:** Cecily Kishbaugh noted that there are a few rooms opening up at VECTORS, which is transitional housing for Veterans. L. Langwell from CSU, Chico wanted to

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know if there was a HUD/VASH representative anymore and D. Taylor stated that the past representative went out on maternity leave, although there are 4 case managers. HUD/VASH has just hired a new Supervisor, Lisa Machesney, who started in April of last month, she has been informed about the lack of previous representation and should be attending these meetings in the future. J. Pinedo added that the VA is providing a landlord incentive to all HUD/VASH participants of \$4000 to landlords, per Veteran and is going until June 30th, 2022. Larry added that the Chico Cemetery is holding an event on Memorial Day, starting at 10AM.

The next CoC Council Meeting will be on Wednesday June 22nd, 2022. Meet Virtually.

9. ADJOURNMENT: The meeting was adjourned at 2:41 P.M.