

**HOPE Interagency Council (IAC) Meeting Minutes
February 7, 2024**

Present: Supervisor Slocum, Teri Chin, Adam Loraine, Melissa Platte, Sue Vaterlaus, Kelsey Dattilo, Iliana Rodriguez, Alec Raffin, Claire Cunningham, Kate Comfort Harr, Judith Guerrero, Raymond Hodges, Flor Nicolas

Guests: Tammie Sweetser, Marianne Tessier, Chloe Richter, Selina Toy Lee, Khalia Parish, Matthew Hayes, Lody Burdick, Anne Okada, Wendell Kirkman, Marci Dragun, Ramaah Sadasivam, La Trice Taylor, Lee Harrison, Nicky Vu, Jerome Olimpiada, Lynette Reynoso, Diana Reddy

Topic	Discussion
Welcome	Supervisor Slocum called the meeting to order at 10:04 a.m.
Public Comment	No public comments.
Action to Set Agenda and Approve Minutes	<p>Motion made by Iliana Rodriguez to set the agenda and to approve November 8, 2023, minutes; motion seconded by Adam Loraine.</p> <p>Vote: Alec Raffin for Laura Bent – yes Sue Vaterlaus for Mary Bier – yes Teri Chin – yes Claire Cunningham – yes Kate Comfort Harr – yes Judith Guerrero – yes Raymond Hodges – yes Adam Loraine – yes Flor Nicolas for James Coleman – yes Melissa Platte – yes Kelsey Dattilo for Mariana Rocha – yes Iliana Rodriguez – yes Warren Slocum – yes</p> <p>Motion passed.</p>

**Homeless Housing,
Assistance and
Prevention Program
Round 5 (HHAP-5)
Regionally Coordinated
Homelessness Action
Plan Discussion**
Khalia Parish (HSA)

- HSA has received 4 rounds of HHAP funding.
 - Each round has been one-time funding for a period of 4-5 years each.
 - Eligible to apply for another round this year, for the next 4 years.
 - Non-competitive funding.
 - A way for the state to learn what we're doing locally and strategically plan.
 - Used to support various homeless services:
 - Congregate and non-congregate shelters
 - Homeless outreach
 - Coordinated entry and diversion
 - Housing location services
 - Youth rapid rehousing
- Goals and purpose
 - Strategic use of HHAP and other funding to sustain existing housing and supportive services.
 - Prioritize permanent housing solutions.
 - Achieve equitable provision of services and outcomes for underserved homeless populations, especially in terms of racial/ethnic disparities.
- Components of the Action Plan
 - County and CoC's Roles and Responsibilities
 - Performance Measures and Improvement Plan
 - Equity Improvement Plan
 - Plan to Reduce # of People Exiting an Institutional Setting to Homelessness
 - Plan for Use of Local, State, and Federal Funds to End Homelessness
 - Plan to Connect People Experiencing Homelessness to All Eligible Benefit Programs
- System Performance Measures (SPM) and Improvement Plan
 - SPM 1a: % of people experiencing homelessness who access services
 - Increase investment in Street Outreach efforts to increase the number of people engaged in services
 - Expand transportation services to aid people with accessing supportive services (e.g., car repair)
 - SPM 1b: # of people experiencing unsheltered homelessness on a single night
 - Increase shelter capacity through additional adult shelter beds
 - Expand or enhance housing-focused case management and housing location for participants in shelter programs to increase exits from shelters to PH
 - Expand available permanent housing options to house unsheltered and sheltered households (also for SPM 4)
 - Resume Housing Voucher Navigation to enable more unsheltered households to connect directly to PH programs and provide support through lease-up (also for SPM 3)
 - SPM 2: # of people accessing services who are experiencing homelessness for the first time
 - Expand prevention strategies for people at risk of homelessness
 - Develop and implement a prioritization tool for homelessness prevention

- Align funding priorities of Home Safe and CES
 - SPM 3: # of people exiting homelessness into permanent housing
 - San Mateo County Department of Housing will continue efforts to expand affordable housing opportunities
 - Expand supportive services to include targeted support with transitioning from experiencing homelessness to being housed
 - Improve CES prioritization for permanent housing programs (based on CES and RRH evaluations)
 - SPM 4: Average length of time that people experienced homelessness while accessing services
 - Expand housing-oriented outreach and shelter case management and housing location services
 - Enable RRH clients to bridge to longer-term subsidy via CES (also for SPM 5)
 - Offer flexible funding to support clients in addressing barriers towards securing permanent housing
 - SPM 5: % of people who return to homelessness within 6 months of exiting the homelessness response system to PH
 - Expand life-skills training opportunities specifically to include social and housing maintenance skills needed to retain housing, i.e., relationship with landlord/property manager, paying bills, unit upkeep, etc.
 - SPM 6: # of people with successful placements from street outreach projects
 - Enhance training available to outreach staff, including training on connecting to coordinated entry, to ensure new outreach staff are trained and seasoned staff have the opportunity to refresh skills
- Feedback on the SPMs
 - Supervisor Slocum: Important to measure outcomes, including numbers and not only percentages.
 - Khalia: We measure homeless system data locally. Using percentages is more flexible, less risk of losing funding.
 - Claire: Interesting prioritizing and shifting of funding sources. Performance measures will be developed in relation to the budget.
 - Kate: Focus on getting people from shelter to housing. In the future, is there more capacity in prevention?
 - Khalia: Yes. Our Board of Supervisors have added additional funds toward prevention. We recognize the need in prevention funds during and post COVID; we're seeing an ongoing level of need, but not an ongoing level of federal and state funds. There's an additional \$ 1million in Measure K for prevention, but ultimately we're still limited in the funding.

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Partner with local landlords and connect clients with affordable housing options. ○ Equitable access <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Ongoing CoC Racial Equity Committee meetings to review data to maintain an up-to-date and accurate picture of inequalities and identify strategies to reduce the disparities, support for training, and other topics. ▪ Investigate opportunities to increase the funding available to providers for staff pay. ▪ Review CoC competition policy to ensure equitable access for local organizations, including those serving BIPOC households. ● Feedback on EIP <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Teri: When you talk about other housing placements, does this include case management for people who have been placed in housing? <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Khalia: Yes, it does. ▪ Kate: Teri brings up a good point. Placement is half the battle. Seniors need ongoing case management. ● Plan to Reduce the Number of People Experiencing Homelessness Upon Exiting an Institutional Setting <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Leverage the use of Coordinated Entry System (CES) by: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Continue to partner with the County Jail and San Mateo Medical Center to refer clients to the Coordinated Entry/Diversion program. ▪ Hospital discharge planners will continue to identify alternate placement options when appropriate. ▪ HSA's Service Connect Program provides supportive services for people who have been paroled under AB 109. ○ San Mateo County Behavioral Health and Recovery Services (BHRS) caseworkers will continue to ensure that no clients are discharged to the streets. ○ HSA's Children and Families Services branch will continue to provide intensive services to youth in Foster Care to support their needs. ○ Maintain a partnership with the Housing Authority supporting use of vouchers for youth leaving the foster care system. ● Feedback on plan to reduce Institutional Exits to Homelessness <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Adam: highlight last year's decision to highlight guaranteed income for those who leave foster care.
<p>Coordinated Entry System (CES) Residency Policy Update Jerome Olimpiada (Samaritan House), Lody Burdick (HSA)</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Overview <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Coordinated Entry System ○ Serves as entry point to homeless system services <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Diversion, shelter referrals & select housing interventions ○ Eligibility Criteria

- Clients must be currently homeless or imminently “at risk” of becoming homeless (eviction from residence, being kicked out of family home, losing lease or rental agreement, etc.)
 - Must fill out a residency affidavit with Case Manager documenting the last 12 months of their residency history
 - Must meet the County Residency Policy criteria
 - Core Service Agencies & Homeless Outreach Teams serve as referring entities to CES
- How to access CES
 - Core Agencies located throughout San Mateo County
 - Daly City Community Services Center
 - Samaritan House South
 - Coastside Hope
 - Pacifica Resource Center
 - Samaritan House
 - Puente de la Costa Sur
 - Fair Oaks Community Center
 - YMCA Community Resource Center
 - Homeless Outreach Teams
 - LifeMoves
 - WeHOPE
 - Pacifica Resource Center
 - Redwood City Homeless Outreach Strategy
- CES Services
 - Team of CES Diversion Specialists
 - Client will have a 25–45-minute conversation with a CES Diversion Specialist
 - Attempt to identify a diversion option, if feasible
 - i.e. Remaining in current or former housed situation, reuniting with family/friends, identifying alternate housing option, etc.
 - CES has flexible funding resources that can support rental assistance payments or other funding needs to support diversion to housing
 - CES assessment – standardized method to prioritize households for shelter and housing openings
 - If diversion is not possible, CES can refer to shelters
- Referral process
 - Core Agency or Outreach Team refers client to CES after initial intake process.
 - Assessment & Diversion (25–45-minute conversation with CES Diversion Specialist to develop a plan of action)
 - Outcome: Diverted from homelessness into housing or referred to shelter.
- CES Residency Policy Update
 - New CES Residency Policy effective 1/2/24

- Current San Mateo County residency.
 - Methods to provide proof of residency remain the same.
 - i.e., Lease agreement, utility bill, bank statement, school enrollment, verification of public assistance with SMC address, etc.
 - CES services remain the same.
 - Diversion, shelter referrals, access to select housing interventions matched through CES.
 - Referral sources remain the same.
 - Core Service Agencies & Homeless Outreach Teams
- In terms of public messaging, we want to keep it high level: Go to a Core.
- Questions?
 - Iliana: Since the residency policy change, we've seen the wait list quadruple. Have they talked to a diversion specialist?
 - Jerome: Yes, in order to get on the waitlist, they would have had an assessment and talked to a Diversion Specialist.
 - Adam: Going back to the housing pool as third option in CES, could you expand more on the difference between that and the other options for folks?
 - Jerome: In the outcomes list, shelter is most requested, followed by diversion flex funds. Housing pool has always been an option, but it is not utilized as much.
 - Lody: Everyone who completes assessment is in the pool, even if they go to shelter. For specific programs, not all vouchers or housing programs are through CES, just a few that are set aside for people experiencing homelessness. Different options through Housing Authority, etc.
 - Teri: Housing only option is an important tool for outreach. That's the way for a lot of people who are street homelessness, especially those not interested in shelter.
 - Jerome: Housing pool is a selling point to get people interested. We're honest about the shelter wait list, which can be discouraging, and the housing pool can interest people to complete the assessment.
 - Adam: Is the shift in the policy from being restrictive and stemming the tide of folks who need shelter but are coming from other counties?
 - Lody: The goal is to keep County services for County residents, so we need verification that the client is a member of the community.
 - Jerome: We want to have some accountability. Although it seems more inviting to people from other counties, we still want to hold them accountable.
 - Adam: AND also hold other counties accountable to their own residents.
 - Kate: I hear a lot of time that people would rather say on the street rather than go into shelter.
 - Jerome: We hear it quite often. Some folks are happy where they are. A lot of it is tied to mental health. It's especially hard when we do not have a shelter placement available for them right away.
 - Diana: I've heard stories of people not wanting to go into shelter due to lack of safety.

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Jerome: Yes, we hear that too from some individuals, especially regarding congregate setting. There can be disputes about territory, disagreements. Staff do the best they can to ensure safety.
<p>Hopeful Horizons: Empowering Lives Initiative Iliana Rodriguez (County Executive's Office); Ramaah Sadasivam (County Attorney's Office)</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • See flow chart at the end of the minutes. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Shelter ordinance passed by our Board. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ County Executive Office (CEO)'s decision to clear encampments in unincorporated areas of the County. ○ Outreach is engaging with individuals for weeks and sometimes even years. We don't want to leave people on the street. It is not healthy or safe for them. ○ After attempts to engage and bring people into shelter, there will be a screening for other types of shelter or housing based on the person's mental and physical condition. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Exigent circumstances to clear in a 24-hour period rather than 72 hours (safety hazard near freeway, fires, etc.) ○ Outreach would inform encampment. Shelter will be offered again before encampment is cleared. If shelter offer is denied twice, person will be given a citation. • Legal landscape for the ordinance <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Similar ordinances in other jurisdictions have raised constitutional questions under: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Eighth Amendment of the U.S. Constitution <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • "Excessive bail shall not be required, nor excessive fines imposed, nor cruel and unusual punishments inflicted." • <i>Martin v. City of Boise</i>, 920 F.3d 584 (2019) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ The Ninth Circuit held that the Eighth Amendment's prohibition on cruel and unusual punishment prevented the enforcement of criminal restrictions on lying, sleeping, or sitting on public property unless an offer of available shelter has been made. • Whether an offer of available shelter can be made: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Refusing the offer of shelter means the individual is voluntarily homeless, which means the ordinance can be enforced. ○ If there is no available shelter, that means the individual is involuntarily homeless, which means the ordinance cannot be enforced. ▪ Fourth Amendment of the U.S. Constitution <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • "The right of the people to be secure in their persons, houses, papers, and effects, against unreasonable searches and seizures, shall not be violated, and no Warrants shall issue, but upon probable cause, supported by Oath or affirmation, and particularly describing the place to be searched, and the persons or things to be seized." • Ninth Circle case law <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Absent limited exceptions, homeless individuals' personal items cannot be seized without notice (best practice 72 hours' notice).

- Once their items are seized, they cannot be immediately destroyed.
- Individuals will be given a written notice of 72 hours before personal items are seized. Items will be itemized and stored at no cost to the individual.

- Questions:

- Kate: With the waitlist of beds, can we offer beds to people?
 - Ramaah: No. There needs to be a bed available before we can clear.
- Kate: How do you determine which encampment is targeted? And offer of available shelter, shelter does not mean permanently housed. It's possible they exit shelter with nowhere else to go, and now they've also lost that spot at the encampment.
 - Iliana: If residents of shelters continue to show progress on their housing plan, we extend their stay. We've had people stay in shelter for over a year. Generally, the main reasons a client is exited is if they are a threat to staff or other clients, or they self-exit.
 - Iliana: As for determining which encampments are targeted, we'll develop a prioritization system, such as sites with safety threats (such as fires) and vulnerability.
 - Ramah: As a reminder, this ordinance only applies to unincorporated areas.
- Teri: What is the estimate number of encampments in unincorporated?
 - Iliana: 8.
- Teri: When people receive a citation, you said they are directed to diversion court instead of jail. Could you expand on that? Is that already set up?
 - Iliana: There are already specialty courts like for veterans and mental health, but there is not one for homelessness.
 - Ramaah: When drafting this ordinance, we had discussions with the courts. The courts are willing and interested in investing in diversion. Folks cited or arrested shall be entitled to diversion, such as to shelter rather than jail. We are developing a care court system, to implement later this year.
- Guest: Notices include reference to a shelter bed?
 - Iliana: Yes, the notice indicates that you have a place at a specific shelter location, if you choose to accept it.
- Adam: How do we feel this ordinance changes how the county approaches these shelters? Especially with the wait list.
 - Iliana: This ordinance is another tool to clear encampments in unincorporated areas and bring them into shelter.
 - Adam: We need to increase our capacity for shelter for this.
 - Iliana: We would reserve the shelter space before clearing.
- Kate: Since adoption, what has been the response from local cities?
 - Iliana: Cities outside our county have reached out to us (San Jose, LA). Other counties have a decentralized structure, meaning cities provide their own shelter and services.
- Slocum: How many residents are there?
 - Iliana: 68.

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Judith: If you arrest someone, will they stay in the institution or be released within a day? When a client has mental health issues, they may follow through with court or they may disappear with a warrant. If they come back and accept help, would their options for help be impacted? <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Iliana: We have not arrested people for past clearances on trespassing laws. ▪ Ramaah: Priority is to provide shelter, not arrest people.
<p>COH Updates Lody Burdick and Matthew Hayes (HSA)</p>	<p>One Day Count</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Had a successful One Day Count on January 25. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ With 330 community volunteers, we covered every census tract. • Over the week following January 25, we completed the survey portion. 200 surveys were collected. • We are currently in data collection and analysis mode. • We will provide regular updates. • Like in previous years, expect an executive summary in the summer, with a full report to follow. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ The report for the previous One Day Count (2022) is available on the County website. <p>Inclement Weather Program (IWP)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • November 15 to April 15 • Activates during cold weather or cold weather and rain or severe weather event • Open shelter capacity during activation period (on a night by night basis). <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Daily notification to our partners whether IWP will be activated. • So far this season, we have activated for 26 nights. • We have not maxed out program capacity yet. • Expect in the near future, we will operate IWP out of the Event Center rather than open cot space at various shelters. This location would serve both adults and families. • Announcement will go out in the next few weeks. • Judith: “Near future” meaning this year or next year? <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Likely this season. <p>Questions?</p>

<p>Roundtable Announcements</p>	<p>Kate: We've soft launched Housing Readiness for HIP Housing. Folks come to us who have never been homeless, have no idea how to navigate the system. This program is long-term case management with a focus on placement.</p> <p>Adam: It was a pleasure and privilege to participate in the 2024 One Day Count.</p> <p>Claire: Thanks to everyone for supporting the 2024 One Day Count. It requires a lot of volunteer work.</p> <p>Melissa: Our volunteers are very interested in the 2024 One Day Count data. You have their emails, maybe message them when the data starts to come out. I thought the One Day Count was very well organized.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Also, MHA was awarded a contract with Housing Authority. <p>Alec: Samaritan House is turning 50 years old! Will have a gala to celebrate.</p> <p>Claire: County applied for Encampment Resolution Fund (ERF) round 3.</p> <p>Teri: Fair Oaks Community Center is turning 50 years old as well. City of Redwood City is also applying to ERF round 3.</p> <p>Ray: The Housing Authority teams are reviewing the responses to last year's NOFO. The awards will be finalized by the Board in April. We'll launch the next round of affordable housing fund in late March.</p>
<p>Closure</p>	<p>Meeting Adjourned at 11:42 a.m.</p>
<p>Next Meeting</p>	<p>May 1, 2024</p>