



California Interagency Council on Homelessness

Gavin Newsom, Governor

Lourdes M. Castro Ramírez, MA, Co-Chair | Dr. Mark Ghaly, MD, MPH, Co-Chair

SUMMARY FOR THE CALIFORNIA INTERAGENCY COUNCIL ON HOMELESSNESS QUARTERLY COUNCIL MEETING

May 31, 2023

1:00pm – 4:00pm

Teleconference

I. Call to Order and Roll Call

The meeting was called to order on May 31, 2023, at 1:00 PM

Council Members Present:

- **Lourdes M. Castro Ramírez**, Council Co-Chair and Secretary of the California Business, Consumer Services and Housing Agency (BCSH)
- **Dr. Mark Ghaly**, Council Co-Chair and Secretary of the California Health and Human Services Agency (CalHHS)
- **Dr. Rohan Radhakrishna**, Office of Health Equity Deputy Director, as designee for Dr. Tomás J. Aragón, State Public Health Officer and Director of the California Department of Public Health (CDPH)
- **Stephanie Clendenin**, Director of the California Department of State Hospitals (DSH)
- **Susan DeMarois**, Director of the California Department of Aging (CDA)
- **Kim Johnson**, Director of the California Department of Social Services (DSS)
- **Tiena Johnson Hall**, Executive Director of the California Housing Finance Agency (CalHFA)
- **Veronica Lewis**, Director of Homeless Outreach Program Integrated Care System (HOPICS)
- **Jeff Macomber**, Secretary of the California Department of Corrections and Rehabilitation (CDCR)
- **William McGee**, Director of the Student Achievement Support Division, California Department of Education (CDE)
- **Tomiquia Moss**, Founder and Chief Executive of All Home
- **Tim Rainey**, Executive Director of the California Workforce Development Board (CWDB)
- **Nancee Robles**, Executive Director of the California Tax Credit Allocation Committee (CTCAC)
- **Rebecca Ruan-O'Shaughnessy**, Vice Chancellor for Educational Services, California Community Colleges Chancellor's Office (CCCCO)
- **Lindsey Sin**, Secretary of the California Department of Veterans Affairs (CalVet)
- **Tony Tavares**, Director of the California Department of Transportation (Caltrans)
- **Gustavo Velasquez**, Director of the California Department of Housing and Community Development (HCD)
- **Nancy Ward**, Director of the California Governor's Office of Emergency Services (Cal OES)
- **Joe Xavier**, Director of the California Department of Rehabilitation (DOR)

Council Member **Jacey Cooper**, State Medicaid Director and Chief Deputy Director of Health Care Programs, California Department of Health Care Services (DHCS), was absent and did not have a delegate.

II. Council Co-Chair Opening Remarks

Co-Chair Secretary Mark Ghaly focused on the importance of modernizing our approach to ending homelessness by focusing on the link between behavioral health and homelessness in addition to housing and affordability. Housing instability and insecurity occurs for many reasons, and we must address each through policies, programs, and funding. The Governor spoke of dedicating a percent of local MHSA dollars to housing solutions for those with severe behavioral health conditions. This should be ongoing funding that we hope and expect will scale up the housing solutions that are needed to help individuals with severe behavioral health conditions who are experiencing homelessness. There needs to be a focus on evidence-based programming and solutions. As we review the Point-in-Time count numbers on an annual basis, we look at those who are experiencing and designated as chronically homeless. Many of those individuals have deep needs in the behavioral health space and those with the most severe behavioral health conditions are also experiencing unsheltered homelessness in large numbers. Furthermore, the Care Act is now just months away from cohort one counties that represent about 25 percent of the state's population from going live and by the end of the year roughly 50 percent of California's population in eight counties will be implementing the Care Act.

Co-Chair Secretary Castro Ramirez thanked the Council Departments and Council Members Moss and Lewis for their ongoing leadership and service on this Council. The Secretary had an opportunity to visit with Council Member Lewis' Homeless Outreach Program Integrated Care System (HOPICS), the City of LA, the county, and several other providers with whom the state has been piloting the Mobile Homeless Connect program. This is an opportunity for the State to deliver services directly to the people that require them, specifically bringing services to individuals that are experiencing homelessness. One example is speaking with a DMV worker and having their application processed to obtain a California ID in real time. This will enable people to connect to vital benefits and services. Council Member Lewis' entire team have been meeting directly with people, connecting them to housing, services and support. We look forward to circling back with the Council to provide a summary of lessons learned and how we intend to potentially make this resource available to other communities. Finally, the State is committed to participate in the Federal All INside initiative. As part of that initiative, the federal government has made a commitment to partner with state and local jurisdictions. California was asked to be a participant because of our meaningful actions and the scale of programs that we are championing. The Governor has entered a memorandum of understanding (MOU) with the Biden-Harris Administration through the USICH Council and will be participating along with five other cities in this first cohort. We are just beginning and hope to be able to provide more details at the next Council Meeting in terms of the scope of engagement. It is a two-year pilot program, with a focus on three key populations; veterans who are experiencing homelessness, veterans and their families, youth and older adults.

III. Cal ICH Executive Officer Introduction

The new Cal ICH Executive Officer, Megan Marshall, introduced herself and stated she looks forward to developing closer relationships with each one of the Council Member agencies departments and our stakeholders at the local level.

IV. Consent Calendar

There was one item on the Consent Calendar, the adoption of the [February 27th Meeting Summary](#):

- No Council Members made comments on this item.

Public Comment: No comments were made on this item.

The council voted to approve the consent calendar, with 16 members approving, 2 members abstaining, and 2 members absent.

V. May Budget Revision Proposed Homelessness Investments

Deputy Secretary of Homelessness, Dhakshike Wickrema, and Deputy Secretary for Policy and Strategic Planning, Corrin Buchanan, provided a summary of the May revised budget.

Although the Governor's May revised budget contends with a 32-billion-dollar shortfall, it maintained previously committed funds to help our local partners, including one-billion dollars for a fifth round of the Homeless Housing Assistance and Prevention (HHAP) Program. The May budget revision maintained the previously committed 400 million dollars for a third round of competitive four-year Encampment Resolution grants. The May budget revision continued to make affordable housing a priority, maintaining nearly 90 percent of the total funding that was allocated last year. The Governor is looking to work closely with the legislature to expand and build on the existing accountability measures, to continue strengthening regional coordination across sectors and achieve greater collective impact. This includes thinking about how local governments can continue to work together and build on their respective roles and responsibilities and achieve collective outcomes. The goal is the creation of more affordable housing and more solid connections to supportive services, health and behavioral health services to ensure we are supporting local partners to so unhoused Californians can access stable housing and the community-based services they need to lead lives of dignity and well-being.

Though not a homelessness funding stream, the funding for the Care Act implementation creates a new pathway to deliver both mental health and substance use disorder services to the most severely impaired Californians who all too often suffer in homelessness, incarceration, or institutionalization without access to community-based care. The Care Act moves care and support upstream, providing the most vulnerable Californians with access to those services earlier. Many of those individuals we expect to be served by the Care Act may be experiencing homelessness, so housing must be baked into the model. Funding for startup costs and planning was included in the 2020 Budget Act and this year's budget includes funding for county administrative costs, the courts, and legal representation for those individuals who will flow through the Care Act process. The May revision includes just over 1.28 million in general fund in FY 23-24 and then it goes up each year as the program expands to other parts of the state, ultimately providing 290 million in FY 26-27 and thereafter. This will flow through the Department of Health Care Services to counties and through the judicial grants branch to implement the program. Additionally, the Department of Health Care Services launched Behavioral Health Bridge Housing Program which provides 1.5 billion in funding to counties to address the immediate housing needs of people experiencing unsheltered homelessness who have serious behavioral health conditions. This is done by providing housing through interim housing settings, such as rental subsidies or Board and Cares. These funds will prioritize those engaged with the Care Act.

VI. Update to the Action Plan for Preventing and Ending Homelessness

Cal ICH is in the process of updating the Action Plan to add additional or expanded upon activities for the coming fiscal year. Staff have met with each department to discuss activities and have held tribal, lived experience, and public input sessions to get feedback from a variety of groups involved in homelessness policy across the state. Staff have identified areas of the Action Plan that the Council could strengthen based on the feedback received.

Nykole Sakihara reviewed the Action Plan update process for this year. This will be the third iteration of the Action Plan since its initial adoption in 2021. While some activities have changed, the focus remains on the need for increased State leadership through the Council to help providers on the ground do the work to prevent and end homelessness in their communities. It takes coordination and dedication to make the changes needed across all state-funded programs through the partnerships created on the council. The purpose of the Action Plan, including this year's update, is to develop understanding of the various funding and programs that each department administers in order to identify opportunities for collaboration and partnerships. The Plan is not

intended to dictate what should be happening at the local level nor is it intended to replace any strategic plans that have been created by communities. It is to serve as a guide for partnership opportunities that can be replicated within local systems of care.

The policy team has also worked with the Advisory Committee to create guidance on the following questions: 1) how could the state better align funding and or coordinate across programs to improve their collective impacts and 2) how can the state best assess its progress on the commitments made in the Action Plan? The Advisory Committee will be working in smaller groups to refine the guidance and present it formally to the Council at their next meeting.

The feedback Cal ICH received was summarized in [a memo](#) provided to the Council. A few key themes from these sessions will be used to inform discussions within the Council. First is the need for a consistent focus on addressing racial disparities in homelessness within State programs, including the specific needs of tribal communities, and a request for the earnest inclusion of people with lived experience in state level decision-making processes, program design, implementation, and communication strategies. There was also a consistent interest in the state engaging in expanded communications and educational efforts to support effective solutions in local communities. This is linked to the need for guidance and support around aligning housing strategies with health and behavioral health strategies to reach vulnerable populations and increase our impact. Lastly, there were many requests to streamline requirements and processes as much as possible in order to help address administrative challenges communities face. Many departments are actively working to address these varied pieces of feedback including through activities in the Action Plan, but it is important to lift these up as they indicate a continued need to commit the time and resources to this work. Themes from our tribal listening sessions were clear that there are unique needs that must be addressed in order to effectively prevent and end homelessness in tribal communities. Tribal communities expressed facing more barriers and having fewer resources when it comes to addressing homelessness. One important request was for the state to rebuild relationships with tribal communities through respectful, timely, and effective outreach that includes individualized supports.

Based on the feedback, Cal ICH staff identified four areas of the Action Plan that Council Members should focus on for strengthening initiatives. The first is around the interagency coordination and collaboration expressed in the plan. Stakeholders acknowledge that the plan is effective at listing what individual departments agencies are doing, but it is harder to understand what collective work is happening. The second area is around racial equity and tribal engagement with a call to build robust activities and partnerships in these areas. The third area is an inclusion of people with lived expertise in policy making and program design, and the fourth area is around communications and public awareness of the state's work with a focus on communication around what the state is doing to prevent and end homelessness.

Kim Johnson, Director, DSS: Items to uplift: one, to acknowledge and appreciate that the Council is focusing on the integration of health, housing, and social services that are producing positive outcomes. Second, departments are improving disaster responses and recovery and there have been tremendous partnerships with several departments. Agencies on this Council have been intentional about pre and post disaster planning around vulnerable populations.

Joe Xavier, Director, DOR: A couple points to uplift: we are working on integrating systems, such as with our partners in the correctional system and the state hospitals. Going upstream to engage individuals with disabilities who are in those institutions and will be exiting. This will help people become better prepared for employment when they exit as employment can be prevention, intervention, and recovery. Second, we are looking to advance recruiting and screening individuals with lived experience into the boards and committees that we have advising our department.

Tony Tavares, Director, Caltrans: Caltrans works with many of the departments and local and regional partners when it comes to priority populations and people experiencing homelessness. We rely heavily on our city and

Continuum of Care partners to provide outreach, social services and other services to these individuals. With the introduction of the ERF funding grants, it has produced a more robust partnership between the state, county, and city governments. It has allowed the State to prioritize outreach, services and removal of some encampments, which can transition these individuals into safer environments. Caltrans is looking to include points of contact for communities that are willing to collaborate and coordinate outreach and who offer social services and housing options. We would like to explore this opportunity with Cal ICH and perhaps launch a pilot together.

William McGee, Director of the Student Achievement Support Division, CDE: At the California Department of Education our superintendent had the foresight to pull our divisions together to talk about disaster preparedness, so that we are being responsive and proactive. The Department of Education supports local educational agencies (LEAs) that serve children and families. One of our divisions coordinates a newsletter quarterly targeted to pre-kindergarten through third grade families. Our integrated student support offices support our unhoused children, support our foster youth children, as well as our American Indian or Native American children. They coordinated a homeless education conference that was attended by our LEAs throughout the state. Children who were unhoused generally fall under the category of “Title One” and our department will be hosting a Title One conference in March of 2024.

Nancy Ward, Director, Cal OES: We see disasters on the news and hear about the impacts to marginalized communities, but what we don't amplify enough is how much it impacts people who are unhoused.

Gustavo Velasquez, Director, HCD: When the Governor came into office, he issued an executive order to identify excess state land in order to prioritize the creation of affordable housing, in part for the chronically homeless. It has been a great partnership with many state agencies and departments.

Susan DeMarois, Director, CDA: Commended the California Commission on Aging on their recent forum with the California Association of Area Agencies on Aging (C4A). Their seminar focused on affordable housing related to older adults. For older adults experiencing eviction or unable to continue paying rent, the Association of Area Agencies is the first place they turn to because of their lack of experience in housing. CDA is trying to expand their expertise to be a part of the network of first responders at the community level.

Veronica Lewis, Director, HOPICS: Hopes to see a significant increase in economic stability, which may include public benefits or supports to increase income. Economic stability should be uplifted more often because it directly relates to housing stability. Additionally, she is excited about interagency collaboration, however written updates from departments are not enough, there is a need for more structure in how the Council assesses how they move forward on coordination. She states that measures on coordination should be the main task of the Council and volunteers to support this work. There is also a need to structure these conversations or aggregately look at how the Council is doing. Lastly, she mentioned a need to look at the aligned programs that are similar in scope and service, and address contradictory policies across agencies. She hopes that the council can have a conversation on this as well and at some point be added to the Action Plan.

Tomiquia Moss, Founder and Chief Executive, All Home: Was glad to hear of the great activities within departments and agencies, but stated that the council still misses the goal setting for demonstrative impact from the cumulative action across the Action Plan. The state leadership has previously done extraordinary work for collaboration and alignment in setting climate targets around carbon emissions. In a similar way, systematizing and organizing some collective efforts towards some specific goals can help local jurisdictions enhance their impact. Secondly, as the Homelessness Connect pilot and tribal concerns were previously mentioned, she stated that it would be interesting to think of a pilot with the Homelessness Connect model for tribal communities, also adding that when programs and services are put in smaller communities, the impact is greater, and suggests doing the next round of this pilot with tribal leaders.

Rebecca Ruan O'Shaughnessy, Vice Chancellor for Educational Services, CCCCCO: Brings up the area of homelessness prevention strategies. Higher Education plays an important role to support students and support

advancing their social economic mobility. She invites the Council to have a strategic conversation in how they can play a role in advancing that strategy at a state level. Additionally, housing in the community college space continues to be difficult. They face challenges in collaborating or finding entry points at the local level and understanding funding eligibility landscape for students. As students are also participants in other systems, she asks how Council Members can take a member-centered approach to help students navigate through complex processes and take a no wrong door approach. She is also interested in local collaboration and making sure that the intended goals are maximized with a bigger network.

Tiena Johnson Hall, Executive Director, CalHFA: Shares that Cal HFA recently approved an additional 50 million for the extension of the National Mortgage Settlement Counseling Program, which happened with several state leaders providing input including Deputy Secretary Wickrema, Deputy Secretary Kergan, Secretary Castro Ramírez, and Director Velazquez. The program will allow for improved access, education, and opportunities for people at risk of homelessness.

Lourdes Castro Ramírez, Secretary, BCSH: Supports comments from Council Member Lewis and Council Member Moss on collective impact. The state is doing a lot of good work and is measuring those outcomes, but the Action Plan provides a foundation to move to the next level to identify a baseline of core collective impact activities that could be assessed for progress annually. She proposed that the Cal ICH Executive Officer take the input and feedback received and comeback with a clear or visual recommendation that would allow the Council to present the progress that they are making and draw attention to where they are not making much progress. She also adds that she hopes the Council can continue their conversation on coordination and collaboration during the USICH agenda item as they have an opportunity to engage with 19 federal agencies to accelerate the work they are doing to address homelessness and can think about the metrics that align with their work and with accountability that is built into the programs they administer.

Director Zeger states that Cal ICH staff is eager to help move this work to the next level of assessing the progress the state is making as a collective and will continue engaging the Advisory Committee on this topic. Director Zeger moved on to the second discussion area on equity and tribal engagement, asking them to share relevant activities involving racial equity and tribal engagement or opportunities to strengthen that work that could be reflected in the Action Plan.

Gustavo Velasquez, Director, HCD: Shares an about an opportunity in facilitating more housing opportunities in Tribal communities as part of Homekey Rounds 1 and 2. They analyzed the AB 1010 waivers and Tribal Consultation input listening sessions to draft a Homekey tribal-specific notice of funding and present is to stakeholders for feedback and recommendations. The Homekey team will continue to collaborate with tribal partners to implement this program. Tribal consultation was important to create a program with tribal law and flexibility to address needs of these communities. He also expressed that the Department of Social Services has gotten great input for their guidelines and program requirements.

Kim Johnson, Director, DSS: Director Johnson appreciates the continued centering around addressing racial inequities and looking through a racial equity lens. To build on Director Velasquez's note around Tribal engagement, the leadership of the team is inclusive of the Office of Tribal Assistance and our Housing and Homelessness Division. This assists our ability to utilize that consultation process with tribes, as shown through the technical assistance engagement that has led to 25 tribes in tribal organizations awarded 35 million dollars in program funding. We know the space we work in related to housing has a long history for tribes and many populations experiencing disparities. We are in the process of developing our equity plans by division, but it's a broader effort across our department that is going to guide our priorities and engagement with communities, to look at our policies and how we develop them. This is also being integrated into how we design and co-create our programs, being very intentional and having that data to indicate what our successes are in addressing these disparities and disproportionalities. It can be hard to understand government language, so having intentional efforts to be simpler and have intentional technical assistance helping people understand how to access the resources and investments going forward is a key part of the success.

Veronica Lewis, Director, HOPICS: The targeted initiatives to incorporate tribal communities have been important. There are areas where a lot of work done on diversity equity and inclusion but there are key functions many of the government systems undergo, such as looking at data to see if there are disparities in representation of inequities. Departments need to look at their policies with an equity frame so that they can understand if there is unintended harm being done. It should be considered whether the state is providing tools to their respective department heads and if not, that can come in a future iteration of the Action Plan.

Kim Johnson, Director, CDSS: Many departments are part of the Government Alliance for Racial Equities, specifically looking at the tools to the point of Council Member Lewis. The government should be using these tools to apply policies. The Governor's directive to departments as it relates to the Racial Equity Commission which will be soon established, is that we are to be very clear about creating plans to address disparity and disproportionality. The Racial Equity Commission is intended to help advise state governments on these components.

Meghan Marshall, Executive Officer Cal ICH: Recent legislation under AB 977 requires all state funded programs meant to address housing and homelessness be entered into HMIS. Cal ICH is working with Council Member departments that were specifically called out in legislation or may be impacted by that legislation to begin coordinating the inclusion of those programs into HMIS. The goal is to provide technical assistance to local jurisdictions who will ultimately be the ones to incorporate that into their CoC's HMIS, which will be fed into the state's HDIS.

Tomiquia Moss, Founder and Chief Executive of All Home: We should consider how locals get guidance around racial equity and targets for reducing racial disparities through funding. Across all state agencies and departments, we need to think about how racial equity impacts what happens on the ground and how can we incentivize jurisdictions to prioritize goal setting and plan development around reducing racial disparities in programming, revenue, and resources.

Dr. Rohan Radhakrishna, Office of Health Equity Deputy Director, CDPH: The State needs to consider the recommendations coming from the state reparations task force, a powerful body that has issued an abundance of literature. How could Cal ICH help redress and repair intergenerational harm from redlining through a more specific distributional equity and allocating resources? Tribal set-asides are one example, but some of the populations are disproportionately impacted. How could we intentionally close gaps in public health? Furthermore, the Department of Public Health is launching a Lived Experience Advisory Board to better inform public health interventions around infectious diseases and social drivers related to housing and homelessness. CDPH has funded 16 different programs across the state to support peer health ambassadors.

William McGee, Director of the Student Achievement Support Division, CDE: CDE has conducted listening sessions with young adults who are or were unhoused and this provided opportunities for guidance from people with lived experiences. Children who are unhoused and able to talk about their experiences, letting adults at a school site know what they need is very powerful. CDE has tried to replicate this at the state level, so the homeless education program works with students with lived experiences. CDE had a small listening session with some of the youth and they were able to talk with program staff, Director McGee and Deputy Superintendent about the struggles they experienced. They told us what they needed to succeed and graduate. One piece that resonated was one of the youths said we make decisions on funding and programs and think they will work, but they don't and if we listened, we would know what does. Furthermore, the CDE can assist with communication and in understanding what works and how to make outcomes more measurable.

Susan DeMarois, Director, CDA: The California Department of Aging is welcoming its first tribal liaison who will be working in our department. This will assist in advancing equity among older adults, people with disabilities and family caregivers. Additionally, CDA did a series of older adult behavioral health roundtables in April and May around mental health and behavioral health. In every setting housing came up as a stressor and many people talked about their family living situation, there were several examples of an older adult who was caring

for an older disabled child. The topic of hoarding came up in all settings and how it is a cause for people to lose their housing or to be concerned about their housing. Director DeMarois commended the Governor and Secretary Ghaly for the May revise where there was an additional 50 million dollars proposed for older adult behavioral health.

Veronica Lewis, Director, HOPICS: Moving forward there should be understanding about what level of engagement each council departments have and depending on what we find, additional supports can come thereafter. Lived expertise of those who are or have been homeless, in recovery, or formally incarcerated are important to include in the discussions.

Cody Zeger, Director of Statewide Policy, Cal ICH: Cal ICH is starting a Lived Experience Advisory Board to provide guidance to this Council, you all will have access to that group in getting their guidance and feedback on specific recommendations or policies. Cal ICH is also working on starting a youth working group to focus on youth and young adults.

The last discussion area that came out of the feedback was around communications and public awareness, people want to know what the state is doing, what resources are available, and what are the best practices.

Rebecca Ruan-O'Shaughnessy, Vice Chancellor for Educational Services, CCCCCO: CCCCCO are shifting from the RFA process because those colleges or districts with better grant writers and who are more in the know will get the information faster. Since they know what to provide in their grant application and are thus more likely to be awarded a grant. A different approach would be of understanding which colleges really need the support and then awarding the funding by using data. This would be shifting the approach so we can build up the basic infrastructure and ensure we are serving our students in the best way possible.

Dr. Rohan Radhakrishna, Office of Health Equity Deputy Director, CDPH: To build on Council Member Lewis and McGee's comments and Secretary Castro Ramírez, the issue of communications and awareness is so important. How can the public understand and appreciate the work of this body? How will they know if we move the needle and what is the goal setting for Californians? We are about to hear from our federal partners on a 25 percent reduction in two years, what is that for our various agencies, departments and Council overall? How do we move from 150 activities, which are more process measures, to outcome measures that are more person and community-centered? Dr Radhakrishna's team recently met with UC Riverside Center for Social Innovation, and they have a model called DNA which stands for Data Narrative and Action. How can we succinctly articulate the data, story, and narrative and the action steps that we are taking? Go from 150 activities and a 50-page action plan to five panels that are impact scorecards or impact storyboards that can help visualize the work that we are doing.

VII. USICH Federal Update

Helene Schneider, Senior Regional Advisor, with the U.S. Interagency Council on Homelessness provided a federal update. Funding flexibilities and waivers expired when the COVID Public Health Emergency was rescinded nationally. President Biden's proposed budget for 2024, includes significant funding related to housing, homelessness, and Health Care Connections. One relates to the philosophy of housing being a human right and finding a way for everyone to have a safe place to rest their head each night. There is a proposal of creating a housing voucher guarantee for youth aging out of foster care and for extremely low-income veterans. The goal is to mandate for any one in those categories to be able to get a housing voucher if they need, as opposed to the lottery system or the waiting list. We can better implement and work with Social Security to deliver information and documentation to people experiencing homelessness who need that to work or access housing. This is not just a housing or health care issue; this is an all-hands-on approach.

Every Council Member will have engagement, just like at the federal level with all 19 federal agencies, to reach our ambitious, but attainable goal of reducing homelessness by 2025. We cannot attain this goal without the partnership of California. The plan also focuses on homelessness prevention, we must not only help people who are homeless become housed, but also prevent people from falling into homelessness. We cannot meaningfully address our nation's homelessness without a distinct focus on unsheltered homelessness, which is why on May 18th we launched what we call All INside, a new place-based initiative focused on getting people off the street and into housing. Through this initiative each of the 19 federal agencies are partnering with state and local governments to strengthen and accelerate local efforts to get unsheltered people into homes in six locations: Chicago, Dallas, Los Angeles, Phoenix Metro area, Maricopa County, Seattle and the State of California. These six locations account for more than half of the nation's unsheltered population. The State of California is taking a people-based approach of focusing on three distinct subpopulations: veterans, older adults, and youth. This program reiterates President Biden's belief that everyone deserves a safe, decent, and affordable place to live. He is committed to achieving that and so All INside will offer innovative, technical, and tailored support for up to two years.

Furthermore, the Department of Labor is looking at how to connect communities with local workforce boards and Job Corps sites to fully leverage local and state government employment opportunities for unsheltered youth. FEMA is looking at providing technical assistance to communities to facilitate greater operational coordination in response to disasters which often increase homelessness. AmeriCorps, the General Services Administration, Department of AG, Energy, Justice, Transportation, Treasury, have made specific commitments related to this All-Inside community initiative.

We are looking forward to what we will be able to accomplish with our partners at the federal level.

VIII. General Public Comment

General public comments made during this meeting:

Gerry La Londe-Berg from Petaluma, California: Thanked Governor Newsom and the Newsom Administration for two major action plans, the Action Plan on homelessness and the Master Plan on Aging. Elder-homelessness is rising in the point-in-time counts and will continue to go up as the baby boomers age. I would like the updated version of the Action Plan to cite the various aspects of the Master Plan on Aging more explicitly. In Action Area number one, Objective Three, Number Eleven Action Area number four Objective 12, number six, and Action Area number five, Objective 15, number five, all reference seniors and disabilities, so it is important to put the plan side by side and pull together the different departments. Also, shared housing for elders, as well as for people who need affordable housing, is a real solution.

Elizabeth Stone: Is a person with lived expertise in both having been unhoused with children as well as extensive time in the Behavioral Health Care System and is a graduate of training in a variety of capacities. Elizabeth runs a peer directed service and advocacy organization in Ventura County and is a recipient of funding from the CRC for incorporating people with lived expertise in the planning process, as well as new funding for expanding peer-operated capacity organizations from the Department of Health Care Services. Elizabeth is excited to see increased emphasis on incorporating people with lived expertise, but noted it is not enough to just have listening sessions. Council members are leaders in agencies across the state, but where are the people with lived expertise in State agencies and what is happening with the stigma that people cannot be open about that when they are applying for state level jobs? People with lived experience ask very different questions to those who do not share those experiences, so this input is needed much earlier in the process.

Anna Lee Trujillo with Apollo Housing Resource Center and Pala Band of Mission Indians located in Southern California: California has 110 federally recognized tribes and 32 of those are in our area. Anna Lee commended the Council for their hard work and Secretary Castro Ramirez who recently visited her reservation.

Anna Lee spoke of racial equity and tribal engagement because until recently there had not been much consultation and that consultation hasn't been successful in reaching the tribal needs. The more barriers brought to light, the more barriers we have discovered. Anna Lee hears about making progress with tribes, however, there is in fact not much progress made. We are headed in the right direction with tribal engagement, but it is important to bring the tribes to the forefront when it comes to talking about tribal issues or participating in tribal programs. This is a key factor in strengthening tribal engagement because we are the ones with expertise in tribal communities and we are not being represented, we are not at the table, and we are not able to talk about our specific issues. We would really like the Council to use us and use our input so we can help our tribes across California. Another part of it is HMIS, it does not work for tribes. The tribe needs to be more involved as we have our own data as that is not considered. Also, there's been missed opportunities due to capacity and deadlines, for instance there was 85 million dollars left on the table for tribal set-asides and we can all do better than that.

Marty Otmoto: I am an older adult and a parent of a 30-year-old person with Down Syndrome who lives with me and a sibling of a person with developmental disabilities. The Council is doing wonderful work and he appreciated the work being done. The agencies on aging need to connect on the issue of housing and homelessness. It is important to communicate with agencies on the front lines to help our communities understand how to find resources. We need to take a person-centered approach. Marty urged the Council to look at ways to include the agencies that are missing from this Council like the Department of Developmental Services. How they are not on this Council is mystifying because they serve 350,000 people with developmental disabilities, many of whom are at risk of losing their homes.

Shella Comin-DuMong, Executive Director of Chance Housing: Shella is the parent of someone who has developmental disabilities. Her agency houses people, older Californians, people with disabilities, people that have behavioral health needs, families, youth, foster youth. This meeting has been enlightening and engaging from the very beginning and there are three issues of note. The first is the updated Plan as there is no collecting homeless data or information from the Department of Developmental Services and including the needs of several hundred thousand Californians with developmental disabilities in that Action Plan. The second is the gap in the Council providing guidance and support to align the housing strategies from this Plan with the housing authorities, so that they can include the initiatives in their annual housing plan updates for the special populations. And the third, and most important, is to remind everyone that the housing being built for homeless populations are typically not suitable for people who use wheelchairs or live with medical equipment.

Mary Kalili: Mary is speaking from lived experience and her mother is an adult with developmental disabilities who had an incredibly difficult time trying to support two kids on her own. There need to be efforts to bring people with developmental disabilities to the table. Her mother is not diagnosed with a developmental disability, but most certainly has felt the repercussions of it. She has trust issues, and getting a diagnosis is part of the issue. We lived life going from house to house trying to find some form of stable housing. We lived in a hotel for a week because a church was kind enough to fund that amount of money. It is important to incorporate guidance from people who have a lived experience in all the Interagency Council's work.

Noah Whitaker from Tulare County: Looking at the Action Plan and the update process, CSAC has also developed At-Home and this should be incorporated it into the updated Action Plan. Currently, the Council is ignoring the action of At-Home and the voice of the counties and cities jurisdictions. As a local level planner, At-Home is at a forefront politically, just like the Action Plan, and if the two plans aren't integrated it creates a lot of challenges at the local level as we're now following potentially 2 two different action strategies to affect change.

Ludmilla Bade, Homelessness Advocate: We need to consider the core issues causing homelessness. One of the issues not spoken about enough is sustainability. There are systemic issues that that do not support sustainability, that have caused homelessness, and are contributing causes to homelessness. More programs should be talked about in terms of goal 8 from the United Nations Sustainability Goals. We need to see more basic living expenses, including housing. Furthermore, work should include peer support and navigation towards training in environmental jobs, such as recycling, repurposing, and housing construction.

Cindy Soto, Chair of the Personal Assistance Services Council for LA County: We oversee the In-Home Supportive Services Program for the County, and each county has their own Public Authority Committee or Commission that oversees In-Home Support Services. The pay that each county gives to the providers differs throughout the state and is one reason we are in a provider shortage crisis right now and details need to be investigated for a different pay scale.

Gregory Fearon from Sonoma County: There is federal legislation currently being debated regarding the debt ceiling, which contains a highly publicized cut. Most know that the funding the state is using for Home Key and others, in counties and cities, are the ARPA funds which is American Rescue Plan Act. The short of it is billions of dollars are going into programs which may be vulnerable if they aren't already by the entity obligated. Gregory is concerned that billions of dollars needed to support programs in the state are going to be clawed back by the federal government in this legislation. The federal annual reports of all the cities and counties show there will be some money that we will have to send back to the feds because our local boards and supervisors or cities or state have not obligated the entire amount that they received. Gregory urges everyone to look to their counties and to the state to make sure we obligate it all before the deadline that Congress uses to determine how much they're going to "claw back".

Moriah McGill, Northern Circle Indian Housing Authority: The Northern Circle Indian Housing Authority is a tribally designated housing entity working on behalf of eight federally recognized tribes throughout the State of California. Many of the successes seen at HCD and CDSS are because tribes push back, they partnered, they stayed, they fought for what was right and voiced what was not going to fit in their communities. The tribes worked alongside program staff to ensure that there are equitable opportunities for tribes to be successful in these eight programs. Mariah applauded CDSS for being able to roll out 17.5 million, which opened three separate programs at tribal levels. Tribal HHAP has been an incredible asset, but 20 million dollars is simply just not enough. We can pat ourselves on the back and say wow we've come a long way, but there's still an incredible need to have a Tribal Equity Advisory Committee. The Council and State need to have tribes at the table, there needs to be continued input, collaboration and opportunities to discuss what is and isn't working.

IX. Final Remarks and Adjournment

Co-Chair Secretary Castro Ramirez thanked the Councilmembers for their leadership and insights as we discuss updates to the Action Plan. Thank you to members of the public and tribal members who have joined us to provide comments and offer ideas and solutions as we continue the work of preventing and ending homelessness.

The meeting was adjourned at 4:00pm.