



**Meeting Summary  
Tuesday, April 9, 2019  
1:00PM – 4:00PM**

**Mental Health Services Oversight and Accountability Commission  
1325 J Street, Sacramento, CA 95814**

**I. Call to Order and Roll Call**

Alexis Podesta, Council Chair and Secretary of Business, Consumer Services and Housing Agency calls the meeting to order at 1:09PM.

*Council Members Present:*

- Alexis Podesta, Council Chair and Secretary of the Business, Consumer Services and Housing Agency
- Alexis Barries, Family Partner with Placement Services and Crisis Stabilization Response Team, Santa Clara County
- Laurie Berman, Director, Department of Transportation
- Gina Buccieri- Harrington, Assistant Director of Grants Management, Victim Services Program, Governor's Office of Emergency Services
- Marianne Cantwell, Chief Deputy Director of Health Care Programs, Department of Health Care Services
- Donald Cavier, Chief Deputy Director, California Housing Finance Agency
- Jody Ketcheside, Deputy Regional Director, Turning Point of Central California, Inc.
- Gary McCoy, Community Member and Congressional Aide, District Office of House Majority Leader Nancy Pelosi
- Ben Metcalf, Director, Department of Housing and Community Development
- Emilio Ramirez, Deputy Director of Community and Economic Development, City of Riverside
- Alicia Sutton, Chief of Housing, Homelessness and Civil Rights Branch, Department of Social Services
- Joseph Uchishiba, Police Officer, City of Fairfield

*Absent:*

- Amy Anderson, Executive Director, PATH Ventures
- Gail Gilman, Chief Executive Officer, Community Housing Partnership
- Jennifer Loving, Executive Director, Destination: Homes
- Russell Atterberry, Vice Chair and Undersecretary of the Department of Veteran Affairs
- Stephanie Welch, Executive Officer, Council on Criminal Justice and Behavioral Health, Department of Corrections and Rehabilitation

*Opening Remarks:*

Council Chair Podesta thanked the Council members and the public for their participation and attendance at the Council meeting.

Council Chair Podesta also extended a special thanks to the Mental Health Services Oversight and Accountability Commission for allowing the Council to use their space and technology.

Finally, Council Chair Podesta announced that 100 percent of the \$500 million in Homeless Emergency Aid Program (HEAP) funding has been disbursed and is now in local jurisdictions to address the most pressing needs in the community.

**II. Adoption of the meeting summary from January 17, 2019 HCFC meeting**

The Council approved the [Council Meeting Summary 1.17.19](#) from the January, 17 2019 meeting.

*There were no public comments.*

**III. Council Updates**

Ginny Puddefoot, Executive Officer for the Council, and Lahela Mattox, Local Government Liaison and Acting HEAP Grant Manager, provided updates on HCFC activities, including HEAP implementation, progress on developing the state action plan, and SB 918 implementation. These updates can be found at [Council Updates 4.9.19](#).

*There were no public comments.*

**IV. Departmental Updates**

Council members Gina Buccieri- Harrington, Laurie Berman, Ben Metcalf, Ali Sutton and Stephanie Welch provided updates on major activities and milestones since the last Council meeting. These updates can be found at [Department Updates 4.9.19](#).

*There were no public comments.*

**V. Presentation and Discussion of the Proposed California Homeless Data Integration System, including the Homeless Management Information System**

A [presentation](#) and discussion of the proposed California Homeless Data Integration System (HDIS) was provided by Council staff KC Mohseni; Chris Pitcher, a consultant from the US Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD); Council member Ali Sutton; Council Vice Chair Emilio Ramirez; and Chris Weare from Sacramento Steps Forward.

KC summarized the work the HMIS team has done to identify an IT solution, including required features and capabilities and estimated costs. Council member Ali Sutton stressed the importance of the Council's work in considering a data infrastructure that would give the state a better understanding of current problems and program effectiveness. In considering [Collecting Client Level Data](#), Council Vice Chair Emilio Ramirez remarked that the state must address privacy issues and develop robust security measures. Chris Weare emphasized that there is great potential to improve homeless services through

the system, as many CoC's do not have operational capacity to effectively implement their own HMIS and understand their program's impacts.

As part of this presentation, recommendations developed by the Homeless Management Information System (HMIS) Working Group were presented. These [HMIS Working Group Recommendations 4.9.19](#) included:

- Providing or offering a state-sponsored HMIS. A state-sponsored HMIS would be a valuable resource for CoCs that lack the resources to implement a robust CoC-specific HMIS.
- Creating a data system to integrate local HMIS data into a state homelessness database to provide basic information and insights into demographics and characteristics of homelessness statewide and to provide insights into patterns of service use, including the utilization of housing resource.
- Providing assistance to local entities to promote data sharing with county departments, including support for CoCs to share data with county departments, for county departments to share data with each other and with CoCs, and for local entities (CoCs and county departments) to share data with state agencies.

Several Council members raised questions about how the potential system would be implemented, how data would be used, and whether CoCs would be required to participate. There was strong support expressed for assisting CoCs that want to participate, and an acknowledgement that it will take time and resources to make this happen. It was clarified that there is no expectation that all 44 CoC's will adopt the state HMIS in place of their existing HMIS but that all COC's would provide information into the integrated environment.

*Public Comment:*

Elaine De Coligny from Everyone Home recommended the state consider a system that allows for information on sex trafficking victims experiencing trauma and homelessness to be entered as well. The current data system is separate from and does not link to HMIS.

Katherine Thoeni from Monterey CoC commented that client migration across CoCs is expensive because of duplicative services so this system could address that issue. In addition, she expressed the need for a universal definition on homeless to allow better comparisons. She also mentioned the importance of data quality because data can be misrepresented.

**VI. Discussion and Action on Draft Criteria to Determine Whether Programs are Subject to Housing First Requirement**

Ginny Puddefoot, Executive Officer of HCFC, presented an overview ([Housing First and Sober Living Facilities](#)) of an issue that has surfaced in determining how state programs can implement Housing First if they fund sober living facilities, which conflict with several core components of Housing First. A [Summary of HUD Approach to Sober Living Facilities](#) along with two background reports ([Improving Access to Housing for Patients in Recovery from Substance Use Disorders in LA County](#) and [HUD Recovery Housing Policy Brief](#)) were provided. Council members requested that the item be held open

to allow for consideration of the proposed exemption for sober living facilities, provided specific criteria were met.

*Public Comment:*

Norwood Williams from Life Coach Navigators expressed his concern about amending SB 1380 to allow for sober living facilities. Poverty and homelessness are not always related to alcohol and drug addiction, instead these substances are coping strategies for the psychological trauma of poverty and homelessness.

**VII. Review and Action on the Department of Social Services (CDSS) Housing First Assessment and Recommendations Regarding the Extent to Which CDSS Programs Employ the Housing First Approach**

Council member Ali Sutton presented the CDSS Housing First Assessment. The assessment included four programs:

- [Housing and Disability Advocacy Program](#)
- [Home Safe](#)
- [Bringing Families Home](#)
- [CalWORKS Housing Support](#)

*There were no public comments.*

**VIII. Information matters not on the agenda for consideration at future meetings**

The Council members agreed that they would like site visits outside of Sacramento to get a picture of what other communities are doing to address homelessness in their communities. The suggestion was to do a site visit quarterly or at least once a year.

*There were no public comments.*

**IX. Public Comments not on the agenda**

*There were no public comments.*

**X. Adjournment**

The meeting is adjourned at 3:48pm.