



Agenda Item II.

Meeting Summary of July 17, 2019 Meeting

Homeless Coordinating and Financing Council meeting July 17, 2019

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 1:00PM.

Council Members Present:

- Alexis Podesta, Council Chair and Secretary of the Business, Consumer Services and Housing Agency
- Russell Atterberry, Vice Chair and Undersecretary of the Department of Veteran Affairs
- Amy Anderson, Executive Director, PATH Ventures
- Alexis Barries, Family Partner with Placement Services and Crisis Stabilization Response Team
- Marianne Cantwell, Chief Deputy Director, Health Care Programs, California Department of Health Care Services
- Gail Gilman, Chief Executive Officer, Community Housing Partnership
- Jennifer Loving, Chief Executive Officer, Destination Homes
- Ben Metcalf, Director, Department of Housing and Community Development
- Emilio Ramirez, Deputy Director of Community and Economic Development for the City of Riverside
- Alicia Sutton, Chief of Housing, Homelessness and Civil Rights Branch, Department of Social Services
- Stephanie Welch, Executive Officer, Council on Criminal Justice and Behavioral Health, Department of Corrections and Rehabilitation

Absent:

- Donald Cavier, Chief Deputy Director, California Housing Finance Agency
- Gina Buccieri – Harrington, Assistant Director, Grants Management Victim Services Program, Governor's Office of Emergency Services
- Gary McCoy, Congressional Aide, Office of House Minority Leader Nancy Pelosi
- Jody Ketcheside, Deputy Regional Director, Turning Point of Central California, Inc.
- Joseph Uchishiba, Police Officer, City of Fairfield Police Department

Opening Remarks

Council Chair Podesta thanked the Council members and the public for their participation and extended a special thanks to the Department of General Services for hosting the meeting. She also thanked and acknowledged Volunteers of America West House Program, which is a Long-Term Offender Re-Entry and Recovery Housing for their hospitality and helping the Council and staff members have a better understanding of their program.

She reported that Governor Newsom recently announced a new Homeless and Supportive Housing Advisory Task Force, which will be chaired by Sacramento Mayor Darrell Steinberg and Los Angeles County Supervisor Mark Ridley-Thomas. The Task Force comes at a critical time when there is a clear need for enhanced regional planning and collaboration at a local level. The Task Force will be traveling throughout the state to observe best practices first hand and highlight strategies that have demonstrated success in moving people from homelessness into permanent housing.

Council Chair Podesta also mentioned the new Budget presented by Governor Newsom, which brings exciting work for the Council. In addition to providing additional staff on board, the new budget also entails a new \$650 million one-time grant program known as, the Homeless Housing, Assistance and Prevention (HHAP) program. The new funding will be allocated to the 13 largest cities, 58 counties, and 44 Continuums of Care.

II. Adoption of the meeting summary from April 9, 2018 Council meeting

The Council approved the previous [meeting summary](#) from the April 9, 2018 meeting.

There were no public comments.

III. Homeless Coordinating and Financing Council's Progress Report

The Council's Executive Officer Ginny presented the Homeless Coordinating and Financing Council's [Progress Report](#) from July 2018 through June 2019.

Council Comments:

- Councilmember Jennifer Loving stated that HEAP was the most flexible state funding that was received and the funding helped address areas that were important.
- Councilmember Russell Atterberry requested more information about the HDIS system.
- Councilmember Stephanie Welch asked if there was a way to gather data to know if the questions that are being asked are consistent and what the variable was in the HEAP report
 - Technical Assistance will provide assistance on how to develop the questions that are being asked.
 - The HEAP report has indicated that the number of beds have increased, which has resulted in an increase in services. However, HEAP does not accurately capture everything.
- Councilmember Ali Sutton stated that it is valuable to know the state programs that are asking reporting questions and how consistent they are across the state.
- Councilmember Amy Anderson stated that it is important to think about reporting and how they can make programs more efficient if we provided consistent definitions, so that we can align applications and ensure a streamline process. She was invited to the Southern California Alliance and learned that cities were struggling with the two -year timeline that was designated in HEAP, which included hiring staff. She believes its necessary to have a longer timeline.
- Councilmember Jennifer Loving stated that she disagreed on the longer timelines because she believes that the grants were created for cities with the highest need.

There were no public comments.

IV. Departmental Updates

The following Departments have provided an [update](#) of their relevant homeless programs:

- Department of Housing and Community Development
- Department of Social Services

There were no public comments.

V. Presentation on Addressing the Unique Needs of Individuals Impacted by the Justice System Involvement, Behavioral Health Challenges and Homelessness

Councilmember Stephanie Welch presented a panel presentation on opportunities the Council can learn more about how the unique needs of individuals impacted by the Justice System Involvement, behavioral health and homelessness intersect with one another. The Council had the opportunity to learn more about the challenges that affect individuals and best practices, or lessons learned in how best to support them.

Wayne Garcia, Vice President of Criminal Justice Program HealthRight 360, stated he oversees 90 programs and has seen thousands of success stories. He shared his personal story of how he entered the prison institution. Because of the program and a supportive group, he was able to receive housing, job opportunities and eventually was able to help others.

Shayondelece Sledge expressed that she classes within the institution allowed her to be suitable for release. When she was released, she experienced culture shock and her gap in employment made it difficult for her to attain a job. She was able to restrain from substance abuse successfully in prison because of the programs that were offered. She urged the Council to consider programs outside of prison, so that those who re-enter have a fighting chance for their future.

Yvonne Tate shared that Walden House was a program that helped her immensely. However, when the funding was not available, the program that helped stabilize her was gone. As a result, she has difficulty finding affordable housing and maintaining a job.

Doug Bond, Chief Executive Officer of Amity Foundation shared the lessons learned from having supportive housing programs and how they have provided safety and lessens the cost of prisons.

Council Comments:

- Councilmember Jennifer Loving stated that thanked the panelists for presenting as well as sharing their story. She hopes that the Council will continue to be a beacon for the good work ahead and the people.
- Councilmember Ali Sutton expressed interest in learning more about barriers of the coordinated entry system. How do people find programs? If the State were to find someone in a program that is better suited for programs such as the one the panelists presented on, how can the state cross referral?
- Councilmember Emilio Ramirez invited the panelists for further discussion and the services he can engage the Oxnard community in.
- Councilmember Ben Metcalf stated that there is work the state can do within the coordinated entry system (CES) to connect people to more affordable housing.
- Councilmember Russell Atterberry encouraged the panelists to share one thing that in the program that helped make them successful.

Public Comments:

- Chris Wear, Sac Steps Forward wanted to learn more about how we can best link criminal justice programs with efforts to identify “frequent flyers” or in other words homeless individuals that often seek services from health and criminal justice programs.
- William Norwood, Life Coach Navigators stated that restorative justice programs should be promoted and infused into supportive services for homelessness.
- Sara Lamin, Councilmember for City of Hayward thanked the panel on their presentation and asked that they look into Codac Centers in Rhode Island as a model in addition to others. She also suggested that Council should look to roadmaps and timelines to discourage existing systems from spending time and resources on planning processes and similar exercises that frequently follow such recommendations.

VI. Report on California Department of Corrections and Rehabilitation Housing First Assessment and Recommendations

This presentation was not given due to time constraints. It will be rescheduled for the next Council meeting.

Review and Action on the Governor's Office of Emergency Services (CalOES) Housing First Assessment and Recommendations

This presentation was not given due to time constraints. It will be rescheduled for the next Council meeting.

VII. Other matters not on the agenda for consideration at future meetings

VIII. Public comments not on the agenda

There were public comments from the following individuals:

- Tim Chan, a member from Bay Area Rapid Transit (BART), stated that BART has had unique challenges with the homeless population. Last year, 120 million trips were calculated from the public, however the rising number of homeless populations around BART stations have caused a decrease in riders. AS a result, BART has taken on the initiative to join in the fight to solve homelessness. As a result, BART has increased resources, which have included partnerships with public works to assist in cleaning bathrooms and elevators, as well as hiring a full-time social worker who interfaces the public, and have added additional grounds groups for campsite clean-ups.

IX. Adjournment

The meeting is adjourned at 4:01pm.