



# California Interagency Council on Homelessness

Gavin Newsom, Governor  
Lourdes M. Castro Ramirez, MA, Co-Chair | Dr. Mark Ghaly, MD, MPH, Co-Chair

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## MEETING SUMMARY

Tuesday, May 31, 2022

1:00 pm

Location: Via videoconference, telephone, and in person  
Coastal Hearing Room, CalEPA Headquarters, 2nd Floor  
1001 I Street, Sacramento, CA 95814

### I. Call to Order and Roll Call

Executive Officer Julie Lo called the meeting to order

*Council Members Present:*

- Lourdes M. Castro Ramírez, Council Co-Chair and Secretary of California Business, Consumer Services and Housing Agency
- Dr. Mark Ghaly, Council Co-Chair and Secretary of California Health and Human Services Agency
- Kathleen Allison, Secretary of California Department of Corrections and Rehabilitation
- Tomás J. Aragón, State Public Health Officer and Director of California Department of Public Health (*not present at initial roll call*)
- Stephanie Clendenin, Director of California Department of State Hospitals
- Jacey Cooper, State Medicaid Director and Chief Deputy Director of Health Care Programs, California Department of Health Care Services
- Susan DeMarois, Director of California Department of Aging
- Lindsey Sin for Vito Imbasciani, Secretary of California Department Veterans Affairs
- Kim Johnson, Director of California Department of Social Services
- Steven Keck, Acting Director, California Department of Transportation
- Veronica Lewis, Director of Homeless Outreach Program Integrated Care System (HOPICS)
- Nancee Robles, Executive Director of California Tax Credit Allocation Committee
- Megan Kirkeby for Gustavo Velasquez, Director of California Department of Housing and Community Development
- Joe Xavier, Director of California Department of Rehabilitation

## II. Opening Remarks

Co-chair and BCSH Secretary Lourdes Castro Ramírez opened remarks by mentioning that this was the first in-person meeting for this council in three years and thanked the California Interagency Council on Homelessness (Cal ICH) staff who organized this meeting and members of the public for joining in-person and on-line.

Secretary Castro Ramírez acknowledged Cal ICH as an entity strengthening the communication and coordination across state departments and noted that bold, comprehensive, and person-centered solutions are needed. In the last month, the Secretary visited an encampment site in Oakland to discuss and understand the complex access to stable housing and support that arose from decades-long structural deficits and investments in housing and services. Due to this, the role of the Council becomes critical, as well as partnerships with local communities to measure progress and to hold each other accountable.

The state's commitment to end and prevent homelessness is a top priority for Governor Newsom. The Governor challenged his cabinet, some of who are members of this council, to address homelessness with an "all hands on deck" approach. Cal ICH is noted as an example of breaking down silos and taking a proactive cross-sector approach to implementing the [Action Plan for Preventing and Ending Homelessness in California](#).

Three new council members were welcomed: Steven Keck, Caltrans Acting Director; Veronica Lewis, Director of the Homeless Outreach Program Integrated Care System (HOPICS); and Tomiquia Moss, CEO of All Home. The Secretary also welcomed BCSH Deputy Secretary for Homelessness, Dhakshike Wickrema.

The Governor's proposed budget will build upon the \$22 billion package passed in 2021. Departments across the state will continue to implement critical programs, provide relief, expand affordable housing, and address homelessness comprehensively. The proposed budget allows for \$9.1 billion in housing and \$9.4 billion in homelessness resources, including \$500 million to expand the Encampment Resolution Fund had \$50 million appropriated in 2021. \$50 million was awarded to 19 communities, with anticipation to award more communities with the final budget. The Secretary visited recipients of the Encampment Resolution Grant in the city of Berkeley. She found that local communities appreciate the partnership with the State and that this grant has allowed the restoration of dignity and health for people experiencing homelessness and has allowed staff to provide holistic and person-centered solutions.

Dr. Mark Ghaly provided remarks, welcoming the new members of the council and new Deputy Secretary for Homelessness. Dr. Ghaly continued with comments on the May Revise, stating that it demonstrates the commitment of the Governor and recognizes the connection to CalHHS in addressing homelessness. It is an opportunity to invest in homelessness and behavioral health through various programs, including over \$600 million to address felony and incompetent-to-stand-trial individuals to support people into community placements, CalAIM investment to support social drivers and other opportunities, and CARE Court investments to allow new pathways for individuals experiencing homelessness with behavioral health conditions to be housed and receive treatment. The challenge for this council is turning these budget opportunities into actions that impact people's lives on the ground. Secretary Ghaly asked that council members take this responsibility seriously within their own entities and challenge one another to bring down silos and maintain a person-centered approach.

### III. Consent Calendar

No comments were made on this item.

The council voted 12-0 to approve the consent calendar, with one member abstaining and one member not yet present.

- [January 27, 2022 Council Meeting Summary.](#)

### IV. Local Homelessness Action Plan

Victor Duron, Cal ICH Grants Director, presented the framework for reviewing and approving the third round of funding for Homeless Housing Assistance and Prevention (HHAP) Round 3 applications. The HHAP-3 grant, the largest state-funded round to date at one billion dollars, is a flexible block grant to expand local capacity and address immediate homelessness challenges in regional coordination and direct services. Awards are distributed to 44 Continuums of Care, all counties, and large cities with populations over 300,000, through a formula allocation based on the Point-In-Time count (PIT). PIT counts are based on the proportion of the population of people experiencing homelessness on any given night within each grantee's jurisdiction. New in HHAP-3, grantees must submit an application packet that includes a Local Homelessness Action Plan and measurable performance goals and has an opportunity for bonus funding if grantees meet all the targets of their performance goals. Funds have a five-year life cycle and must be expended by June 30, 2026.

The application packet includes four parts:

- *Part I: Landscape Analysis.* An analysis of the needs, demographic information of people being served, and funding sources available including those outside the homelessness response system.
- *Part II: Outcome Goals and Strategies.* Specific and measurable outcome goals based on established baseline data and strategies to achieve those goals. Incentive bonus funding may be awarded if applicant meets all targets of established performance goals.
- *Part III: Application Narrative.* Information on regional coordination across different systems, including systems lead by council members and partners not traditionally in the homelessness response system, to ensure efforts aligned with their local action plan goals and strategies.
- *Part IV: HHAP-3 Funding Plan.* Specific uses activities to fund with the appropriation of HHAP-3 funding.

The application deadline is June 30, 2022. Cal ICH has a 90-day window to review applications to approve or request amendments for final approval. Cal ICH has deployed a variety of supports to grantees in advance of the June 30<sup>th</sup> application deadline including individualized engagements with grantees to make sure they understand the requirements and to provide initial technical assistance (TA); Specialized TA through four contractors with a range of expertise on areas including equity goal setting and data analysis; Five TA webinars on the development of the local action plans and performance goals; Bi-Monthly Grantee Office Hours with additional TA; and TA drop-in hour sessions.

Cal ICH has developed robust processes and new strategies for reviewing the required application elements, flagging areas, and the process for reviewing them at a higher level as needed. Each four parts will be reviewed in meeting statutory compliance, or the requirements written in the law, and for quality in alignment with the mission and best practices and the intent of the law.

Overview of the review process of each part:

- *Part I: Landscape Analysis.* Cal ICH staff will ensure that it is reliable data sources and demonstrates alignment across overlapping jurisdictions.
- *Part II: Outcome Goals and Strategies.* Cal ICH staff will ensure that grantee goals are suitably ambitious and logically aligned with the data and focused on areas needing the most improvement in their jurisdiction and provide appropriate and trackable equity goals or ensuring services are being provided to the most marginalized and impacted members of their community. Cal ICH staff will also ensure that goals are supported by strategies that align with best practices and Housing First, include funding that extends beyond HHAP resources, or that they are leveraging and partnering with different systems across the state.
- *Part III: Application Narrative.* Cal ICH staff will ensure that grantees, whether they have applied separately or jointly, demonstrate regular and reliable cross-jurisdictional collaboration, and reflect strong partnerships across all relevant systems and sectors. Cal ICH staff will look at specific actions that enhance equity and access to services and specific, quantifiable system level improvement strategies.
- *Part IV: HHAP-3 Funding Plan.* Cal ICH staff will review and ensure that grantees are describing the specific activities to fund through HHAP-3 and that they enhance or fill gaps rather than duplicating existing resources.

As the review and approval process of HHAP 3 applications occurs, Cal ICH staff will continue to report on pertinent information, applications received, approved, and returned for amendments, and any other information related to that process. Cal ICH staff will keep an eye on opportunities for state activities to support local efforts and the themes or strategies happening at the local level that state-level leadership could help support.

Cal ICH staff report quarterly progress towards meeting performance goals set by our grantees. For the next steps, upon council input and approval, Cal ICH staff will promptly begin applying this criterion as application packets are received. Cal ICH staff will also prepare a report of lessons learned for the next council meeting.

Secretary Castro Ramírez and Secretary Ghaly opened the floor for Council member discussion.

Council Member Lewis asked: For clarification on the five-year cycle.

- Duron replied: In five years from the time of appropriation. By the time funds are awarded, jurisdictions will have about four years, until 2026, to expend funds.

Council Member Lewis stated: They appreciate an alignment with other systems addressing people experiencing homelessness or health. Council member Lewis then asked how jurisdictions coordinate with the mainstream system.

- Duron replied: The messaging in all TA engagements and individualized conversations emphasized that it is a plan to end homelessness using all systems available in the community, including those not traditionally in the homelessness response system. Cal ICH staff want to see coordination with managed care plans, education, workforce development, services for older adults and people with disabilities, systems for justice-involved individuals, and behavioral and mental health systems. Duron asked for additional input on success in cross-system partnerships.
- Council Member Lewis asked: If HHAP-3 funds regional coordination or cross-system coordination activities.
- Duron replied: HHAP-3 and HHAP-4, would prioritize capacity building and cross-system collaboration.

Council Member Johnson: Appreciates the work to make HDIS and data systems tell a story with the outcomes and being part of the solutions from the Council. Council Member Johnson wants to hear from grantees on the things the state could do to leverage investments within the report back to the Council.

Council Member Cooper: Appreciates partnership with Victor in developing the Housing and Homelessness Incentive Program. Council member Cooper then asked about ensuring that grantees have braided local funding or have a comprehensive approach, especially with new funding. DCHS is distributing new Managed Care funding with Medi-Cal and wants to ensure funds are infused wherever possible and would happily provide TA. DHCS has also heard from service providers that there is a lack of housing opportunities for behavioral health, especially for individuals with mental health conditions. Council member Cooper would like to hear of innovative ways around how people are working to address that issue in the reports.

Council Member DeMarois: Wants to see, after HHAP-3, targeted populations based on the local landscape and identify gaps of populations overlooked for HHAP-4. Adding that the sense is that older adults aren't the most prioritized.

Council Member Lewis commented: Funding should be invested outside housing interventions, such as in public social services and child welfare, to prevent people from entering homelessness. The plan is missing outcome results from increased coordination across other systems, such as the number of people that were prevented from entering homelessness through training or developing capacity.

Secretary Castro Ramírez: Although jurisdictions may submit plans separately, Cal ICH staff will look at the plans collectively and have conversations with grantees to move them towards coordination across systems. Commented that there is a need for clear roles and responsibilities, especially of system partners, clear population served, and clear outcomes, so that successful practices can be uplifted at the state level.

Council Member Allison asked: If providing support to the justice-involved population, whether they are State parolees or under County supervision, are included in the rating for funding.

- Duron replied: Grants are distributed on a formula grant block where funding is awarded if the grantee meets the requirement and is not a competitive grant. Cal ICH staff can provide input for amendments and have asked grantees to consider law enforcement systems to support justice-involved individuals.

- Council Member Allison commented: The Returning Home Well program was a positive outcome of COVID. The program stood up on July 4<sup>th</sup>, 2020, with \$15 million of state funds and \$15 million of philanthropy. It stood up about 1,000 beds quickly and provided the re-entry population with a 6-month stay, however, the average stay was 135 days. Funding has continued each year, including this one. Although CDCR now has about 3,000 beds in the community, there are 8,000 parolees experiencing homelessness.

Secretary Ghaly commented: This is the first year that they have yet to see the collaborations and best practices and where opportunities are to home in on certain populations, such as those who are justice-involved or who have serious behavioral health conditions. Secretary Ghaly also wants this process to encourage jurisdictions that have not broken silos to prevent silos from occurring and to understand why some jurisdictions applied separately.

Council Member Representative Kirkeby commented: HCD has strength in the housing elements and housing planning systems in local cities and counties as they are required to report annually on progress. HCD was at 30% compliance with no incentives and no consequences for not reporting. It is important to consider incentives or disincentives as people need help with collaboration. Continuums of Care don't always connect back to local cities and counties. As the program evolves, lessons learned from this first year should be cataloged. Also commented that HMIS data is important to allow grantees to feel supported and to understand progress and gaps.

Council Member Representative Sin asked: What tools are being used to compare how vulnerable populations are identified within a jurisdiction to verify the populations in need of services and who to bring to the table.

- Duron: Cal ICH staff has worked to develop resources and a robust data analysis individualized for each grantee on a spectrum of areas using a standard formula, and specifically looks at populations underserved or disproportionately impacted by homelessness. Cal ICH staff brought in a contractor specialized in equity-based performance goal setting for grantees. Cal ICH staff look at whether their strategies align with their needs assessments and if it doesn't, will ask for amendments.

*Public Comment:*

- Andre Bueno, Housing Authority of the City of Los Angeles: Has worked with private equity funds to drive success in cross-sector investment coordination. Private funds have offered to acquire and preserve workforce housing and provided a mixed-income allocation to help individuals experiencing homelessness. In exchange, the Housing Authority provided individuals with tax abatements and funding per the emergency housing vouchers. Bueno asked if this has been aggregated at the state level to exemplify the work done across various municipalities.

Council Member Aragón arrived at 1:35pm and his attendance was announced.

The Council voted 12-0 to pass the [Local Homelessness Action Plan Approval Process](#), with two members abstaining.

## **V. May Budget Revision**

Dhakshike Wickrema, BCSH Deputy Secretary for Homelessness, and Corrin Buchanan, CalHHS Deputy Secretary for Policy and Strategic Planning, reported on the current and proposed investments within their respective agencies outlined in the state May Revision.

There is a proposed \$9.1 billion in housing and \$9.4 billion for homelessness. Within HCD, \$2.7 billion are available for the Emergency Rental Assistance program to assist renters at risk of losing their home and will support over 300,000 households. For the Adaptive Reuse program, an additional \$500 million is proposed, for a total investment of \$600 million over three years, to upgrade infrastructure and convert underutilized buildings into housing. For Homekey, an additional \$150 million has been proposed, for a total investment of \$300 billion into the program, to continue acquiring and activating existing hotels and multi-family housing into affordable apartments. And \$500 million over two years have been proposed for a new Interim Housing Solutions Program to provide rapid rehousing and connections to services for people experiencing homelessness on state-owned land.

Within Cal ICH, HHAP Round 4, a one-time block grant funding that requires jurisdictions to fund evidence-based practices and create local action plans, will be important for overlapping jurisdictions to create opportunities. For the Encampment Resolution Fund, \$500 million has been proposed to enhance the program from \$50 million previously available and support communities helping people living in unsheltered situations.

Historic investments were made in the 21-22 budget to embed housing programs into DSS social safety net programs, support the healthcare delivery system through CalAIM and other DHCS funding sources, and allow for new treatment settings and settings for seniors and adults with disabilities Community Care Expansion Program.

The May Revision included proposals for Behavioral Health Bridge Housing to create clinically enhanced short-term bridge housing settings to allow individuals with complex behavioral health conditions who are on the path to permanent housing. Another big investment is CARE Court, which aims to serve people who have under or untreated behavioral health conditions namely folks who have schizophrenia spectrum or other psychotic disorders and connect them to wraparound treatment services and housing resources. The CARE Court model proposes \$65 million in funding, including \$10 million for the Department of Aging to allow for CARE Supporters, and dedicated staff whose responsibility it is to a CARE participant identify, communicate, and make their own decisions to the greatest extent possible. Proposed CARE Court investments also include \$15 million for training and technical assistance to counties to implement the program, identify housing, and work with the judicial system, and \$40 million to support hearings, counsel, and work involved in the civil court process.

Other proposals from the May revision are investments for the Department of State Hospitals to support the incompetent-to-stand trial population to create community-based settings and allow restoration services and mental health diversion, such as housing with behavioral health services. Two-thirds of individuals found incompetent-to-stand trial are experiencing homelessness at the time of the arrest. Lastly, the May revision proposes \$42 million for overdose prevention, \$10 million of which are specifically for overdose-reversal medication for people experiencing homelessness.

Secretary Ghaly began Council Discussion by asking about the work in progress for the Behavioral Health Continuum Infrastructure Program (BHCIP) and the Community Care Expansion (CCE).

- Council Member Cooper responded: It was previously \$2.2 billion for the BHCIP. DHCS are on Round 3, where they received a significant number of launch-ready programs across the state and working to build out behavioral health services. For Round 4, they focused on children and youth and are already doing listening sessions. Rounds 5 and 6 later this year is a broader application with an opportunity for infrastructure building.
- Council Member Johnson responded: \$570 million of the \$805 million investment for CCE was made available for a joint application with the BHCIP and is aimed at the acquisition, construction, or rehabilitation of adult and senior care programs. An additional \$195 million will be available in the coming weeks for facility preservation and \$55 million for operating subsidies for existing programs

Council Member Lewis asked: If the Behavioral Bridge Housing is a new program, and if so, would it require state certification.

- Council Member Cooper responded: Behavioral Bridge Housing funding is going out in two parts. A portion will be allocated directly to Counties and Tribes, which is still being determined to form the \$1.5 billion. There will also be competitive grants for county behavioral partners for wrap-around services, rental assistance, and other resources to help counties to provide housing and wrap-around services.
- Buchanan added: Behavioral Bridge Housing can include both licensed settings and shelter settings with clinically enhanced supports.

Council Member Lewis asked: Coordination with people returning from of state or county custody.

- Council Member Cooper responded: There is coordination in the long term. One CalAIM initiative is to provide 90-day services in-reach. They are hoping for federal approval, but still negotiating it. It will have a coordinated entry and wanted to ensure that is engaging with the right players.
- Council Member Lewis replied: That she works in the re-entry space and works with off-the-grid individuals who are unseen by the safety net. She is glad to hear counties distributing the program and setting parameters and hopes that the state continues to build community infrastructure and allow organizations created by people formerly incarcerated and with lived experience to access that funding.

Council Member Lewis: Asked for clarification on the involvement of the Department of Aging in the CARE Court program.

- Council Member DeMarois replied: CDA contract with local providers who will hire local staff with lived experience to connect peer-to-peer as a supporter. They run the Ombudsman Program and represent people in residential care and skilled nursing facilities, ensuring that the preferences and rights of residents are prioritized. They also have a new program, the Office of the Patient Representative, and are similarly working with local partners to pair with underrepresented individual such as those who don't have family.



Secretary Ghaly notes that the work in the Medicare space focuses on health but drives towards equity in work around the justice-involved population. There is a long-held inmate exemption that doesn't allow the use of Medicaid, however, the Whole Person Care Pilot and DHCS leadership of Council Member Cooper and Director Baass are pushing to ensure that people receive essential Medicaid services while incarcerated and upon re-entry.

Secretary Castro Ramírez notes the housing entities within BCSH are moving forward with investments at the local level and advancing the Statewide Housing Plan. The Statewide Housing Plan was released about two months ago and calls for the construction of 2.5 million new units by 2030, of which 1 million will go to low-income households. Homekey will continue and has reached 10,000 units with work from local capacity and momentum. From a climate perspective, working with local entities to ensure walkable housing locations to improve the health of individuals and neighborhoods. The agency is working to reverse 40-50 years of lack of investments, and it is great to see the commitment at the state and local levels.

## **VI. Break**

Cal ICH staff forwent the break and continued with Item VII.

## **VII. Cal ICH Action Plan for Preventing and Ending Homelessness**

Cal ICH Executive Officer, Julie Lo, and Homelessness Consultant, Matthew Doherty, presented the process for updating the Statewide Action Plan. The Action Plan for Preventing and Ending Homelessness was adopted last March and covered activities for fiscal years 2021 through 2023. As departments were unable to forecast future activities at that time, the plan was adopted with the commitment to update this year. The vision of the Action Plan is to increase leadership from the State in identifying short- and long-term solutions that are action-oriented, purposeful, and aligned with other state agencies. The Action Plan provides an opportunity for stronger collaborative partnerships across departments and with local partners.

Cal ICH has worked with council members and staff to get their input in updating the plan. Cal ICH also got input from external stakeholders, including engagement with people with lived expertise and public input sessions. The Action Plan will continue to be updated with new and refined activities and will reflect the full range of activities of the council, including new member agencies and departments.

The feedback from the public input sessions provided some significant recurring themes. Cal ICH will work to address feedback with member agencies by identifying strategies and activities in the coming fiscal year. When asked about that which action area the state should place greater focus on, feedback on priorities was ranked in this order: (1) expanding and ensuring equitable access to permanent housing, (2) strengthening systems to respond to and prevent homelessness, (3) prevention strategies, (4) effective sheltering and interim housing, and (5) addressing the services, health, and safety needs of unsheltered people.

Key themes from stakeholders focused on ensuring adequate housing and a permanent housing supply, streamlining requirements and processes across multiple departments and agencies, receiving state guidance on using different resources, and aligning housing, health, and behavioral health strategies.

There is a need for more flexible resources that could support a range of program models and people's needs. Policies and practices should be tailored to specific populations as homelessness is not a one-size-fits-all experience. Considerations should be made for populations with specialized needs, such as youth, survivors of domestic violence, older adults, and LGBTQ+ populations. Other feedback emphasized the need for preventing homelessness, especially for people exiting from institutional settings. Stakeholders also asked the state to support their efforts in creating non-punitive, non-criminalizing approaches to address unsheltered homelessness and encampments.

Stakeholders also experience challenges in recruiting and retaining a strong workforce, often due to low wages and the quality and reliability of staffing, which impacts their capacity to respond in comprehensive ways and follow through on state policies.

When asked about communication strategies the state could engage in to support local efforts, themes among responses were to reinforce the importance of housing first and trauma-informed care and reduce stigma around mental health and substance use disorders. Stakeholders asked the state to support advocacy against "Not In My Back Yard" arguments, to highlight best practices and successes at the individual, program, and community levels, and to communicate the importance of housing affordability in ending homelessness. The state should continue to communicate the range of investments across the system as there is no one type of program that can prevent and end homelessness.

Cody Zeger, Director of Statewide Policy, concluded the presentation with the timeline for the Action Plan: July and August will focus on refining language and making changes to reflect the final budget. The next council meeting on September 1<sup>st</sup> will provide the opportunity for the council to adopt the updated Action Plan.

Secretary Ghaly noted the opportunity in the Action plan to bring our departments together and be clear and accountable with our goals. He asked council members to ask themselves where they already see themselves in this work, where they might not see themselves yet, and what they would like to push the council towards. Secretary Castro Ramírez continued, saying this Action Plan allows the opportunity to take a look at the collective work of each department and align work. She asked the council for suggestions on embedding measurable progress in this plan and reporting out the stats alignment and measurable impacts.

Council Member DeMarois began the Council discussion by commenting that California has a 10-year Master Plan on Aging where "ending adult homelessness" is a good goal. Now 18 months into the plan, stakeholders have asked to increase the focus on expanding home and community-based services and ending older adult homelessness. When the eviction moratorium is lifted, individuals who live on SSI or SSP, receiving about \$1,040 a month, may not be able to afford housing costs. CDA has not advocated for housing before but ensures that constituents at the local level are aware of opportunities to provide input on housing and homelessness plans.

Council Member Xavier commented: Physical accessibility in housing should continue to be addressed. There is a need to focus on upstream strategies for preventing people from losing employment and returning to homelessness.

Council Member Representative Kirkeby commented: He plans to bring accountability to HCD's work on homelessness. The legislature has streamlined work to build and approve permanent supportive housing for low-income individuals. HCD expects to have a bigger presence as an

adversary to move forward with essential growth and address when this type of housing is not approved.

Council Member Aragón commented: CDPH will focus on addressing services for unsheltered homelessness and plan to coordinate local health departments with continuums of care. CDPH will also focus on addressing communicable diseases and promoting accessible sanitation hygiene for unhoused populations. Lastly, CDPH plans to have local health partners work closely with service providers and ensure access to naloxone to prevent overdoses.

Council Member Robles commented: CTCAC and CDLAC are three times oversubscribed to provide bonds and tax credits to investors to create affordable housing projects. They deploy \$4.3 billion a year and receive \$12 billion in applications. They are working to push the “50% Test”, which ensures that projects have 50% of financing with a bond to receive a tax credit, to a “25% Test” at the federal level to double the number of bonds and tax credits available.

Council Member Keck commented: Caltrans will continue to lease their property to a city or a county at a nominal fee, about \$1, to provide sites for interim housing while permanent affordable housing is developed. Caltrans has previously provided right-of-way for this purpose and is working to identify more suitable and safe locations.

- Council Member Representative Kirkeby responded: The Public Lands for Affordable Housing Team is grateful for Caltrans’ work to make land available for affordable housing. HCD expects to see a greater amount of Caltrans portfolio for access sites for the Affordable Housing Executive Order program.

Council Member Clendenin commented: DSH investments into the felony incompetent to stand trial population will support 5,000 beds over four years and provide treatment and wrap-around services. DSH will also be involved in homelessness prevention by expanding re-entry programs and partnering with local partners to ensure services and support for those moving back into the community. There are misunderstandings about serving justice-involved individuals with serious mental illnesses and it will take collaboration from criminal justice partners and local partners to think about solutions.

Council Member Cooper commented: Under the Affordable Care Act, DHCS expanded coverage to adults but did not stop to build the delivery system for someone experiencing homelessness. DHCS is will partner with managed care plans, that are new to this field, to build health support in the Housing and Homelessness Incentive Program. Two pieces for future conversations are ensuring people understand opportunities to maximize with local braided funding and comprehensively sharing data across systems. Lastly, there's an opportunity to use Medicaid and Medi-Cal for work in homelessness prevention.

Council Member Johnson commented: Project Roomkey supported 50,000 individuals and they have learned how resources and case management can help support people reach their housing goals. The data is also exciting for equity as they learn who these programs are successful for and how that informs future approaches as it relates to race and tribes. It is also critical that they strive to have our work and strategies informed by people with lived expertise.

Council Member Lewis commented: HOPICS is a re-entry provider and touches the work of many state departments gaps and opportunities. There is a lot of mention of early intervention, but early intervention does not require imminent risk. There are no objectives in the action plan focusing on this and it could be added under Action Area 5. Also, there is a lack of interventions

for children and prevention for homelessness into adulthood. There is a lot of coordination that can be done with the education system, and it should be called on Action Area 5. Lastly, she appreciates that equity is built into every category, but would like to see funding outcomes of departments or objectives in the plan and clear language in support of local jurisdictions developing strategies to address disparities.

Secretary Castro Ramírez commented: The 10,000 units created by Homekey will require ongoing operations support. It is important to call out federal partners in the action plan to support the implementation of our work.

*Public Comment:*

- Gerry La Londe-Berg, Board Member of Share Sonoma County: Thanked the council for addressing homelessness issues. Shared housing is a solution to housing needs. The National Shared Resource Center website identifies 17 organizations in California that home share and have access to empty bedrooms in the community.
- Joe Coletti, Urban Initiatives: On mortality prevention: (1) Include mortality prevention in the Action Plan; (2) Urban Initiatives has released a report “More Than One Thousand Women Died While Homeless on the Streets of Los Angeles County During the Past Five Years by Homicide, Suicide, Natural Causes, and Accidents”; (3) If SB 914 is signed, it will require the council to set and measure progress among unaccompanied women in California; (4) They encourage the council to consider adding mortality prevention statewide coordination and integration with HDIS in the Action Plan; (5) In the Action Plan, weave a Homeless Engagement Response (HER) team approach for street medicine and outreach to women.
- Sharon Rapport, Corporation for Supportive Housing: Has concerns about the emphasis on interim interventions over permanent housing. The Governor’s May Revise includes over \$2.4 billion in funding for programs like Returning Home Well and Behavioral Bridge Housing. There are also concerns that HHAP and Homekey funding are being used for interim housing. Interim housing must be balanced with permanent housing so people in interim housing can exit into housing. A California Policy Lab study reported that 33% of people with serious mental illness in LA received interim housing, but less than 5% received referrals to permanent housing. Objects to CARE Court and agrees with concerns of the coercive approach to treatment and lack of funding for evidence-based treatment and trauma-informed approaches.
- Crystal Guttenberg, Private Investor Representative asked: Where should someone go to get resources and be engaged in establishing private-public partnership and ending homelessness.
- Alejandra Villa, Sacramento County Public Defender’s Office commented: There are efforts for the re-entry population but suggests resources for pre-trial population. There are pre-trial programs in some counties. Include funding for people with previous offenses so that they don’t re-offend.
- Mari Castaldi, Senior Legislative Advocate on Homelessness for Housing California: Agreed with making investments balanced in the Homelessness Response System and to prevent people from persisting in interim housing. Wants to emphasize the need for permanent housing placements, specifically for people re-entering from incarceration.

Mari Castaldi would like to echo comments of the Action Plan about the importance of investments into the homelessness response workforce.

The Council voted 14-0 to approve the [continued updating of the Action Plan for Preventing and Ending Homelessness](#).

### **VIII. Cal ICH Staff Updates**

Julie Lo, Cal ICH Executive Officer, presented Cal ICH staff updates. She noted that [Department and Federal Partner Updates](#) are available with the meeting materials.

The reformation of Cal ICH includes an Advisory Committee. Cal ICH will be working to start the committee by the next council meeting.

As part of the Action Plan approved last year, Cal ICH has committed to creating five statewide working groups. The first, the State Funding and Programs Working Group, is chaired by Executive Officer Julie Lo, Deputy Secretary Corrin Buchanan, and Deputy Director Zachary Olmstead. The group meets regularly and is working on engagement with marginalized communities, streamlining state funding programs, and will provide edits to their charge in the updated Action Plan. Next, Cal ICH will form the Racial Equity Working Group and the Youth and Young Adults Working Group.

Cal ICH oversees the implementation and monitoring of California's Housing First regulations. Cal ICH is analyzing Housing First data from 35 programs across eight departments and will provide a summary at the next council meeting.

Cal ICH, partnered with UC Berkeley Turner Center and UCSF Goldman School, is working on a Landscape Assessment due to the legislature at the end of this year. It attempts to provide the types of programs and services funded that exist across California in program years 2018 through 2021. Most conversations of programs are based on partial information and the assessment will provide more robust data. A [Landscape Analysis webpage](#) is available on the Council website for more information. A progress report is due later this year.

The next council meeting is on September 1<sup>st</sup>. At the meeting, there will be a progress report of the HHAP Round 3 Local Homelessness Action Plan approvals, the updated version of the Statewide Action Plan for Preventing and Ending Homelessness, and more Cal ICH progress updates. The last scheduled meeting of 2022 is on November 10<sup>th</sup>.

## **IX. Public Comments**

### *Public Comment:*

- Steve McNally, Orange County Behavioral Advisory Board: Liked the conversation within the Council and appreciates that the public can listen in. Asked for stronger messaging from the council to local communities. The counties of Los Angeles, Orange County, Riverside, and San Bernardino share a TV market, radio market, and newspaper market that can be used. Better coordination, engagement, and empowerment of citizens to support the council's efforts would be powerful.
- Gerry La Londe-Berg, Board Member of Share Sonoma County: Agreed with Mr. McNally's comment. There are 17 organizations in California that home match and represent thousands of empty bedrooms. He calls for attention to Cal AIM and Homekey as opportunities for shared housing and case management funding as a key resource in the future.
- Joe Coletti, Urban Initiatives: By finishing his comment by saying that they encourage the Council to consider adding mortality prevention and weave a HER team approach to street outreach and street medicine for women to the unprecedented Action Plan and make "HER story" and history.

## **X. Final Remarks and Adjournment**

On behalf of Secretary Ghaly and herself, Secretary Castro Ramírez thanked members of the public for providing insightful comments and the work they do every day. They are encouraged by the adoption of the framework to evaluate the Local Homelessness Action Plan and the adoption to continue amending the Action Plan to Prevent and End Homelessness.

The meeting was adjourned at 3:58 p.m.