



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

September 1, 2022
2:00pm

Teleconference

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 the California Business, Consumer Services and Housing Agency
- Dr. Mark Ghaly, Council Co-Chair and Secretary of the California Health and Human Services Agency
- Kathleen Allison, Secretary of the California Department of Corrections and Rehabilitation
- Tomás J. Aragón, State Public Health Officer and Director of the California Department of Public Health
- Stephanie Clendenin, Director of the 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 the California Department of Aging
- Mark Ghilarducci, Director of the California Governor's Office of Emergency Services (*Not present at the initial roll call*)
- Kim Johnson, Director of the California Department of Social Services
- Tiena Johnson Hall, Executive Director of the California Housing Finance Agency
- Veronica Lewis, Director of Homeless Outreach Program Integrated Care System (HOPICS)
- Tomiquia Moss, Founder and Chief Executive of All Home
- Mindi Parsons, Administrator of Integrated Student Support and Programs Office, California Department of Education
- Sandra Hamameh, Designee for Tim Rainey, Executive Director of the California Workforce Development Board

- Nancee Robles, Executive Director of the California Tax Credit Allocation Committee
- Rebecca Ruan-O'Shaughnessy, Vice Chancellor for Educational Services, California Community Colleges Chancellor's Office
- Tony Tavares, Director of the California Department of Transportation
- Gustavo Velasquez, Director of the California Department of Housing and Community Development
- Ana Action, Designee for Joe Xavier, Director of the California Department of Rehabilitation

II. Council Co-Chair Opening Remarks

Co-chair and BCSH Secretary Lourdes Castro Ramírez opened remarks by welcoming new Council Member, Tony Tavares, Director of Caltrans. She recognized the recently passed budget for the new fiscal year, which includes \$11.2 billion in funding for homelessness over multiple years and the collective responsibility to use funding efficiently. Within previous efforts, the state and HCD has successfully funding over 200 Homekey projects (over 12,500 units) in just under 2 years.

She noted that the council will discuss the updated Action Plan for Preventing and Ending Homelessness during this meeting, which reflects solutions to homelessness that intersect housing and health services. She wants to strengthen cross-collaboration and projects with council member departments, such as the 3-day Pilot of "Mobile Homeless Connect" in Los Angeles. Herself, Dr. Ghaly, and several departments represented on the council collaborated to test the ability of enrolling people experiencing unsheltered homelessness in state and county benefits through a mobile process. It is important that the state does everything to minimize barriers and ensure individuals have access to the basic documents needed apply to affordable housing options. Over three days, the pilot served over 100 clients across multiple encampments.

Lastly, Co-Chair Castro Ramírez mentioned that she and Co-Chair Ghaly have selected 31 members to serve on the Cal ICH Advisory Committee, a statutory Committee to provide input and recommendations to the Council. She and Dr. Ghaly strived to include representation of people with lived expertise and other homelessness experts.

Dr. Ghaly continued opening remarks, recognizing the success of the Pilot event in Los Angeles to bring services closer to people. Their collective effort is to allow local partners to recognize the needs of people experiencing homelessness and that contracts with local partners have clear intentions, services, and focus on people experiencing homelessness. These events often open the door for people – few will get deep services and others will get a taste and come back. It serves as a reminder that that the investments that are discussed go down to the local level and make real differences for individuals.

The legislature passed the Care Act before the end of their session to create new pathways for people with severe mental health challenges on the streets who seek services. This provides an opportunity to create an implementation plan and think deeply about the use of state resources to make the Act meaningful for individuals.

Lastly, Co-Chair Ghaly reminded the council of their responsibility to keep unsheltered individuals safe and informed during the current heat wave.

III. BCSH/CalHHS Deputy Secretary Updates

BCSH Deputy Secretary for Homelessness, Dhakshike Wickrema, provided context for the development in the Mobile Homeless Connect Pilot. There were four state leaders involved in high-level planning: BCSH Secretary Castro Ramirez, CalHHS Secretary Ghaly, CalSTA Secretary Toks Omishakin, and CalOES Director Ghilarducci. The idea was conceived in June and each state partner provided their skills to carry out the project. They also partnered with their LA County counterparts, and multiple departments were able to deputize nonprofits into the field to serve people experiencing homelessness, a strategy that can be replicated in the future. They also partnered with three community-based nonprofits, HOPICS, People Concern, and Homeless Health Care LA, to help select five locations for the Pilot as they have had long-term relationship with encampments. This pilot did two things: it reduced barriers to apply for housing and expanded access to community-based services to keep people housed and thrive.

CalHHS Deputy Secretary for Policy and Strategic Planning, Corrin Buchanan, provided an update on the California Statewide Survey on people experiencing homelessness. CalHHS and the UCSF Benioff Homelessness and Housing Initiative have collaborated on a person-level survey that aims to inform state policy, understand barriers to exiting homelessness and obtaining housing, and understand the impact of the pandemic on homelessness across the state. The survey includes 4 largely urban counties, 2 semi-urban counties, and 2 largely rural counties and is selecting a representative sample of people with specific experiences of homelessness. The survey is expected to conclude before Thanksgiving, with findings to be shared by the end of 2023. Deputy Secretary Buchanan also noted recent awards made through the CDSS's Community Care Expansion Program – \$47 million (of the \$570 million allocated) was awarded across five organizations to create more residential care options for seniors and adults with disabilities experiencing or at risk of homelessness. There is also an additional \$195 million in funding for counties to preserve their existing licenses for adult and senior care settings in their communities.

IV. Consent Calendar

There was one item on the Consent Calendar: [Adoption of the Meeting Summary from the May 31, 2022, Council Meeting.](#)

- No Council Members comments were made on this item.

Public Comment:

- ❖ Erin Casey: Currently living in a shelter situation. Feels like the state has a good plan but lacks enforcement.

The council voted to approve the consent calendar, with 13 members approving, 6 members abstaining and 1 member not present.

V. Resolution: Individuals with Lived Expertise in Shared State Work

Cal ICH Executive Officer, Julie Lo, presented the background on this topic. Earlier this year, the Council Members participated in a survey, which showed that engaging with people with

lived expertise was a priority topic. Similarly, inclusion of people with lived expertise is also a priority nationally and in local communities. This discussion will explore the role of the Interagency Council in engaging people with lived expertise and improving the state's ability to serve people experiencing homelessness.

In discussing this topic, the Council should consider structural racism and homelessness and pursue this topic as a pathway towards racial equity, and consider the principles outlined in the Action Plan, one of which is valuing the lived expertise. Many departments have their own plans for the inclusion of people with lived experiences of homelessness. Cal ICH plans to expand this with their new Advisory Board, and upcoming Lived Experience Advisory Board and working groups.

The Council discussed the ways in which their Department and Agency utilize people with lived expertise of homelessness in their work.

- Council Member Johnson: Wants to emphasize the critical importance of using voices of those with lived expertise to know what is not working for local-level operations and supports to allow people to meet their housing goals. DSS uses the input of people with lived expertise for their policy design and program redesign conversations and in their meetings and interactions, DSS is intentional about using plain language to allow people to fully participate.
- Council Member Lewis: There is engagement at different levels. When people are asked to engage, it is usually for input on work where there is little opportunity for changes as opposed to engagement when designing projects. Departments should get input before moving forward with a decision. It is also important to set a framework that allows for input to be given at different levels, including the local level.
- Council Member Ruan-O'Shaughnessy: Commented that every department should understand who they're serving. All programs will need to come together to reevaluate and restructure their programs to be equitable for all people. If the people served express or show dissatisfaction of the services, then departments should reevaluate the structure of their programs in ways that allow them to lead the work.
- Council Member Moss: It is important to think about not only getting feedback, but how government can move away from bureaucratic systems to ensure input is incorporated into services. Wants to work on how to enable streamlining and efficiency ensure they deliver what the people ask of them and ensure government entities incorporate their perspectives in policies when implementation is difficult to deliver.
- Council Member Tavares: Praised the Mobile Homeless Connect program for bringing state agencies together. Through the Clean California Program, Caltrans has successfully hosted hiring events for formally incarcerated or formally unhoused. In addition to providing pathways to employment, Caltrans is promoting their Emergency Shelter Lease program to lease airspace property and excess lands to cities and counties at a nominal cost and allow development of tiny homes and navigation centers.
- Council Member DeMarois: The department of aging is working on their engagement with individuals in local communities, which had revealed gaps in making services known to people experiencing homelessness. CDA is kicking off their Master Plan on Aging with a video, which includes the perspectives of formerly homeless or currently unhoused community members.

- Council Member Cooper: DHCS is developing a consumer advisory committee and looking to recruit people with lived experience in homelessness, and it is critical for others to include this perspective in their advisory boards. DHCS is received a budget approval to open a leadership position and is looking to recruit an individual with experience working with individuals experiencing homelessness and housing to ensure communities are appropriately engaged to inform their policies. Lastly, she reiterated previous comments, saying that the biggest challenge will be making actional steps to incorporate feedback.
- Representative Acton, appearing for Council Member Xavier: The Department of Rehabilitation has multiple different consumer advisory bodies. Emphasized the importance of ensuring that these advisory bodies are representative through diversity and a variety of experiences on abilities, ages, and regions, but are also looking to include people with different housing status. Working on changes to communicate values on inclusion and representation and providing a space for candidates to say what they can bring.
- Council Member Parsons: In the Department of Education, programs and projects are structured around the voices of the youth. The state Superintendent of Public Instruction put together a Youth Advisory Council that focuses on equitable change. The Council provides input to the State Superintendents and policymakers on educational-related issues. The conference also includes a youth panel that provides guidance to the audience or homeless liaisons. Lastly CDE changed expectations for grantees and selected three homeless education technical assistance providers and required our grantees to partner with the community-based organization that works directly with families experiencing homelessness.
- Council Member Velasquez: Wants to ensure that whenever people with lived experience are engaged in policy making, that it translates to actual change. Feedback from people with lived experience produce tangible changes but is difficult to keep track. Hopes to use this as an opportunity to go back and check on progress in changes in the department.

VI. 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. There are new activities embedded throughout all the action areas within the plan. Cal ICH staff met with senior staff from nearly all departments to nail down actions.

The original plan was adopted in March of 2021, which covers 3 fiscal years. This is the third-year update to a 3-year plan. In April and May, two open public virtual input sessions were held and roughly 100 people attended both those sessions. The activities describe a continuum of services ranging from strengthening the full system to serving the health and wellness needs of people, experiencing unsheltered homelessness, interim shelter, permanent housing, and of course preventing homelessness in the first place.

Five Action Areas that are intended to cover the full range of the activities that are needed to prevent and end homelessness and cover the full range of the ways that the State is providing leadership in these areas. There are 15 objectives aligned across these 5 Action Areas and detailed activities, some of which are collaborative across agencies and departments, and some of which are the sole responsibility of specific agencies and departments.

- The Action Area 1 is around strengthening the systems in place to prevent and end homelessness. The objectives focus on pursuing racial equity guided by people with lived expertise. The focus on supporting and cross-sector communication is to advance education and employment opportunities for people experiencing homelessness and exiting homelessness. The objective in action area 1 also focuses on disaster preparedness, public health preparedness, and responses to be more inclusive of the needs of people experiencing homelessness. Action area 1 also touches upon communications and educational activities focused on advancing the understanding of best practices.
- Action Area 2 is around addressing the needs of people while they are experiencing unsheltered homelessness. The goal in action area 2 is not for people to remain unsheltered, but not to overlook the crisis needs that people have while they are unsheltered. Action area 2 calls on the State to mobilize activities, to connect unsheltered people to state-funded programs and services more effectively.
- Action Area 3 focuses on safe and effective sheltering and interim housing opportunities to expand the opportunities for people to have access to shelter or interim housing. This action area also discusses how health and services intertwine with addressing people's needs while they're on the path to permanent housing.
- Action Area 4 discusses implementing Housing First strategies and other best practices for rehousing people with few barriers. Another objective in Action Area 4 focuses on expanding the supply of affordable and supportive housing opportunities, including the expansion of services that people need for stability and success. And then the third objective in action area 4 focuses on various forms of rental assistance of short-term to long term rental assistance that can be the interventions that end people's homelessness.
- Action Area 5 focuses on preventing Californians from experiencing the homelessness and focusing on upstream activities by addressing the housing and services needs that people have while engaging with state-funded programs and services. This also includes being attentive to the risks of homelessness people experience as they exit some programs and services, including justice settings, health settings, and foster care settings. Action Area 5 other goal is to focus on targeted interventions, prevention, and diversion strategies.

The opening content for the plan was refined by including an executive summary, background information about Pilot Cal ICH, and the history of the plan. There is also a walk-through of the plan's action areas, objectives, time frames, key principles, and practices. The information provides advisory structures and working groups, focuses on data regarding homelessness and access to services in California, and deals with how the State is defining and measuring progress for the implementation of the plan.

The language, key principles, and practices were all refined, including adding a more direct focus on trauma-informed care and exploring the significance of aligning health, housing, and homeless strategies. There is a walkthrough Council's advisory committee and the planned creation of a linked experience Advisory Board, and updated HDIS system data on homelessness in California.

The plan now includes more than 150 activities which align with the action areas and the objectives. Of the 150 activities, 80 include information on the Council, the California Workforce Development Board, the Department of Aging, the Department of Public Health, the Department

of State Hospitals, and the Department of Rehabilitation. The activities include a performance measure for every activity and an implementation plan.

Within the plan, there's continued implementation of CalAIM resources and reforms. There's the implementation of the housing and homelessness incentive program. There are many more public health strategies focused on the needs of people experiencing homelessness as efforts to create standards and care protocols for unsheltered people and people who are in shelters. There is an expansion of the activities identified around preventing experiences of homelessness, like Objective 14, which focuses on the upstream activities as people exit or receive services from state-funded settings and systems.

- Council Member Johnson: Commented on the departments progress in integrating additional social service programs for specific populations. He requests to look at the intersections of housing and the integration of health. Council Member requests to continue to uplift the integration of social services and human services for individuals and families
- Council Member Moss: Commented on having a long-term plan and collectively putting resources together so that every Council respond to each of those action items within their purview.
- Co-Chair Castro Ramírez: Wants to emphasize looking at future iterations of the Action Plan and to integrate the goals, plans, and priorities. Council highlighted the importance of aligning the state plan with the local homelessness action plans.
- Council Member Clendenin: Wants to emphasize how there's a lack of connection with different organizations. Leadership should explore how to bridge connections with different organizations in their community.

Public Comment:

- ❖ Alex Clark: Wants clarity on who decided to use the term “lived expertise”. He highlighted the term as offensive and continues the stigmatization of people experiencing homelessness.
- ❖ Peggy Lee Kennedy: Has lived experience and runs a free legal clinic for any unhoused people who are experiencing homelessness and is victim of sweeps. With her experience, she is requesting for the state and organizations to protect and create more housing options.
- ❖ Carol Wilkins: Is pleased to see the intersections of the sectors involved in health and human services and homelessness and housing strategies and resources in many of the activities. She wants clarification on how cross-sector alignment will play its role resources and strategies for behavioral health, and bridge housing.
- ❖ William Norwood: Shared his experience when he first met the Council in 2017 and his personal experiences of how difficult it's to find any type of housing. He proposed to the council to send out a survey to social services entities.
- ❖ Jonathan Russell: Is the Chief Strategy and Impact Officer for Bay Area Community Services. The Council needs to prioritize building more and types of affordable housing. Give Home Key and Scatter Site Housing projects the priority to continue to create opportunities for affordable housing, since it has been successful. Russell hopes to see more integration between housing and social and behavioral health.

The council voted to approve the Action Plan, with 18 members approving and 2 members not present.

VII. Federal Updates

Helene Schneider, Senior Regional Advisor, from the US Interagency Council on Homelessness provided updates. The US ICH is in the final stages of the new Federal Strategic Plan. The 2020 Point-In-Time count showed more people experiencing unsheltered homelessness than sheltered on the West Coast and in California. Many communities are grappling with that rise in unsheltered homelessness and the different dynamics of community conversations. So, USICH partnered with federal entities to put together a series of guidance found on the USICH website discussing unsheltered homelessness throughout the country.

The principles posted on the USICH website provide local communities and local governments to plan a long-term strategy for addressing encampments. The website also includes information on how to move people into shelters or housing from an encampment, the systems and policies in place, preventative measures, and non-criminalization advocacy measures.

Two major NOFOs and Notice of Funding Opportunities from HUD are coming up soon. One NOFO addresses unsheltered, homeless, and encampments. Federal funds are allocated to communities with high unsheltered homelessness and rural homelessness. The deadline for this NOFO is October 20th.

The general and annual CoC NOFO deadline is September 30th. This NOFO is to acknowledge all the leaders throughout the state CoCs that are providing outreach services. The funds are expanding to tribal agencies and collaborative applicants. HUDs website gives details of tips and answers to fill out the NOFO.

VIII. Cal ICH Staff Updates

The Round 3 Homeless and Housing Prevention Program (HHAP 3). HHAP 3 requires a robust application process that includes local homelessness, an action plan, and performance goals intending to foster greater accountability, greater collaboration across jurisdictions, regional coordination, and improving health and housing outcomes for people experiencing homelessness. The local Action Plan is one of the first to establish specific measurable performance tools and equity measures to work toward serving people experiencing homelessness.

- Between CoCs, counties, and cities, 114 jurisdictions are eligible for HHAP. Out of 114 jurisdictions, 75 applications have been received, which reflects the number of jurisdictions that chose to apply jointly, the CoCs, counties, and cities that overlap in jurisdictions, and have worked together to submit one unified application. Cal ICH conducted an individualized conversation with the 75 applicants and the joint jurisdictions that apply within each application ahead of the June 30th statutory deadline to submit. Based on those meetings, every application came in by the statutory deadline. Cal ICH is about two-thirds of reviewing applications, determining where amendments may be needed, and then, by the end of September, an additional statutory deadline will be concluded. 70 out of the 75 applications needed a specific amendment. Many of those are technical amendments and some are more robust needs for support and assistance. As of August 16th, Cal ICH staff has conducted an individualized engagement with 36 of the 70 applicants. The type and complexity of support vary

widely across jurisdictions, just as each jurisdiction is diverse with its own unique local need performance goals, data, etcetera. At the next Council meeting, Cal ICH will be reporting in-depth information after that September 28th deadline.

Cal ICH launched the first Tribal Grant:

- Cal ICH received 16 applications from different tribes.
- All Tribal funds will be fully utilized.
- Cal ICH anticipates announcing the awards in September.

Since the last Council meeting, Cal ICH received 32 applications and awarded 10 grants for the Family Challenge Grant.

- The Grant is to fund a variety of projects in diverse entities
- The NIA was released on June 24, 2022.

The Governors added a significant amount of funds to the 22-23 budget for the Encampment Resolution Fund.

- Cal ICH working to fund viable unfunded projects from last year and will start accepting applications for new grants by December.

The Interagency Council is working towards implementing and sustaining the State Funding Working Group.

- Continues to make progress on Action Plan priorities
- Created three subgroups:
 - Ensuring financial resources, technical assistance and guidance reaches under resources communities.
 - Creating greater alignment across state funding programs
 - Providing guidance on he uses, targeting, and deployment of state funding

Cal ICH is in their pre-implementation phases of the Racial Equity Working Group.

- The team had their first meeting with a smaller set of local experts to plan and recruit and to implement that racial equity working group.

The Housing First report is a result of a process that Cal ICH staff have led earlier this year.

- Council members and the members of the public should expect a summarized report of where state funded housing and homelessness programs are, in relation to implementing the regulation around the state Housing First rules and regulations.

Cal ICH submitted a summary to the legislature of where they are at for the Statewide Homelessness Landscape Assessment.

- Fiscal analysis portion completed for all state-funded, administered, and implemented programs aimed at serving people at risk of or experiencing homelessness.

IX. Public Comments

- ❖ Andy Lomeli: Asked for the status of the working groups.

X. Final Remarks and Adjournment

On behalf of Secretary Ghaly and herself, Secretary Castro Ramírez thanked members for providing insightful comments and the work they do every day.

The meeting was adjourned at 4:28 p.m.