



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

November 10, 2022

3:00 pm

Teleconference

I. Call to Order and Roll Call

Giselle Sanchez 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
- Lisa Mangat, Designee for Mark Ghilarducci, Director of the California Governor's Office of Emergency Services
- Vito Imbasciani, Director of California Veterans Affairs
- 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
- 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
- Alisa Becerra, Designee for Tony Tavares, Director of the California Department of Transportation.

- Zach Olmstead, Designee for Gustavo Velasquez, Director of the California Department of Housing and Community Development
- Joe Xavier, Director of the California Department of Rehabilitation

Council Member Tim Rainey, CWDB, was absent and did not provide a designee. Karmina Barrales represented Council Member William McGee, CDE, as a non-voting representative.

II. Council Co-Chair Opening Remarks

Co-Chair and BCSH Secretary Lourdes Castro Ramírez opened remarks by welcoming and thanking the Statewide Interagency Council on Homelessness and the Advisory Committee. At the Committee's first meeting, she and Secretary Ghaly heard each member's vision to address homelessness. Collectively, the group shared common themes, like a commitment to inclusion, advancing trauma-informed care, and focusing on creating more affordable housing.

She recognized that two Council members serve as community representatives with on-the-ground expertise, Miss Veronica Lewis and Miss Tomiquia Moss. They remind everyone of the importance of creating spaces for meaningful input on program design and being thoughtful as the State leads initiatives.

She also lifted the work of HCD and Cal HFA. These departments have focus on preserving affordable housing and expanding housing solutions. This summer, Homekey celebrated its 2nd anniversary and a milestone of having 12,500 Homekey units funded through HCD. Co-Chair Castro Ramírez thanked the Governor, the legislature, local partners, and the HCD team for this achievement. These units will provide critical support, affordable homes for decades to come, and homes that offer dignity and stability.

Co-Chair Castro Ramírez also provided updates on the recent action concerning the local homelessness action plans submitted to the BCSH Homeless Housing, Assistance and Prevention (HHAP) Grant Team. She addressed the Governors' concerns about the proposed statewide goals for 2024. Under her purview, the BCSH HHAP team continues to work closely with each jurisdiction to receive additional information regarding their outcome goals to reduce unsheltered homelessness and increase exits into permanent housing. She understands how vital these resources are for communities to ensure that they can continue to deliver the services and support and the connections to housing.

Lastly, she ends her opening remarks by looking forward to seeing what the Council can accomplish with the support of the Advisory Committee and many partners in 2023.

Dr. Ghaly continued opening remarks by appreciating and welcoming the Council members and the Advisory Committee. He recognized the success of Cal AIM, its associated programs, and the Housing and Homelessness Incentive Program that brought more resources to the State to solve and end homelessness.

Lastly, Co-Chair Ghaly looks forward to seeing more of the Advisory Committee's input and real-life experience and having the Council draw on their expertise.

Deputy Secretary of Homelessness Dhakshike Wickrema provided remarks to acknowledge the work of Julie Lo, former Executive Officer of Cal ICH, who had transitioned to another position. She thanked Julie for her leadership and drive to end homelessness over the last two years.

III. Consent Calendar

There was one item on the Consent Calendar: [Adoption of the Meeting Summary from the September 1, 2022, Council Meeting](#)

- No Council Members comments were made on this item.

Public Comment: No comments were made on this time.

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

IV. Advisory Committee Introduction

Director of Statewide Policy, Cody Zeger, presented the background on this topic. The Co-Chairs recently appointed 31 experts on homelessness from across the State to the newly formed Cal ICH Advisory Committee. The Committee had its first meeting in October, where members introduced themselves.

Cal ICH was established as the Homeless, Coordinating, and Financing Council through Senate Bill 1380 in 2017. This first version of the Council laid the groundwork for deep coordination across the state entities working to address homelessness. In 2021, Governor Newsom signed Assembly Bill 1220, which renamed and restructured the Council to the California Interagency Council on Homelessness. Under AB 1220, the Council shall regularly seek advice and meet with the Advisory Committee. The newly formed Advisory Committee represents people from various backgrounds and expertise on issues related to homelessness, including people with lived experience of homelessness. The Committee's core role is to advise and make recommendations on matters related to program responsibilities or activities, including those within member departments and agencies. The next step for the Advisory Committee is to determine what work they would like to prioritize for the year.

The Action Plan was initially adopted in March 2021 and guided by the vision of making homelessness in California a rare, brief, and one-time experience. The plan calls for more outstanding leadership from the State, purposeful action, oriented coordination and alignment, and stronger collaborative partnerships with state departments and local communities. The Council adopted an updated plan in September 2022 that reflects more relevant activities for this fiscal year. The updated planning includes more than 150 activities across Council member departments and agencies, each with its performance method, measures, and timeframes. Cal ICH staff report on progress towards these performance goals each year. The first report was released last November, with another one coming toward the end of 2022. While the Council does not have direct oversight over all the work listed in the Action Plan, it is responsible for ensuring that the collective work is coordinated and effective.

State Council members discussed what types of guidance they hoped to get from this group of experts to help move the collective work. Council members provided their response to the question; what kinds of advice might they call upon these Committee members?

Secretary Castro-Ramírez: Is interested in hearing from the Advisory Committee members on how state programs can better align with local efforts or where state programs are missing opportunities better aligned or impactful at the local level.

Secretary Ghaly: Emphasized how much he values real-life experience involvement in the Advisory Committee. He believes that having this input and real-life expertise will push all leadership to further the goals of the Action Plan.

Council Member Lewis: Wants to see the Committee address the system disconnect across the departments, especially for agencies represented by Cal ICH. She hopes to see resolutions to conflicting policies.

Representative Barrales: Highlighted how the Department of Education has contributed to the Action Plan and is excited to hear Committee mentioning the Action Plan Area 1 as an interest.

Council Member Ruan-O'Shaughnessy: Is excited to see how the Advisory Committee will create conversations on how to help anyone experiencing homelessness. They also want to see the Committee bring evidence-based interventions and practices to the state departments.

Council Member DeMarois: Commented on the Advisory's credentials, expertise, and experience. She's impressed by how the Advisory represents a cross-section of backgrounds. She wishes to see success stories and examples that the Council can use or highlight for future meetings or discussions.

Council Member Moss: Wants the Committee to introduce creative resources and strategies that the Council can use around homelessness and housing security issues. She hopes to have the Advisory Committee hold the vision for a collective agenda when trying to solve on-the-ground problems.

Representative Olmstead: He is asking the Advisory to bring up which programs they see can connect and create more impact.

Council Member Lewis: Invites the Advisory Committee to demonstrate to the Council how policies in place have translated over to their programs or the frontlines of homelessness.

V. Interagency Coordination: California Advancing and Innovating Medi-Cal (CalAIM) and Housing and Homelessness Incentive Program

Co-Chair Ghaly introduced Jacey Cooper, the State's Medi-Caid Director and Cal ICH Council Member, to present on the work being done to transform programs into a system that is able to connect with the various other departments and programs to cover the social drivers of health, like housing and homelessness, connection to the justice system, the child welfare system, and many more. He stressed that it is up to the Council to create linkages to other programs.

Director Cooper begins the presentation with an overview of CalAIM, a multi-year initiative that covers physical health, behavioral health, dental programs, and strategies for long-term services and supports. CalAIM's goal is to build a full Continuum of Care for all Medi-Cal beneficiaries and since the expansion of Medi-Cal by ADA, that Continuum is missing for a lot of adults, especially for those experiencing homelessness. CalAIM is focused on improving health outcomes while addressing the social drivers that may impact a person's ability to be healthy.

Medi-Caid is coming into the space of housing and homelessness because social economic factors and physical environments have a big impact on people's health and the ability to be healthy. Director Cooper shares that between 50% - 80% of a person's health is determined by socioeconomic factors and having only one unmet social need is associated with increased

rates of depression, diabetes, overuse, and no-show rates in clinics. She stated that a significant amount of spending is on 5% of enrollees who have the highest cost needs. For example, the population experiencing homelessness have higher rates of diabetes, hypertension, HIV and others that result in longer hospital stays, higher re-admission rates and more frequent emergency room visits. She stressed that unmet social needs can be more impactful for a person's ability to be healthy, so it is important to be intentional regarding what services we are providing.

Director Cooper also noted that addressing social determinants of health also improves equity, as various factors that disproportionately impact different parts of the population. The pandemic disproportionately impacted Californians of color, and food insecurity is highest among Hispanic/Latinos and African Americans compared to non-Hispanic white households in Los Angeles. She stressed the importance of using an equity lens to address these disparities and the intersection they have with health.

Director Cooper highlights two main components of CalAIM – Enhanced Care Management and Community Supports – which will change what has historically been done with Medi-Cal. Enhanced Care Management (ECM) focuses on those with the most serious and complex needs who need additional support and engagement to navigate multiple delivery systems within the Medi-Cal program. ECM is meant to have one person coordinating with other care and case managers to lift that burden from the individual. The adult program went live in January 2022 in different counties and then went statewide July 2022. In July 2023, the children, youth and families experiencing homelessness program will be launched, which allows for a broader definition of homelessness to be used, including more types of housing instability. More information on the eligibility criteria can be found on the DHCS website.

Director Cooper also explains that Community Supports (CS) are meant to be medically appropriate cost-effective alternatives to other services someone may receive. There are 14 types of Community Supports. The intersection of these programs can potentially reduce hospitalization, skilled nursing facility admission, emergency department use, and can be preventative or an immediate replacement of other services. The Community Supports are an effort to provide wrap-around services that intersect with someone's health. For example, CS can cover housing transition and navigation services, housing deposits, housing tenancy and sustaining services to get people into homes and help them stay there. Recovery housing and recuperative care are also covered under CS, which will help those who need additional time to recover but do not have a home. This can be used in combination with short-term post hospitalization housing for up to 6 months with the goal of getting connected to housing. CS can support medically supported foods, nutrition services, and day habilitation – a place where people can get help with socialization, adaptation, and other skills to help them be successful in their environment.

Director Cooper explained which incentives are being offered to help make these changes. Many new providers are unfamiliar with Medi-Cal billing so incentivizing the partnership will help bridge that gap. There was also an intentionality when designing these incentives. For example, higher incentives are given to specific programs, approaches or models to focus on the African American community to address the disparities within the homeless population.

Director Cooper explained the new PATH (Providing Access and Transforming Health) program, a 1.8-billion-dollar investment in grants directly to community-based organizations, county

providers, and public hospital systems. These grants are meant to help build up infrastructure to hire staff, update medical records and allow providers to scale up services. A Technical Assistance Marketplace will also be implemented in 2023. There has also been an update to the Street Medicine Policies to allow easier and faster access to Medi-Cal. The updates also include the ability to bill for street medicine services – whether in encampments, shelters, or mobile units. Guidance was also released regarding managed care plans and street medicine providers to allow for primary care and maintained PPS rates. The Housing and Homelessness Incentive Program is an initiative to help connect local Continuums of Care to managed care plans and build those relationships. Managed care plans were required to work with their partners to submit a local homelessness plan and an investment plan detailing how they plan to utilize funds and meet bold goals.

Director Cooper commends California communities and their adoption of at least one housing focus community support in every county across the state, especially since it was voluntary. PATH funding received 231 applications for funding. In an effort to gather feedback, listening tours have been set up with providers across the state as well as with people experiencing homelessness. In the feedback that has been gathered so far, the biggest struggle is with connecting people to housing units, even those with a voucher – which will be a focus of the program moving forward utilizing state and federal resources. They are also working with the Federal government to provide justice-involved services directly in prisons, jails and juvenile facilities so they are already connected to Medi-Cal 90 days prior to their release and can begin linkages to behavioral health support, ECM, or Community Support and prevent when possible, being released into homelessness.

CalHHS Deputy Secretary for Policy and Strategic Planning, Corrin Buchanan, opened discussion by encouraging Council members to think about ways in which they can help advance the work within their own spheres of influence, how we can leverage CalAIM effectively within respective programs and highlight where the work is currently being done well and where there is room for improvement.

Council Member Ruan O-Shaughnessy: Explained that there is a narrative for higher education students to not be enrolled in Medi-Cal because they are not sick so don't think it necessary. Additionally, their health center is not focused on enrollment because of capacity issues. There are also challenges around the reimbursement process and navigating what it looks like to be able to leverage the funding. One concern is that students will not be prioritized for the services and wanting to be realistic around timeframes. There is also a need to understand what can and cannot be done and how to get things done for students in order to understand how to leverage funding and help fill in the gaps.

Director Cooper responded that there has been a push toward getting college students enrolled and there have been great partnerships that can be expanded in the future. Offered to connect with the Councilmember offline to go through what CalAIM can offer to students.

Representative Barrales: Expressed gratitude in seeing the McKinney-Vento youth included in the definitions because their living situations even if in shelter, are not conducive to their learning. Highlighted that the Department of Education is planning an in-person Statewide Education Conference for April and would be willing to connect offline with anyone who would like to help spread the word. Of the 330,000 students experiencing homelessness in 2019, only

15% qualified for HUD housing services. She noted that providing education, at any age, will help to change trajectories and the continual effects of homelessness.

Council Member DeMarois: Stated that all 33 area agencies on aging are eager to participate. They have programs that suit well with both Community Supports and Enhanced Care Management. A lot of providers worry they will not be eligible to provide the services through Medi-Cal programming, but with education and the partnership of CalHHS and DHCS, more people can stay informed.

Director Cooper responded and reminded everyone there are 5 rounds of funding, so encourage providers to apply, even if they missed the first round.

Council Member Lewis: Expressed excitement for the CalAIM funding and all the gaps it can help fill in service provision. There are places for improvement, for example the number of applications for ECM are low, but only because Community Supports are an easier lift than ECMs. There needs to be some coordination between billing systems, which can be different for all different types of providers and makes the process more cumbersome, especially for providers who now have to bill in multiple ways for the same services. There is also a disconnect between all the requirements and services that can be offered and how to stand up a program, so having some more education on how this looks in practical application may be helpful in boosting some of the application numbers. There is also a disconnect between the requirement needed to get the billing and what actually happens on the ground, because a lot of the leg work is not funded until you connect with someone, which affects an organization's capacity. She is excited that this can also pay for connections to housing for those who exiting institutions and excited in general for the good work CalAIM is doing.

Director Cooper responded and highlighted the tweaks that have been made to billing based on feedback sessions. There is also an effort underway to bring ECM education to localities and help build the connection in order to make PATH and ECM successful. She highlighted the TA Marketplace that is rolling out as another place people can access. Most importantly, the challenges around outreach have been one of the biggest pieces of feedback received and ECM teams are now able to bill for a community health worker to help with engagement.

Council Member Johnson: Expressed that it is encouraging to see that programs are not only fixing immediate problems but are set up for long-term support as well. Appreciated the intentional focus on youth and children in foster care.

Representative Olmstead: Expressed the difficulty with the housing pieces, but suggested a way to overcome those barriers is by making them project based (like vouchers) or tied to a specific unit, which in turn would encourage housing providers to set aside units. Asked if that could be allowable under CalAIM, which could also help the gap in operations funding for permanent supportive housing units.

Council Member Xavier: Highlighted the importance of integrating systems. He agreed with Council Member DeMarois about the importance of education as the new programs roll out because it is a different way of doing business for providers, especially for those who serve specialized populations. Additionally, he emphasized the idea that health is also determined by social factors and the need to consider how employment plays a part in this as well.

Co-Chair Castro Ramirez thanked Jacey for the presentation and moving forward the work of CalAIM and appreciated the effort to help integrate these systems. There have been great strides to help build up housing to programs through efforts like Homekey, but there is room to figure out how to connect these investments more strategically or with intention to the housing piece. A question to start thinking about is how to ensure that residents who are eligible get connected, and stay connected, to these supportive services.

VI. State and Federal Partner Updates

Cal ICH Grants Director, Victor Duron, presented on Cal ICH grant updates. HHAP Round 3 funding is a 1-billion-dollar one-time flexible funding block grant for Continuums of Care, counties and large cities. It emphasizes capacity building and relationship building as evidenced through its requirement to submit a Local Homelessness Action Plan through the process. Cal ICH staff worked diligently with each community that would be eligible to apply and encouraged those with overlapping geographies to submit a joint application. All applications have been received and will continue through the process.


48 million dollars was also allocated through the Encampment Resolution Fund (ERF) to 8 new projects throughout the state, projected to serve about 1,400 individuals experiencing unsheltered homelessness. Another round of ERF is slated to begin in December for about 250 million dollars. Cal ICH also recently finished reviewing applications for the first ever Tribal grant and is expected to make those funding announcements in mid-November. HHAP Round 4 applications have been released and Cal ICH staff will be working with communities to ensure they return those applications on time with all required documents.

Senior Regional Advisor, Helene Schneider, of the US Interagency Council on Homelessness (USICH) presented on federal updates. First, she congratulated both Santa Barbara County and Sacramento Steps Forward for being the latest communities to receive federal Youth Homelessness Demonstration Program (YHDP) awards. HUD also released an Emergency Housing Voucher utilization dashboard, which shows progress in real time. As of October 2022, 50% of Emergency Housing Vouchers (EHVs) have been leased up which includes about 3,500 people housed and another 3,600 in process. Since the 2020 Point-in-Time Count, veteran homelessness saw an 11% decline, which is a 55.3% decline since 2010. We can hopefully take what we learned from the impact on veteran homelessness and use it to move forward other populations as well.

VII. Public Comments

In the interest of time, Director Zeger requested all department send in their updates via the chat and they will be disseminated after the meeting.

Giselle Sanchez facilitated public comment:

-  **Kristin Aster, Director of Public Policy at The People Concern in Los Angeles County:** Expressed the need and desire to act with more urgency as homelessness in California is a crisis and should be treated as such. Expressed appreciation for the funding from the State to address the crisis, but voiced concern over the potential withholding of HHAP 3 funding as it is critical to maintaining services on the ground.

- ✚ **Advisory Committee Member Alex Visotzky with the National Alliance to End Homelessness (NAEH):** Thanked the Co-Chairs for recognizing the challenges people face in program implementation and thanked Cal ICH staff for their hard work in getting the funding out. He expressed concern in the withholding of HHAP dollars, that are already allocated, and can hurt providers on the ground. For greater accountability, there should be language in the statutory process with the legislature and emphasizing permanent housing within the programming.
- ✚ **Advisory Committee Member Joe Colletti with Urban Initiatives:** Thanked Director Zeger and Matthew Doherty for helping connect CDPH with 17 CoCs in Southern California. Stated more information and research should be done about mortality considering the thousands of people who died while homeless in the state.
- ✚ **Mari Castaldi, Senior Legislative Advocate on Homelessness at Housing California:** Gave kudos to the Council, Cal ICH and the Advisory Committee. She also expressed concern over the potential withholding of HHAP-3 funds to communities as it could have serious implications. Funds have been appropriated to programs that count on the funding to keep the doors open. It is the responsibility of the Council to break down silos. Recent investments are ending homelessness for thousands of Californians and more funding is needed to continue that work utilizing best practices.
- ✚ **Simone Tureck Lee, Director of Housing and Health with John Burton Advocates for Youth:** Appreciates the state investments being made for youth homelessness but also expressed concern over the postponement of HHAP-3 funding, particularly for youth. There is no other infrastructure to support youth with the exception of the nine California communities with YHDP. With HHAP funding, there has been a 25% reduction in youth homelessness since 2020 in 9 of the 13 largest cities. Pausing HHAP funding would only hurt those programs and youth experiencing homelessness.

VIII. Final Remarks and Adjournment

Co-Chair Castro Ramirez thanked Council members for the robust conversation and thanked Co-Chair Ghaly for ensuring the Council is advancing a common objective – to work together and bring our systems together to prevent and end homelessness. She thanked the Advisory Committee members for their insight on where the systems could use improvement. She thanked the public for remaining engaged with the Council.

Co-Chair Ghaly thanked everyone for their participation in the meeting and expressed excitement about the future work in the new year as they continue to bust down silos and work together to prevent and end homelessness.

Director Zeger adjourned the meeting at 5:13 pm.