

**SUMMARY FOR THE
ADVISORY COMMITTEE TO THE
CALIFORNIA INTERAGENCY COUNCIL ON HOMELESSNESS
FEBRUARY 6, 2023
Via videoconference and telephone**

I. Call to Order and Roll Call

Cody Zeger, Cal ICH Director of Statewide Policy, called the meeting to order at 11:05 am.

Advisory Committee Members Present:

- Ludmilla Bade, Homelessness Advocate
- Al Ballesteros, Chief Executive Officer, JWCH Institute
- Samantha Batko, Principal Research Associate, Urban Institute
- Doug Bond, President & Chief Executive Officer, Amity Foundation
- Carolyn Coleman, Executive Director, League of California Cities
- Joe Colletti, Chief Executive Officer, Hub for Urban Initiatives
- Charlene Dimas-Peinado, President & Chief Executive Officer, Wellnest Emotional Health & Wellness
- Vitka Eisen, President & Chief Executive Officer, HealthRIGHT 360
- Dora Gallo, President & Chief Executive Officer, A Community of Friends
- Jennifer Hark Dietz, Chief Executive Officer, PATH
- Eric Harris, Director of Public Policy, Disability Rights California
- Charles Helget, Executive Director, California Association of Veteran Service Agencies
- Janet Kelly, Founder & Executive Director, Sanctuary of Hope
- Jody Ketcheside, Deputy Chief Operating Officer, Turning Point of Central CA
- Margot Kushel, Director, UCSF Benioff Homelessness and Housing Initiative
- Philip Mangano, President & Chief Executive Officer, American Round Table to Abolish Homelessness (*not present at initial Roll Call*)
- Chris Martin, Policy Director, Housing California
- Moriah McGill, Housing Development Construction Manager, Northern Circle Indian Housing Authority
- Luana Murphy, President & Chief Executive Officer, Exodus Recovery
- Alisa Orduña, Founder & Executive Director, Florence Aliese Advancement Network
- Sharon Rapport, Director of California State Policy, Corporation for Supportive Housing
- Janey Rountree, Executive Director, California Policy Lab at UCLA
- Doug Shoemaker, President, Mercy Housing
- Sean Spear, President & Chief Executive Officer, Community HousingWorks
- Reba Stevens, Homelessness Advocate
- Megan Van Sant, Senior Program Manager, County of Mendocino
- Jevon Wilkes, Executive Director, California Coalition for Youth

- Roxanne Wilson, Homeless Services Director, County of Monterey
- Emilio Salas, Executive Director, Los Angeles County Development Authority

Advisory Committee Members Not Present:

- Miguel Santana, Chief Executive Officer, Weingart Foundation
- Alex Visotzky, Senior California Policy Fellow, National Alliance to End Homelessness

II. Consent Calendar

There was one item on the Consent Calendar: *Approval of October 17, 2022 Committee Meeting Summary*

- No Committee Members commented on the item

Public Comment: No comments were made at this time

The Committee voted to approve the Consent Calendar with 26 members voting yes, 1 member abstaining, and 4 members absent during the vote

III. Committee Structure and Logistics

As part of statute AB 1220, the Advisory Committee, created last year, is working to establish the best way to voice perspectives and priorities. The statute requires the Interagency Council to regularly seek guidance from and meet with the Advisory Committee, and for the Co-Chairs to appoint a diverse committee with representation of people from a variety of backgrounds and expertise on issues related to homelessness. The Advisory Committee's work must be aligned with the roles of the Interagency Council, focused on strengthening interagency activities and coordination in order to expand the impact of all state programs, resources and strategies around homelessness. The Council does not have oversight authority over every member agency, program or funding; thus, the role of this Committee is to consider the cross-agency work within state departments and to service providers and communities and form recommendations to inform the Council.

A Committee Charter will be created to define the structure and the logistics. The Charter will address Committee logistics such as time commitment, length of service, coordination of work with the Council and other advisory bodies, decision-making and recommendations, and the process for reporting back to the Council. It will also address how the committee comes to consensus and handles majority and minority opinions. Orit Kalman, a Senior Facilitator with Sac State Consensus and Collaboration Programs will be supporting the work of the Advisory Committee by helping with future discussions to create the Charter.

Megan Van Sant, Senior Program Manager, County of Mendocino: Commented that three-hour Zoom meetings can be challenging to stay engaged with and there may be ways to keep members engaged. Ms. Kalman responded that the group is going to collaborate online using Jamboard and try out different tools to explore effective ways for remote collaboration.

Ludmilla Bade, Homelessness Advocate: Commented that the group needs more than two hours to fully engage in conversations.

Roxanne Wilson, Homeless Services Director, County of Monterey: Commented that she agreed, two-hour quarterly meetings are not enough, considering the gravity of the topics discussed.

Doug Bond, President & Chief Executive Officer, Amity Foundation: Doug expressed that a challenge is how to be most effective with the group's time since all Committee members have busy schedules. A Chair or Co-Chair who works directly with Cal ICH staff would be helpful.

Alisa Orduña, Founder & Executive Director, Florence Aliese Advancement Network: Having some collaborative space to share and have exchanges in between meetings would be helpful. Ms. Kalman responded that the Jamboard is one example of having a collaborative space.

Dora Gallo, President & Chief Executive Officer, A Community of Friends: Seconded Alisa's comment.

Roxanne Wilson, Homeless Services Director, County of Monterey: Had a question about an expectation of traveling to and meeting in Sacramento now that now that the Covid emergency is sunsetting. If this is the case, Roxanne said the meeting should be more than two hours. Cody Zeger responded that meetings will be remote until at least June, but we do not yet know whether the Advisory Committee exemption will be extended.

Alisa Orduña, Founder & Executive Director, Florence Aliese Advancement Network: Sought clarity around members' opportunities to participate in various work groups and what options there are if the Committee wanted certain expertise to come together to form subcommittees. Additionally, Alisa wondered if there could be a communal platform to access information and share work between the meetings. Ms. Kalman responded with a reminder that advisory committees include public participation and encouraged members to share thoughts on that how to incorporate the public.

Philip Mangano, President & Chief Executive Officer, American Round Table to Abolish Homelessness: Asked Cal ICH staff to share best practices from establishing past groups.

Orit Kalman, Senior Facilitator with Sac State Consensus and Collaboration Programs: Ms. Kalman highlighted the need to work within Bagley-Keene boundaries while balancing the desire to be effective in working together through collaborative methods outside of the Advisory Committee Meetings.

IV. Action Plan for Preventing and Ending Homelessness – Local-Level Implementation

Director Zeger introduced the next agenda item, a discussion and feedback on the Action Plan for Preventing and Ending Homelessness in California. Feedback provided will be shared with the Council at their next meeting.

Director Zeger gave background on the Action Plan for Preventing and Ending Homelessness, including description of the Action Areas and Objectives. Originally adopted in March of 2021 and after an update last year, the Council adopted the most recent version of the Plan, which included updated activities and revision to objectives. The most robust update was to the

prevention action area. Each year Cal ICH staff report on progress made by activity and overall, with the most recent fiscal year's report coming soon.

Director Zeger explained the purpose of the exercise is to gather feedback and input on what implementation looks like on the ground and from people administering the programs.

Committee Members are asked to participate via an online platform, Google Jamboard, in the interest of time. The Jamboard can be found here:

https://www.bcsb.ca.gov/calich/meetings/materials/20230206_jamboard.pdf

Committee Member Rapport asked a question about what exactly they should be thinking of, and Director Zeger explained that they should give feedback on whether they have seen this type of work happening on the ground and what it looks like.

Director Zeger went through the Action Areas and gave a brief summary of what each area is trying to capture within the State's work. Action Area 1 focuses on system coordination between State departments and local communities, including voices with lived experience, centering racial equity within all State programs, disaster preparedness coordination, and public awareness of the State's strategies. Action Area 2 focuses on the needs of people living in unsheltered settings which includes strengthening outreach efforts and providing equitable access to state-supported programs such as health care services. Action Area 3 focuses on expanding the capacity of shelters and interim housing programs across the state, which includes addressing the health and service needs of people currently in interim housing or shelter. Action Area 4 focuses on expanding access to permanent housing, which includes provision of Housing First and other best practices for getting people into permanent and stable housing. Action Area 5 focuses on effectively preventing homelessness, which includes reducing entry into homelessness from institutional settings and effectively diverting people from becoming homeless in the first place.

Director Zeger provided instructions for the Jamboard and passed over to Orit Kalman for facilitation of the feedback. Ms. Kalman also asked for feedback on the process once finished to assess if this could be a tool used in future meetings. Committee Members were asked to provide input on the areas that are most relevant to their work or where they have a special focus. If Committee Members would like to elaborate on a sticky note, they would be able to unmute and provide more information or context. Committee Members participated in the Jamboard. Common themes after 10 minutes of input included: greater need for funding, especially for administrative costs and Homekey.

Committee Member Rountree volunteered to elaborate on her comment: Made a pitch for thinking about their roles and responsibilities differently, especially when thinking of the State's main role as a funder. Suggested that State programs should streamline the types of requirements that are outlined in grants and funding opportunities because each ask for something different and put a burden on providers and grantees to give different answers when they are working towards the same goals, especially since this group will have that first-hand knowledge of what works and doesn't work. Highlighted that funding does not often cover the administrative costs of administering these programs effectively and that this is not subject to only Action Area 1, but across all the Action Areas.

Several Committee Members agreed with Committee Member Rountree's comments.

Council Member Wilson agreed with the previous comments made about lack of administration funding and added about the success of the Homekey program. Elaborated on the issues of long-term sustainability for those programs and the lack of access for certain populations when also leveraging HUD funding. Added that the Emergency Housing Voucher program was successful in getting people housed but left out a large population of undocumented individuals.

In review of Action Area 2, **Committee Member Stevens** highlighted the work being done in Los Angeles under Mayor Bass. Highlighted that people are coming into shelter and are able to get housed within 30 days of being in shelter, but it took a state of emergency to break barriers for providers to have the resources necessary to get the work done. Shows that the work can be done and maybe it takes California declaring a state of emergency regarding homelessness to be able to make any progress.

Committee Member Colletti volunteered to elaborate on his comments: Highlighted legislation that is currently being passed or going through the legislature and the opportunity to create new implementation activities using that legislation. Highlighted AB 271 regarding the creation of homeless death review committees and SB914 regarding the safety of unaccompanied women. Elaborated that trauma-informed care should also include trauma-informed design of programs and that there are CoCs and counties doing the work that can be modeled.

Committee Member Bade elaborated on her comments: Highlighted that there are gaps in the safety and health needs of people not being met. Elaborated that the Housing First model can be problematic because often people are placed into housing and their service need are not addressed in order to help keep them stably housed. Highlighted that while there is funding for encampments, the definitions of encampment can vary from county to county, and many are focused on sweeping them away and not addressing their needs. Suggested having clean porta-potties and clean water and shelter would be helpful and not keep shuffling people along.

In review of Action Area 3, **Committee Member Rapport** highlighted the success of recent funding to create non-congregate shelter and get people off the streets. Highlighted that there are also very low rates of exits to permanent housing from shelter settings and the State could be more engaged in creating permanent solutions to ending homelessness to stop the bottleneck faced by shelter providers. Additionally, certain programs, like Roomkey, could have been more successful but many places had rules and were quick to exit people who broke a rule. Emphasized that the State should create a unified goal to reduce total number of people experiencing homelessness but currently there is too much inconsistency in its messaging.

Committee Member Dietz echoed Committee Member Rapport's comments, highlighting that the shelter system was not resourced well enough to help people thrive. Elaborated that mental health services are lacking in these settings but would be highly beneficial to weave into shelter settings. Additionally, stated a need to look into more non-congregate shelter as many congregate sites do not provide much privacy. Added that more permanent housing is also needed in order for shelters to be successful.

Committee Member Murphy highlighted a new program in Los Angeles that was recently started. Within two weeks, the program already has 150 individuals and capacity for 176 beds. The model is successful as it also weaves in mental health services and other types of services that focus on getting people into permanent housing quickly and could be replicated in other places.

In review of Action Area 4, **Committee Member Batko** highlighted the San Francisco Accelerator Fund and how it broke down barriers to getting permanent housing built and financed as a possible incentive mechanism for the State.

Committee Member Harris highlighted the need to make all parts of the system more accessible to all types of disabilities, because people will turn away from things that do not meet their accessibility needs.

Committee Member Stevens uplifted the need for more permanent housing and inquired as to how the State can help cities and especially epicenters of homelessness in creating much needed permanent housing.

In review of Action Area 5, **Committee Member Van Sant** highlighted the importance of prevention which was historically underfunded. Highlighted housing problem solving as a method of service that could be utilized to help come up with creative solutions to homelessness and empower people to choose their path. Additionally noted that simultaneously, there needs to be more permanent housing made available to help that be successful.

Committee Member Spear highlighted a San Diego program that has focused on diversion with creative solutions like short-term rental assistance for seniors which is less time consuming and can be done quickly. Highlighted that while programs are making progress, the demand currently outweighs the efforts being made.

Committee Member Ballesteros highlighted examples of people who have been displaced by the high rent burdens and only have a fixed income due to illness or being of advanced age. Additionally, he highlighted that wait lists for programs are very long and people don't have the time to wait so more low-cost solutions are needed to help them immediately.

Committee Member Wilkes highlighted how recent funding has helped reduce the number of youth experiencing homelessness and how helping the next generation can help stop the generational homelessness and chronic homelessness that people are currently going through. Highlighted the importance of empowerment and allowing them to drive their decisions in ending their homelessness. Encouraged increasing youth set-asides in order to help stop the flow of people falling into homelessness.

Ms. Kalman wrapped up the discussion and turned it to Cody for the next agenda item.

Director Zeger noted that the Committee will be engaged in further feedback regarding the Action Plan and the Council will receive the Committee's feedback at their next meeting. Ms. Kalman requested feedback regarding the process and Director Zeger will follow up through email for volunteers to present at the Council meeting.

V. Public Comment

General public comments made during this meeting:

- **Richard Perez:** Spoke of the Housing First Model and his concerns for people who may not be ready or able to maintain living on their own. He is concerned that Housing First could set some people up for failure by placing someone into housing without previously

addressing the reasons for their homelessness, including knowledge of life skills, such as paying rent.

- **Alice Lynn, member of the Sonoma County Lived Experience Advisory and Planning Board (LEAP):** Lynn voiced suggestions regarding planned encampments that are consistent with the U.N and international standards, such as fencing, security, food, clean water, cooking facilities, toileting etc. These requirements should not be used to limit or prevent establishment of an encampments or shelters, particularly after the recent weather events in California. Building simple wood structures could prevent suffering and avoidable health care costs. To ensure trauma informed planning and interactions, Lynn would like to see encampment clearing led by psychological and emotional health professionals and social workers, instead of law enforcement or housing professionals.
- **Jason Robison, Chief Program Officer for Share!:** Los Angeles County has three peer-run respites, one specifically for people experiencing homelessness. From March 2022 to December 2022, it provided services to 111 people and 80 of them were connected to permanent supportive housing (PSH). The Rand survey in Los Angeles looked at Hollywood, Venice, and Skid Row in Los Angeles and reported that over one-third of people responding in those areas said they were open to sober living and over 50 percent said they would live in shared housing, both of which are widely available and under-utilized in the LA service system.

VII. Final Remarks and Adjournment

Director Zeger thanked everyone for their time and adjourned the meeting at 5:16pm.