



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 ADVISORY COMMITTEE TO THE CALIFORNIA INTERAGENCY COUNCIL ON HOMELESSNESS

MAY 8, 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 1:08 pm.

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
- 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
- Chris Martin, Policy Director, Housing California
- Alisa Orduña, Founder & Executive Director, Florence Aliese Advancement Network
- Sharon Rapport, Director of California State Policy, Corporation for Supportive Housing
- Miguel Santana, Chief Executive Officer, Weingart Foundation
- 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

- Alex Visotzky, Senior California Policy Fellow, National Alliance to End Homelessness
- Jevon Wilkes, Executive Director, California Coalition for Youth

Advisory Committee Members Not Present:

- Carolyn Coleman, Executive Director, League of California Cities *(not present at initial Roll Call, arrived later in the meeting)*
- Philip Mangano, President & Chief Executive Officer, American Round Table to Abolish Homelessness
- Moriah McGill, Housing Development Construction Manager, Northern Circle Indian Housing Authority
- Luana Murphy, President & Chief Executive Officer, Exodus Recovery
- Janey Rountree, Executive Director, California Policy Lab at UCLA
- Emilio Salas, Executive Director, Los Angeles County Development Authority
- Roxanne Wilson, Homeless Services Director, County of Monterey *(not present at initial Roll Call, arrived later in the meeting)*

II. Consent Calendar

There was one item on the Consent Calendar: *Approval of February 6, 2023 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 24 members voting yes, 1 member abstaining, and 6 members absent during the vote.

III. Follow Up from February 27 Council Meeting

Committee Members volunteered to speak at the Council meeting on February 27th. The Advisory Committee provided feedback on examples of successful implementation activities within the Action Plan and areas for potential improvement or expansion. The summary of feedback shared with Council Members can be found on our [Council materials webpage](#). Roxanne Wilson shared feedback and other Committee members were also present to answer questions from the Council. The Council appreciated the feedback and their conversation centered around areas of future inquiry for the Advisory Committee. They are interested in identifying areas for increased State collaboration; identifying appropriate metrics to measure the success of collective work opportunities, and how to effectively support local implementation of State programs such as Cal AIM. These align very closely to the areas the Committee identified as wanting to explore, so this meeting will be dedicated to beginning those conversations.

Joe Colletti: There is an increasing amount of legislation being proposed and approved where the Council are to recommend goals, measures, and actions. It would be beneficial for the Advisory Committee to be able to weigh in on some of the legislation.

IV. Advisory Committee Charter Update

Orit Kalman, Facilitator with Sacramento State, presented an abridged version of the Charter to share key pieces for final feedback. The Committee Members were asked to share how their work and the work of the Advisory Committee can support the following principles: pursuing racial equity and justice, considering the full diversity of people, seeking and valuing expertise of people with lived experience, strengthening Housing First approaches, balancing crisis response and permanent solutions, trauma-informed care, person-centered services, and aligning health housing and homelessness strategies.

Conversations around membership have been ongoing, but it is agreed the first year should not count. We agreed to stagger two-year membership terms and then some could be reappointed by the Council co-chairs. The Committee expressed the importance of having this staggered membership, so there is overlap with current and new members.

Alisa Orduña: Appreciated the conversations and felt the essence, intention, range of ideas and expression had been captured in the Charter.

Sharon Rapport: Agreed with Ms. Orduña and added that departments should collaborate to achieve specific goals. Sharon expressed concern that two-year memberships may not be long enough to make a difference in this work.

- **Orit Kalman:** Clarified that the sentiment is that four meetings a year are not sufficient to do all the work members hope to do. While alternatives were considered, the Charter remained at four official meetings and then work is expected in between for those who have the time and capacity. Cal ICH is open to hearing all concerns or suggestions. For members who want to stay engaged and continue to contribute there is a possibility to be reappointed for a second term, which is respectful of those who can only commit to two years.

Ludmilla Bade: Agreed with her fellow committee members and thanked the group for their collaborative work. Lived experience representatives are a key element in moving forward on the path to end homelessness and providing feedback to the state. Ms. Bade asked if there was a process for stepping down from the Committee before the end of a term, replacing oneself, or recommending someone.

- **Orit Kalman:** Replied that the Cal ICH Council Co-Chairs appoint all members of the Committee. If there is a situation where something comes up in life, reach out to Cal ICH staff and we can talk about the process.

Alex Visotzky: On the gradients of agreement, it's been used that in a few different spaces, and it is a helpful tool. It's helpful in identifying when and where we disagree but allows the group to forward.

Reba Stevens: Expressed concerned about two years at eight meetings. While there will be reappointments, it's important for this body to be able to build a foundation and that would be tough in a two-year period.

Jennifer Hark Dietz: Suggested a 25 percent turnover rate to allow for new perspectives, while extending the term to longer than 2 years.

Ms. Kalman closed the section by reiterating the importance of State department and agency collaboration; clarifying the communication and information sharing within the Bagley-Keene Act; having an intermittent check-in to make sure that the Committee feels it is fulfilling its intended purpose; and following up on the terms based on the input provided. The Charter will be amended with considerations of the comments made in the discussion.

V. Advisory Committee Role in Action Plan Update

Cody Zeger, Cal ICH Director of Statewide Policy, presented on the process of updating the Statewide Action Plan for Preventing and Ending Homelessness, including receiving feedback from public input sessions. This an update to add a Fiscal Year to the current plan, with a structural plan anticipated in the following year.

Two high-level areas were presented to the Advisory Committee to be considered in the update to the Action Plan: (1) Implementation of funding and programs and (2) Performance measurement. A small group of Committee Members may choose to further these conversations and develop recommendations.

Mathew Doherty, Homelessness Consultant, provided the first prompt:

1. How could the State better align funding and/or coordinate across programs to improve their collective impact?

Comments were captured through a Jamboard: [Cal ICH Advisory Committee Jamboard Discussion](#)

Alisa Orduña: Recalled that Matthew Doherty created the Putting the Funding Pieces Together Guide on braiding several funding sources and feels that it should be updated to reflect new funding and to support communities participating in state funded projects for the first time. The document can provide the uses of funding and how to best braid those funds.

- **Matthew Doherty:** Responded that he and staff are working to update that guide and that committee members may weigh in offline to strengthen guidance and make it easier for others to follow recommendations.

Megan Van Sant: Found it interesting to see that they are not the only one who has to manage several funding sources with different reporting requirements and different ways of looking at data, which is inefficient at the local level. It may seem that the State is focused on outcomes as requirements are carved for funding sources, target population, and activities. However, communities end up carving programs into small pieces which loses the bigger picture and the intended flexibility because of the specific way the State wants data to be reported. This is related to performance measures as the state would like to amplify effective funding sources, but the strict reporting is counterproductive in allowing communities to have the flexibility to solve these problems in the ways that make sense to their community.

- **Matthew Doherty:** Reiterated that alignment and consistency of measures across programs is needed, and not for specific dollars invested but a range of programs.

Reba Stevens: Interested in understanding the provider's perspective because too often it is heard that there is not enough funding to support staff, especially as they move from different agencies and organizations for slightly better pay. Asked if anyone would speak on whether

retaining staff is an issue. Ms. Stevens also stated that, in regard to flexibility of funding, they should not be made to fund a specific intervention when that community needs a different intervention.

Doug Bond: Echoed the comment on sustainability and staff and would like see consideration for the complexity that results from different agencies working extensively together and for state agencies to understand what it is like to administer different resources, especially what it means for future funding.

Reba Stevens: Is focused on what working together looks like in the community and how funding could allow people to address barriers that have prevented communities from creating a collective impact. As a person with lived it experience, it takes collective action to build partnerships and improve quality of life. She believes collective action is a solution to homelessness but questions whether it can be done and that barriers need to be identified.

Director Zeger asked if there were members of the committee who would like to spend more time working together outside of this meeting to think through specific ideas, recommendations, and guidance on how the State could strengthen the impact of funding and programs.

The Committee discussed the second prompt. While the Action Plan reports specific measures on homelessness that relate to the Action Areas, the committee was asked if there are other measures to assess overall progress or progress of each Action Area:

2. How can the State best assess its progress on the commitments it has made in the Action Plan?

Comments were captured through a Jamboard: [Cal ICH Advisory Committee Jamboard Discussion](#).

Alisa Orduña: What is missing for her is an understanding of current minimum data expectations among different funding programs, such as when the Housing and Homelessness Assistance Program Applications were rejected. Participation in this conversation would allow better understanding of minimum performance standards that are proposed or the range of measures that are talked about.

Megan Van Sant: Stated that the Point-in-Time (PIT) count is an extremely flawed tool and disagrees with the reliance on it. Keeping track of a transient population as intended through the Homeless Management Integration System (HMIS) is an exercise of futility. In regard to performance measurements, the creation of housing in California is directly linked to homelessness and in some ways the success in addressing homelessness. As the lack of housing is directly linked to homelessness, there should be a closer connection between those two things rather than counts of people experiencing homelessness.

Reba Stevens: Agreed with Ms. Van Sant

Roxanne Wilson: Asked “how do we connect communities’ achievements to Regional Housing Needs Allocation (RHNA) when it comes to homelessness?”.

Matthew Doherty asked for volunteers who may want to continue the conversation in a smaller group discussion. As these conversations are just beginning, some ideas may need to be fleshed out or prioritized.

Director Zeger thanked the committee members for participating verbally and on the Jamboard and provided next steps. The feedback from this meeting will be shared with Council Members at their meeting on May 31st and plan to create more formal guidance with the committee. After this meeting, Cal ICH staff will follow up with those who stated they were interested in continuing the conversation and arrange a meeting. Progress will be shared with the Advisory Committee in August, with the goal of presenting more formalized guidance to the Council at their September meeting.

VI. General Public Comment

Cal ICH Staff opened public comment. General public comments made during this meeting:

Davis Bernstein: Stated that counting the numbers of people experiencing homelessness is problematic, particularly in terms of prevention. I am interested in the side of mediation and keeping people housed at home and with landlord tenant issues. Another concern is affordability, not just supply of housing.

VII. Final Remarks and Adjournment

Director Zeger thanked everyone for attending and reminded the Committee and audience that the next Committee Meeting will be August 14th at 1:00PM. This meeting adjourned at 2:49PM.