

**SUMMARY FOR THE
ADVISORY COMMITTEE TO THE
CALIFORNIA INTERAGENCY COUNCIL ON HOMELESSNESS**

November 6, 2023

Via videoconference and telephone

I. Call to Order, Tribal Land Acknowledgment, and Roll Call

Meghan Marshall, Cal ICH Executive Officer, 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
- Dora Gallo, President & Chief Executive Officer, A Community of Friends
- Janet Kelly, Founder & Executive Director, Sanctuary of Hope
- Margot Kushel, Director, UCSF Benioff Homelessness and Housing Initiative
- 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
- Emilio Salas, Executive Director, Los Angeles County Development Authority
- Reba Stevens, Homelessness Advocate
- Megan Van Sant, Senior Program Manager, County of Mendocino
- Alex Visotzky, Senior California Policy Fellow, National Alliance to End Homelessness
- Roxanne Wilson, Homeless Services Director, County of Monterey

Advisory Committee Members Arrived later in the meeting, not present at initial Roll Call:

- Charles Helget, Executive Director, California Association of Veteran Service Agencies
- Moriah McGill, Housing Development Construction Manager, Northern Circle Indian Housing Authority
- Jevon Wilkes, Executive Director, California Coalition for Youth

Advisory Committee Members Not Present:

- Carolyn Coleman, Executive Director, League of California Cities
- Charlene Dimas-Peinado, President & Chief Executive Officer, Wellnest Emotional Health & Wellness
- Vitka Eisen, President & Chief Executive Officer, HealthRIGHT 360
- Eric Harris, Director of Public Policy, Disability Rights California
- Jennifer Hark Dietz, Chief Executive Officer, PATH
- Jody Ketcheside, Deputy Chief Operating Officer, Turning Point of Central CA
- Philip Mangano, President & Chief Executive Officer, American Round Table to Abolish Homelessness
- Chris Martin, Policy Director, Housing California
- Janey Rountree, Executive Director, California Policy Lab at UCLA

- Miguel Santana, Chief Executive Officer, Weingart Foundation
- Doug Shoemaker, President, Mercy Housing
- Sean Spear, President & Chief Executive Officer, Community HousingWorks

II. Consent Calendar

There was one item on the Consent Calendar: *Approval of August 14, 2023, Committee Meeting Summary*

- **Dora Gallo** clarified comments made at the last meeting via the chat to be updated in the notes.

Public Comment: No comments were made on the item

Vote: The Committee voted to approve the Consent Calendar as amended with 18 members voting Yes, 1 member abstaining, and 12 members absent during the vote.

III. Feedback from Council on Committee Recommendations

Roxanne Wilson and Ludmilla Bade presented and summarized Committee [recommendations](#) made in the [Advisory Committee Meeting Presentation](#).

Reba Stevens: Regarding the intersection of Council groups, how can we be more aware of what's happening in other working groups?

- **Cody Zeger:** Ideally working groups will present to the Council, as well as the Advisory Committee once there are tangible work products to show.

Ludmilla Bade: How can we get information conveyed between Committee and Council most efficiently? Can the original transcript be included as an attachment, so details are not lost or shifted?

- **Cody Zeger:** These meetings are automatically transcribed, so we can include those in the materials.

Alex Visotzky: Agrees with Ludmilla. Echoes Reba's point about the siloing of working groups and would like to be able to better work together. There was consensus with other AC members on the need for ongoing stable funding from the State and would like to prioritize that recommendation.

Janet Kelly: An ongoing issue is the persistence of young people and families who are experiencing a housing crisis and should be one of our priorities. They continue to face barriers whether it's coordinated entry or various definitions of being unhoused.

Megan Van Sant: Can Cal ICH staff speak directly to the details discussed in these meetings when speaking to the Council, so we don't have to workshop or go back and forth too much? For example, identifying barriers in small communities, can Cody or ICH staff provide detail and expertise when the Council is asking for more information on recommendations and for the Advisory Committee to provide additional detail when needed.

- **Cody Zeger:** The Advisory Committee brings a level of detail that would be helpful in answering the Council's questions, but Cal ICH staff can help with logistics of getting people together.

Joe Colletti: The more we talk about this, the more work groups we'll have, and the workload is going to increase for us as Committee members. We don't want a work group for everything, we may just want to pick the two highest priorities.

Ludmilla Bade: Council members wanted the names of programs where applications might be consolidated, and which audits could be consolidated. Could Committee members enter the names of programs and audits in the chat, or what process should we use to come up with a consolidated list to get back to the council?

- **Cody Zeger:** Cal ICH staff can go through each of the questions, identify who can help move them forward and reach out to those people, then our staff can consolidate that information and can send it back out to the Committee. Comments in the chat acknowledge that it's helpful to prioritize, then assign folks to report back to the Council in a timely manner. We can prioritize areas where there is consensus among committee members. Alex is willing to volunteer with prioritization.

Megan Marshall: Priorities should start with what's in the Council's purview. For example, ongoing multiyear funding isn't within the Council's purview.

Alex Visotzky: The legislature plays a huge role here, but individual Council members are influential in deciding what can come through the legislature, so I would caution being too bound by that. We have a fair amount of influence.

Reba Stevens: The more informed I am, the more I'm able to advise. As an advisor, can we knock down barriers to be present at other meetings. Hearing information from a 3rd party doesn't always convey the full information. I would hope we lean more toward relationships and partnerships. We have lots of committees across the State, and we need to focus on intersection as advisors.

Ludmilla Bade: Expediting payments and reimbursements to awardees would be a great way to get a return on investment. Delays create a tremendous cost burden because providers end up having to take out loans to cover payroll. The money is already there, but the funding needs to get to the providers and people who need it more quickly. Guidelines on how long it should take would be helpful. Advances built into funds are also helpful. Not fixing this creates a problem where providers can't move forward with other funding streams because money is tied up with funds that haven't come through. With guidance, we can make better utilization of funds that are available.

- **Megan Marshall:** It's helpful to know which communities this is happening in since Cal ICH contracts with cities, counties and CoCs, not individual providers. If we know which communities this is happening in, we can reach out to the CoC.

IV. Action Plan '24 Update Discussion

Nykole Sakihara and Matthew Doherty presented the update to the State's Action Plan to Prevent and End Homelessness for 2024.

Moriah McGill: Tribes should be included as an intended audience, just like any other body of government.

Emilio Salas: There need to be deliverables for our particular audience as part of the vision, where you can go to a single body and get results on a problem that crosses departments. How can the Council be of value to State organizations, local entities and non-profits?

Dora Gallo: Where are the electeds? State agencies don't act in a vacuum, so wouldn't the State legislature be an audience as well? People who do implementation and people who legislate new programs need to be aligned.

Roxanne Wilson: Underscores what Dora said. It's important to educate electeds on the need for ongoing financial support and for them to interact with their communities to really understand the issues. AB 129 has changed a lot about how we do things and has impacted our community substantially, there's much opportunity there. We also need to be clear to set a targeted goal in the plan and be explicit on what our goals are, so it doesn't just sound administrative. Focus on the end goal and drive toward that.

Alisa Orduña: Leaders within the local homeless response system have many responsibilities and burdens on them. How do you streamline messaging from different State agencies, so people don't receive different messages. Will this new plan take that into consideration?

Moriah Gill: We're at a crucial time with elections and it would be great to have this available as a reference document for elected officials as soon as possible.

Matthew Doherty: Comments coming in the chat reflect that tribes, tribal entities, CoCs, State administrations and staff, folks who are active in the California State Association of Counties (CSAC), re-entry providers, people with lived experience including Asian, Asian-American, and Pacific Islander (AAPI) persons, transgender and non-binary people, women and health providers should all be consulted to inform the development of the next version of the Plan.

Reba Stevens: The Steering Committee for the Ad Hoc Committee on Black People Experiencing Homelessness in Los Angeles and other homeless coalitions that are happening in Los Angeles, like the Mental Health Commission should be consulted. Reba said she could follow up with specifics.

Roxanne Wilson: It would be beneficial to engage with the federal government on definitions. For example, we have to create a pathway for people exiting institutions, however HUD's definition of homelessness doesn't qualify them for federal programs. The same is true for McKinney-Vento. Our experience with Home Key Round 1 showed that there is a gap between what the State is doing and what the Feds are doing.

Doug Bond: Echoes Roxanne's Statement. That also applies to substance use treatment, the 90-day exclusion impacts people in any institution for more than 90 days, so we need to do some federal advocacy on that.

Reba Stevens: Young people and racial equity also need to be prioritized in the new plan. Ongoing funding can't be said enough.

Sharon Rapport: Agrees with Reba on racial equity and how the State can take steps toward that. Ongoing funding also has to be a top priority because it affects so many other issues and creates problems with continuity in our ability to address homelessness. It could be helpful to get more specific in how we can get funding for services matched with funding for housing. The State could go a lot further on that. Cal AIM has been really beneficial, but it is hard to match that funding with services.

Megan Van Sant: Underscores Roxanne's point that the incompatibility of definitions of homelessness make implementation difficult. We don't have a place to address the weakness of systems that are not always working as intended, such as Housing First and coordinated entry. We need a place to talk intentionally about programs that are not working. Echoes Sharon's point on matching funding for services with funding for housing. Putting people in housing they're not going to be successful in threatens Housing First. People need ongoing services that are robust and automatic.

Doug Bond: Guidance from the State could include hiring practices. The State allows substance use disorder counselors to be on parole, probation, or have a criminal history but counties often do not. The State has made exemptions for people with a background to reduce barriers, and we have to inform counties that they can and should do the same in order to support having people with lived experience as part of the workforce.

Alex Visotzky: Echoes Megan's comment on Housing First. State could give guidance on how Housing First and its requirements work in shelters where folks don't have rights of tenancy. How can a community implement sober living options for people who are aligned with Housing First programs? In Los Angeles there has been struggle with Coordinated Entry Systems (CES) and systems aren't always satisfied with HUD guidance. The State can give guidance on how to be flexible and respond to local needs.

Sharon Rapport, Roxanne Wilson and others in the chat underscore Alex's point on CES.

Roxanne Wilson: Turnover impacts implementation of CES. HHAP Round 5 reflected assistance with racial disparities from Cal ICH, but we can go deeper on a community level to reduce disparities on the local level.

Reba Stevens: The State can provide messaging to inform the community using public messaging, so people are aware of how to help, what to expect, and what not to expect from the State. We have to address racial equity and accountability from the State.

Megan Van Sant: There's a mismatch between the intention and implementation of CES and Housing First that requires an honest conversation.

Ludmilla Bade: We need more support for implementing the peer support specialist training in community colleges, and a homeless service provider training or certificate like we do for addiction, with courses and a curriculum.

Joe Colletti: The State has its own systems performance measures that go further than HUD's performance measures.

V. Housing First introduction

Cal ICH staff postponed the Housing First discussion item until the next meeting.

VI. General Public Comment

Ruth: Currently unsheltered in Los Angeles, wants to give advice and input on ERF grant funding. There should be a focus on displaced refugees. We're lacking coordination between getting people emergency housing vouchers before they expire.

Kathleen Crowley: Echoed Megan Van Sant's comment on exploring and brainstorming what isn't working and how to remove barriers. Support is waning for Housing First absent understanding of fidelity and requirements. It was never meant to be housing only and that can be life or death. Fund outcomes, not outputs. Kathleen would like to see an Innovation Chief and work with more urgency.

Megan Whilden, Development Director for Community Human Services in Monterey: Just opened a Housing First shelter for unaccompanied women and families with children. Wanted to share good news.

Janelle Egger: Housing First is a great program. The shelter crisis declaration could help with providing emergency housing. Coupled with Housing First, we could open up legal campgrounds with services for people. Housing is what we ultimately need, but it will take time.

Rendy Herrod, Rainbow Resource Center in Modesto: We're working with our CoC to take people coming from treatment centers into a sober living home and giving them 6 months to get work, education, and save money. It takes time, but we need ongoing funding.

VII. Final Remarks and Adjournment

Megan Marshall adjourned the meeting at 3:03pm.