

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

May 21, 2024

Via videoconference and telephone

I. Call to Order, Tribal Land Acknowledgment, 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
- **Vitka Eisen**, President & Chief Executive Officer, HealthRIGHT 360 *(left early at 2:30pm)*
- **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
- **Chris Martin**, Policy Director, Housing California *(left early before 2:30pm)*
- **Luana Murphy**, President & Chief Executive Officer, Exodus Recovery *(left early at 2:30pm)*
- **Alisa Orduña**, Founder & Executive Director, Florence Aliese Advancement Network
- **Sharon Rapport**, Director of California State Policy, Corporation for Supportive Housing *(left early, rejoined)*
- **Reba Stevens**, Homelessness Advocate
- **Megan Van Sant**, Senior Program Manager, County of Mendocino *(left early at 2:30pm)*
- **Jevon Wilkes**, Executive Director, California Coalition for Youth
- **Roxanne Wilson**, Homeless Services Director, County of Monterey

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

- **Emilio Salas**, Executive Director, Los Angeles County Development Authority
- **Doug Shoemaker**, President, Mercy Housing *(left early)*

Advisory Committee Members Not Present:

- **Carolyn Coleman**, Executive Director, League of California Cities
- **Charlene Dimas-Peinado**, President & Chief Executive Officer, Wellnest Emotional Health & Wellness
- **Dora Gallo**, President & Chief Executive Officer, A Community of Friends
- **Margot Kushel**, Director, UCSF Benioff Homelessness and Housing Initiative
- **Philip Mangano**, President & Chief Executive Officer, American Round Table to Abolish Homelessness
- **Moriah McGill**, Housing Development Construction Manager, Northern Circle Indian Housing Authority

- **Janey Rountree**, Executive Director, California Policy Lab at UCLA
- **Miguel Santana**, Chief Executive Officer, Weingart Foundation
- **Sean Spear**, President & Chief Executive Officer, Community HousingWorks
- **Alex Visotzky**, Senior California Policy Fellow, National Alliance to End Homelessness

II. Consent Calendar

There was one item on the Consent Calendar: *Adoption of the [Meeting Summary from the February 5, 2024 Council Meeting](#)*

- No Committee Members made comments on this item.

Public Comment: No comments were made on the item

Vote: The Committee voted to approve the Consent Calendar with 20 members voting Yes, 1 member abstaining, and 10 members absent during the vote.

III. Executive Officer Updates

Cal ICH's Executive Officer, Meghan Marshall, offered updates and comments regarding the recent State Audit. The California State Auditor made 4 recommendations to Cal ICH: 1) Mandate reporting by state agencies of costs and outcomes of state homelessness programs; 2) Ensure that Cal ICH's 2024 Action Plan align with statutory goals; 3) Promote transparency, accountability, and effective decision-making toward the State's efforts to address homelessness by requiring all State agencies responsible for administering state funding to report outcomes and fiscal data; and 4) Work with CoCs to ensure consistent, accurate and comparable data for all State homelessness programs.

Cal ICH generally concurs with the auditors' recommendations, but some may require additional funding, resources, or legislative action to achieve.

Sharon Rapport: Could funding be secured through HCD's administrative funding for HHAP? The State can't require CoCs to report on data not included in HUD requirements, but are there ways to provide local incentives to encourage the collection of additional data?

- **Meghan Marshall:** Our current priority is to transition our Grants department to HCD and that includes HHAP, ERF, and Family Homelessness Challenge grant, all of which have administrative funding attached. This puts us in the position of supporting the entirety of the Council's work, but not a particular department or program. Cal ICH is exploring all future opportunities for funding and should be the entity to make assessments about these programs.

Reba Stevens: How much funding and resources are needed to accomplish recommendation number four?

- **Meghan Marshall:** Several pending legislative bills would address potential funding for resources such as a landscape assessment that Cal ICH has received in the past.

Meghan Marshall: Provided updates on the March 27th Council meeting. The Council voted on and approved recommendations provided by the Advisory Committee, the first time the Council has taken action of that magnitude.

Ludmilla Bade: I'm glad to see things moving forward and it is great to be part of the process.

Meghan Marshall: Cal ICH is undergoing a tremendous budgetary transition as our Grants department moves to HCD. We will retain our Tribal Liaison, Vevila Blossoming Bear, who will be joining the Policy Team. We also retain the division of Local Initiatives as well as Data and Research.

IV. Advisory Committee Co-Chair Discussion

Director Cody Zeger discussed the possibility of having Advisory Committee co-chairs moving forward. The Advisory Committee adopted the Charter a year ago and has developed language around the co-chair model. Zeger presented potential co-chair terms and responsibilities. Cal ICH staff will email the AC to gauge interest in co-chair positions that will be determined in the August meeting.

Sharon Rapport: Co-chairs would act as an intermediary between this committee and the Council, could we have subject matter experts on different issues to inform the Council?

- **Cody Zeger:** Clarified that the co-chairs do not have to be topic specific, but rather be a conduit of information and connection between the Advisory Committee and the Council, identifying subject matter experts when necessary.

Ludmilla Bade: Requested to know how many co-chairs will be selected.

- **Cody Zeger:** There is no set number, but likely 2-3.

Roxanne Wilson: Asked about the time commitment to co-chair the Advisory Committee.

- **Cody Zeger:** Time commitment would likely include a check-in between Council meetings, a call before the AC meeting to discuss the agenda and workflow, as well as additional time to review the agenda, work products, and outreach to committee members when necessary.

Ludmilla Bade: We don't currently have a Chair, besides Cody.

- **Cody Zeger:** We currently act as a facilitator but see this as being an equal position among multiple Chairs to represent the Committee and help move the work forward.

Reba Stevens: Co-chairs would facilitate the meetings moving forward. I struggle to understand the purpose of co-chairs. What does this mean in terms of power?

- **Cody Zeger:** Facilitation could vary depending on the agenda item and Cal ICH would continue to support with logistics. The purpose is to have people who are thinking about the goals and priorities of the Committee and how we can accomplish them. It could also include working with members of different Working Groups or the Lived Experience Advisory Board. This is to ensure Committee member voices are represented.

Alisa Orduña: How do we ensure diverse representation, both geographically and between larger and smaller organizations to have balance within that voice. Someone with lived experience should also be part of that configuration.

- **Cody Zeger:** With 2-3 co-chairs, we can think about what expertise people bring to this work and identify what's missing. We can also reach out to folks with expertise who are not included as Chairs when needed and adjust as time goes on.

Reba Stevens: Does being a co-chair benefit us by understanding the relationship to Working Groups and the Council?

- **Cody Zeger:** Once we have Co-Chairs, we can have meetings with the coordinators or Chairs of those groups to connect them and their work.

Roxanne Wilson: We've had difficulty finding people to present to the Council in the past. I strongly support this role as it adds responsibility and efficiency to move information between bodies.

V. Action Plan Vision and Guiding Principles

Director Cody Zeger presented feedback from the Advisory Committee on the structure and goals of the new Cal ICH Action Plan on Preventing and Ending Homelessness in California. Consultant Matthew Doherty presented an overview of the draft vision and guiding principles of the Action Plan. Additional detail can be found in the [meeting presentation](#).

Reba Stevens: There's an overrepresentation of Black and Latino people experiencing homelessness across California. Equity needs to be included.

- **Cody Zeger:** We need to lead with equity and are designing our goals to measure disparities and identify ways to implement programs in an equitable way.
- **Meghan Marshall:** I've highlighted the work of our Tribal Liaison who we will be retaining, as well as working on hiring a companion position to support our goals for racial equity.

Megan Van Sant: The public has a faster timeline of wanting to see results than we've been able to respond to. The reaction to the auditor's report speaks to the public noticing the great deal of funding going toward homelessness and not seeing results in their neighborhoods. We work with people who are not necessarily seen on the street. Are we perpetuating the idea that we are going to house individuals and provide navigation? The person experiencing homelessness themselves must take that hard step, except for people who are several mentally ill or have significant disabilities. We must eliminate barriers to do that, but they are the most important person involved in ending their homelessness. We need to change the vision to be more empowering.

- **Meghan Marshall:** The audience for this Action Plan is the State and the recipients of these fundings. It should be a guiding document for cities, counties, and continuums of care.

Jevon Wilkes: For children experiencing homelessness, their likelihood of experiencing homelessness later in life increases exponentially. This is also true for youth exiting systems such as juvenile justice and foster care. Graduating from high school is also a vulnerable time. We need to catch people before they enter homelessness. The vision is to better people's lives to thrive as an individual and a Californian.

Matthew Doherty: Asked for words and concepts that resonate with the Advisory Committee to re-draft the vision.

Jennifer Hark-Dietz: If the State identified a clear goal, that would help us identify our commitment. President Obama's "No wrong door" approach had the language that easily made sense and resonated with people.

Jevon Wilkes: Medi-Cal is supposed to create an access point for people experiencing homelessness and cover costs for people as part of ongoing care. Most people experiencing homelessness are Medi-Cal eligible including those coming out of foster care and the justice system. We can go further and do better.

Megan Van Sant: I like the no wrong door approach. If a client doesn't meet certain eligibility criteria, we see where else we can fit them, but we need to help who is in front of us. We've been hampered by definitions that aren't serving us. The State has been more flexible than the federal government, but the most successful funding is the one with few or no strings attached.

Emilio Salas: In LA county, we use the mantra 'whatever it takes.' We need a variety of tools because it's a complex issue and responses need to be tailored to the individual. Rules and regulations shouldn't get us away from serving the person in front of us.

Ludmilla Bade: We need to look at environmental and economic and equity, known as the triple bottom line. The public doesn't think our current system is a viable system because it isn't. People aren't getting services because it isn't a viable system. We need more time to work on this, but budget cuts and other issues mean we need to discuss and act on United Nations sustainability goals which include economic viability with people experiencing homelessness at the table. We need to see programs and entry points that support the strengths of people. We often only think about their needs, and not their strengths. A lot of people can afford minimal costs, but not market-rate rent as it is now. The more we align with international goals, the more sustainable and successful we'll be.

Samantha Batko: Housing as a human right has become a charged phrase, but that is the language we're circling around. Looking at that language could help us develop our guiding principles.

Alisa Orduña: The guiding principles feels one-directional. A child born today should not have to face homelessness based on their race or geography or economic status. We need to seek acceptance of successful practices. When communities deny affordable housing or substance use treatment facilities, we need to empower the State to create a sense of responsibility for everyone. Public-facing education should be a part of this Plan.

Eric Harris: Breaking down data is important to have a collective understanding of how many people are experiencing homelessness and what improvement has happened in terms of equity. How many unhoused or disabled people are being served? How have these meetings impacted progress on equity, and can the data support our understanding of what improvements are being made?

- **Matthew Doherty:** We are crafting goals and plan to zero in on inequities that exist and should be addressed by each goal. There will be a dedicated section of the Plan focused on data strategies.
- **Al Ballesteros:** I support linking data to what is happening in the implementation of this plan. The guiding principles should have a commitment to break it down in an understandable way for the public.

Ludmilla Bade: Instead of "providing" maybe we can use the language of opportunities and navigation.

Reba Stevens: Vision relates to the future. I like the idea of homelessness being rare and brief, but we have to be clear about meeting unique needs to help people thrive. The goal won't be

the same for every individual. We need to address mortality rates. California should take a bold, transparent approach and say what might be uncomfortable. The public needs to better understand homelessness.

Jevon Wilkes: The root of tomorrow is in the lives and opportunities of our children today. We need to be grounded in data. More people are falling into homelessness than are being housed. We need metrics that give us leverage and help people understand that something is being done. People need a human visual.

Joe Colletti: The LA County Coroners data show that nearly 2,000 people died while homeless in 2023 and 10 of them were less than one year old. We need more action on mortality.

VI. Secretary Moss Introduction

BCSH Secretary Tomiquia Moss introduced herself to the Advisory Committee and emphasized the importance of being led by people who are working on the front lines of homelessness as represented by members of this committee. Moss underscored the need for good data and storytelling to educate the public about the crisis of homelessness and the work the State is doing to solve it. Moss spoke to the challenge of the State budget crisis and offered optimism in continuing to make progress due to the urgency of this issue. Secretary Moss thanked members for their work developing recommendations that have recently been adopted by the Council.

Reba Stevens: Requested a return visit from Secretary Moss that would take place at the front of the agenda in a future meeting.

VII. General Public Comment

Chris Middleton, Youth Law Center: I appreciate the comments ensuring that personal agency is reflected in the plan. California has taken a bold step to provide certain populations of young people under the age of 21 services under Medi-Cal. There is space to acknowledge California bold vision to provide for young people in our state, especially in regard to mental health services.

Noah Whitaker, Tulare County: Look at goals that are targeted at the State and the legislature, while staying connected to the local level. If the legislature isn't informed of the Plan's goals, they could undermine our efforts. The State needs to work closely with the federal government to align definitions to meet HUD standards.

Janelle: We need to use the shelter crisis code as a tool. HCD has an alternative building code that includes tents. We need to stop looking at shelter and instead look for longer term solutions for housing. Tenancy is a Housing First idea that could help in Humboldt and nearby counties.

VIII. Final Remarks and Adjournment

Cody Zeger adjourned the meeting at 3:13pm.