

**SUMMARY FOR THE CALIFORNIA INTERAGENCY COUNCIL ON HOMELESSNESS  
ACTION PLAN INPUT MEETING**

**July 11, 2024  
12:00pm – 4:00pm**

**I. Call to Order and Roll Call**

The meeting was called to order on July 11, 2024, at 12:08 PM

*Council Members Present:*

- **Tomiquia Moss**, Council Co-Chair and Secretary of the California Business, Consumer Services and Housing Agency (BCSH)
- **Dr. Mark Ghaly**, Council Co-Chair and Secretary of the California Health and Human Services Agency (CalHHS)
- **Dr. Tomás J. Aragón**, State Public Health Officer and Director of the California Department of Public Health (CDPH)
- **Michelle Baass**, Director of the Department of Health Care Services (DHCS)
- **Stephanie Clendenin**, Director of the California Department of State Hospitals (DSH)
- **Susan DeMarois**, Director of the California Department of Aging (CDA)
- **Kim Johnson**, Director of the California Department of Social Services (DSS)
- **Gail Tateyama**, designee for Tiena Johnson Hall, Executive Director of the California Housing Finance Agency (CalHFA)
- **Veronica Lewis**, Director of Homeless Outreach Program Integrated Care System (HOPICS)
- **Tanya Bautista**, designee for Jeff Macomber, Secretary of the California Department of Corrections and Rehabilitation (CDCR)
- **Marc Dones**, designee for Margot Kushel, Director of UCSF Benioff Homelessness and Housing Initiative
- **William McGee**, Director of the Student Achievement Support Division, California Department of Education (CDE)
- **Sandee Nieves**, designee for Kaina Pereira, Executive Director of California Workforce Development Board (CWDB)
- **Lindsey Sin**, Secretary of the California Department of Veterans Affairs (CalVet)
- **Alisa Becerra**, designee for Tony Tavares, Director of the California Department of Transportation (Caltrans)
- **Gustavo F. Velasquez**, Director of the California Department of Housing and Community Development (HCD)
- **Gina Buccieri-Harrington**, designee for Nancy Ward, Director of the California Governor's Office of Emergency Services (Cal OES)
- **Ricki Hammet**, designee for Marina Wiant, Executive Director of the California Tax Credit Allocation Committee (CTCAC)
- **Ana Acton**, designee for Joe Xavier, Director of the California Department of Rehabilitation (DOR)

*Council Members Absent:*

- **Rebecca Ruan-O'Shaughnessy**, Vice Chancellor of Educational Services and Support, CA Community Colleges

## II. Council Co-Chair Opening Remarks

Cal ICH Co-Chair and Secretary of CHHS, Dr. Mark Ghaly, emphasized the importance of the Action Plan for Preventing and Ending Homelessness in California to serve as the manifestation all the work that is being done by the Council to reach this goal. Dr. Ghaly encourages the Council to focus on data systems, measuring progress towards goals, and how to hold themselves and others accountable to the goals of the Plan.

Cal ICH Co-Chair and Secretary of BCSH, Tomiquia Moss, affirms that she has witnessed the Council members work tirelessly to co-create the Plan by committing to actions and proposing outcomes that will be effective to prevent and end homelessness. Secretary Moss encouraged Council members and their respective departments to provide direction, accountability, and implement a full government approach by partnering with each other to reach these goals. Secretary Moss emphasized the disparity in homelessness and housing insecurity between communities of color and their counterparts, calling for a commitment of equitable approaches and outcomes in the Action Plan.

## III. Visioning Exercise

The purpose of this exercise is to remind Council members why this work is so important. The LEAB identified the most critical interventions and resources that have the greatest impact in preventing and ending an individual's experience of homelessness, interventions that are not as effective and why, and changes to make interventions more effective.

**LEAB Member Melanie Robledo:** Stated that the most critical intervention in her experience was fostering a sense of belonging and the use of a person-centered approach. This approach includes meeting a person where they are, avoiding a "one size fits all" strategy, and creating innovative solutions. She emphasized that a person-centered approach is evidence-based and builds trust, ultimately promoting a space for self-advocacy. The person-centered approach allows participants to identify goals that work best for them and emphasizes quality of life to maintain dignity and humanity.

**LEAB Member Mary Maldonado:** Informed the Council that she struggles to identify an effective critical intervention because she has yet to find an intervention that has led to becoming successfully housed. She shared her experience in the foster care system and cited a lack of resources when transitioning from this system as a factor that led to homelessness. She shared that although there are a few resources in her local area, there are barriers. Maldonado provided the example of documentation required by programs for enrollment, sharing that many people experiencing homelessness do not have any or all forms needed to complete an application. Maldonado suggested ways in which she would implement change to render interventions more successful, including an increase in funding for supportive housing, expanding rental assistance programs, and enhancing coordination of services.

**LEAB Member Audrey Pearson:** Shared that the most pressing critical intervention is effective is eviction prevention and problem-solving programs. In addition to these programs, halfway home projects in her area (Compton, Watts, South Los Angeles) have been invaluable. Pearson also

advocated for the creation of Permanent Supportive Housing (PSH) for individuals ages 26 – 54, second-chance housing opportunities for people with previous evictions, and especially a wage increase for frontline workers of housing programs.

**Meghan Marshall:** Introduces a question to the Council members for discussion: “What ideas or recommendations did you hear from LEAB members that connect directly with work you oversee in your department or agency?”

**Councilmember Kim Johnson:** The comment from Robledo regarding a person-centered approach and avoiding a “one size fits all” solution especially resonated. CDSS has considered this heavily, resulting in built-in flexibility in their department’s program design.

**Co-Chair Tomiquia Moss:** Advocated for a holistic approach to addressing an individual’s situation which takes their quality of life into consideration and leads to an individual thriving through access to employment and social opportunities.

**Councilmember Veronica Lewis:** A challenge in attempting to serve individuals who have “fallen through the cracks” is lacking access to supports they need. It is hard to find data that describes this scenario. Reshaping of policies and program designs to address these gaps by supporting all of the individuals needs and aspirations, not just housing. The housing services provided should not just act as a triage in emergency situations but should also take into consideration the individual’s resulting journey of permanency and stabilization in housing. Councilmember Lewis cautions against broad standardization in programs and instead embedding flexibility while still upholding accountability and consistency in measuring success.

**Designee Marc Dones:** Advocated for the implementation of integrated eligibility in program enrollment from a policy perspective and to include this approach in the Action Plan.

**Designee Sandy Nieves:** Urged the exploration of ways that individuals can provide identification to lower barriers for enrollment in programs and cited existing systems that Council Member departments utilize. The largest demographic of individuals experiencing homelessness are single men ages 45 – 55 and contended that this is due to a lack of services for this specific demographic.

- **Meghan Marshall:** Acknowledged the existence of silos between Council member departments and asserted that the work of this Council is to remove these silos and to better understand the populations that need support.

**Co-Chair Tomiquia Moss:** Promoted an opportunity to utilize the work of the CWDB to better serve individuals exiting homelessness and provided an example of current pilots with Caltrans and CDCR. Housing services can move through stages of triage, stabilization, and lead to the thriving of an individual. Urged the Council members to consider the idea of providing wages to frontline workers in housing programs that would not compromise them to economic vulnerability and suggested that the Action Plan could address this idea.

**Councilmember Lewis:** Added that many of the frontline workers that serve in this field and are precariously housed are people of color (black, brown, and indigenous), which should guide the Council to think about equity in terms of the composition of the workforce and their own housing outcomes. Councilmember Lewis urges the inclusion of support and guidance to the housing and homeless service workforce in the Action Plan.

**Designee for Councilmember Pereira, Sandy Nieves:** Expressed gratitude for existing funding that serves the prison to employment program because it is widely successful for anti-recidivism

due to the inclusion of supportive services. This program requires a permanent, dedicated funding stream to sustain this success, as do other programs. Nieves continued to emphasize the need for supportive services (childcare, transportation, housing navigation) and connection to workforce services to ensure that individuals sustain housing once acquired.

**Designee Ana Acton:** Asked how the Council can mold the culture of service delivery to understand and practice person-centered approaches and the implementation of housing first. Acton acknowledged complications in the overall housing system due to the size of California and the many organizations involved, but asked the Council to consider how housing developers, services providers, Public Housing Authorities (PHAs), Continuums of Care (CoC), and other service providers can collaborate and support individuals as they transition out of existing programs. Acton also advocated to explore strategies to create more housing, especially affordable housing, and to continue to break down silos between departments.

#### **IV. Action Plan Core Elements Overview**

Cody Zeger reviewed aspects of the Action Plan, including the vision statement, guiding principles, commitments, and draft goals, which can be found in the [meeting presentation](#) materials. Zeger provides a discussion question for Council members: “What questions or input do you have about the Action Plan vision, guiding principles and commitments, baseline data, and/or goals?”

**Councilmember Susan DeMarois:** Pointed out that she does not see the specific word “prevention” mentioned in the vision, principles or goals, which should be included.

- **Cody Zeger:** Clarified that the verbiage of the goals is aligned to the vision statement, in this case the mention of homelessness as rare, brief, and one-time and that prevention is implied in one of the goals (goal 2) even though the term is not explicitly stated.

**Councilmember Veronica Lewis:** Suggested that the word “prevention” could be incorporated into goal 2 and that goals 3 – 4 should include a percentage or ratio when measuring outcomes.

**Councilmember Lindsay Sin:** Asked for clarity regarding the “baseline” metric referenced by these goals so that the percentages and ratios being measured could be compared to this baseline to ultimately show success.

**Councilmember William McGee:** Asked what an “equitable and just California,” referenced by the vision statement, would look like. Councilmember McGee added that the Council is convened to address homelessness, but the statement seems broad and could perhaps be better targeted. Councilmember McGee also inquired about the timeframe to achieve these goals and advocated for the incorporation of a time-bound element for the goals with yearly assessments of progress towards these goals.

- **Cody Zeger:** Confirmed that the timeframe for these outcomes coincide with the timeframe of the Action Plan: January 2025 to December 2027. Zeger also agreed that there would be a benefit of a yearly assessment of goals using HDIS data to do so and making this data accessible on the Cal ICH website.

**Councilmember Dr. Margot Kushel:** Proposed expanding the section of the Action Plan that describes tools to achieve the goals by developing specific statements on strategies that will be used to ensure successful outcomes. Provided an example regarding data sharing and using data strategically or partnering with housing providers to learn how to serve individuals living in

encampments in ways that will lead to successful housing placements. Urged the Council to think about how success is measured and to incorporate explicit racial justice language.

**Councilmember Dr. Tomás Aragón:** Provided a way in which goal 1 can be revised to imply the goal is to increase the supply of affordable housing so that it matches demand.

**Designee Sandy Nieves:** Asked if workforce activities can be incorporated into the goals, specifically goals 5 – 6, to improve connections into the workforce system that can be measured.

**Designee Ana Acton:** Added to Dr. Aragón’s suggestion to ensure that the supply of housing is not only affordable, but accessible. Acton defined accessible in a way that is readily available for people to access and to ensure that the physical and universal design principals are incorporated to serve people with disabilities and the aging population.

**Councilmember Veronica Lewis:** Stated that the conversation around homelessness cannot happen without also addressing the manifestation of poverty, especially as it pertains to equity and the lack of access certain communities have. A goal that is related to poverty should be added and could include workforce development and access to education resources.

**Councilmember Lindsay Sin:** Asserted that the Council must decide on how bold the goals should be and incorporate agreed-upon language that describes the strategic planning and outcomes. Councilmember Sin used the example of the goal of creating more housing, stating that this is a good goal that will include a measurable metric, but is missing a specific strategy to achieve outcomes. It is critical for councilmember departments to understand what their role is when collaborating and setting policy. Councilmember Sin also advocated for an emphasis on community and building bridges to communicate the local level because the local communities are the ones providing direct services. The Council should engage with CoCs and PHAs to obtain input on the Action Plan to ensure that these goals and strategies are achievable.

**Designee Sandy Nieves:** Asked if the Council has had any conversations around the implementation of Universal Basic Income (UBI), which has been proven to be successful in addressing poverty.

### **Brainstorming groups:**

Council members are divided into discussion groups for ten minutes to discuss the proposed question: “What work is going on at your department or agency that connects directly to one or more of the goals listed?”

- **Tomiquia Moss:** Urged Council members to not only think about what work their department is currently doing, but to also consider how these goals can be expanded upon and how to create impact beyond what already exists.

**Table 1 (facilitated by Councilmember Veronica Lewis):** Undersecretary Tammy Foss of CDCR described the success of implemented pre-release activities and how they could also be expanded to serve the disabled and aging population. The group discussed ways in which community supports from Proposition 1 could be used to ensure the continuation of services for those exiting carceral settings, focusing mainly on healthcare services. Dr. Tomás Aragón stated that he would explore ways in which the Office of Vital Records could allow individuals to easily access their birth certificate to address the documentation barrier for individuals experiencing homelessness. Tiena Johnson-Hall announced that CalHFA is working with HCD to invest about

\$50 million to invest in supports for underserved communities, addressing inequities through the National Mortgage Settlement program, and investing in additional Section 8 opportunities.

**Table 2 (facilitated by Courtney Tracker):** Ana Acton outlined multiple goals identified by DOR to coordinate services, provide housing navigation, and create more accessible housing. The group further discussed an emphasis on workforce and employment, data sharing, and additional coordination between departments. Councilmember Baass described initiatives being implemented by DHCS through Cal AIM and the alignment with goal 5.

**Table 3 (facilitated by Cody Zeger):** Ricki Hammett shared information about available credits through CTCAC and how they could be implemented in times of disaster. The group also discussed ways in which person-centered services can be incorporated into programs and measured. The group acknowledged the demographic inequities of people experiencing homelessness and reflected upon goals related to mental health services to think about ways in which the needs of these populations can be met.

**Table 4 (facilitated by Corrin Buchanan):** The group acknowledged that every council member department has a role to play, even if they do not provide direct funding for housing and homeless services. The group brainstormed ways to better coordinate and address barriers at the local level, by working with County Boards of Supervisors for example. The group discussed ways to promote proactive engagement and outreach with communities and be creative about measuring success on the state level.

**Table 5 (facilitated by Giselle Sanchez):** William McGee described the ways CDE is working towards goals 3 – 5 by creating opportunities for professional development, connecting to career education, and creating liaison positions in school districts to connect families to resources and services. DSH has been focusing on homelessness prevention for individuals with severe mental illness and those incompetent to stand trial by connecting them to health and social services and enrollment into diversion programs and PSH. HCD has a major focus on goal 1 because they are setting the metric for creating housing units and addressing the shortage. The group were heavily supportive of addressing the inequities and disparities outlined by the goals.

**Table 6 (facilitated by Dhakshike Wickrema):** The group's discussion focused on the vision and scope of the Action Plan, being mindful about avoiding scope creep by attempting to address poverty as a whole. The group also considered ways to address homelessness at all points in the cycle, when individuals are unsheltered, in interim housing, and in permanent housing. Dr. Ghaly promoted the idea of thinking about prevention services in a tiered manor, similar to public health terms, where there exists a primary, secondary, and tertiary intervention.

## V. Developing Bold Actions

The Council Members were divided into brainstorming groups to discuss activities and projects being implemented by their departments and areas of overlap and collaboration with the departments in their groups. The questions posed to the discussion groups can be found in the [meeting presentation](#) materials.

**Table 6 (facilitated by Dhakshike Wickrema):** Session 1 was comprised of Council members representing the departments of CalHFA, CTCAC, and HCD. The group indicated that there are collaborative activities happening between these departments already, citing an example of an MOU that was drafted together and sent to the federal government to request additional Section 811 vouchers to serve the housing needs of people with disabilities. Members of this group also

expressed a desire to speed up the housing construction and financing timeline and overall expediting funding and prioritize any proposals that are submitted to their departments that would address housing and homelessness.

Session 2 table, Councilmember McGee highlighted the new Community Schools program, which provides funding to bring dental, medical services, and wraparound services to students at the school. Councilmember McGee also shared information about the homeless education technical assistance centers pilot that provides shelter to families with children after school hours.

**Table 3 (facilitated by Cody Zeger):** Session 1 was comprised of Secretary Ghaly and Veronica Lewis. This group urged a focus on clarity regarding activities and goals to ensure the work and collaboration is effective. This group also reflected upon the response during the COVID pandemic, which was goal-oriented and overcame barriers of red-tape with collaboration efforts and urged similar strategies in the future.

Session 2 was comprised of Council members representing the departments of Caltrans and CalHFA, and Councilmember Lewis. Caltrans reflected upon their role in the homeless service continuum as a non-service provider and proposed ways in which the department could partner with local governments, State departments, and CoCs to bring services to individuals experiencing homelessness through data and location sharing. CalHFA proposed an alignment of financing to assist housing developers achieve full funding goals and bring development to fruition. CalHFA can also have influence on developers to consider housing certain demographics through scoring and prioritization for financing.

**Table 2 (facilitated by Courtney Tracker):** Session 1 table was comprised of Council members from CDCR, Caltrans, and DOR. Caltrans promoted partnership with any and all organizations, offering to share real-time information about individuals that need services who have interacted with the department in the past. CDCR and DOR discussed ways to assist the overlapping population they serve, mainly the disabled and aging populations, and discussed the importance of providing employment services prior to release.

Session 2 table was comprised of Council Members from CalVet, DSH, and DOR. Discussion centered around overlapping populations and a focus on employment services to ensure long-term housing stability. In addition, the group discussed the impact of benefits counseling to ensure that individuals are informed of their program eligibility status when income increases, ultimately to ease anxieties for these individuals. The group concluded by emphasizing a further need to support initiatives on the local level and coordinate with local entities further.

**Table 1 (facilitated by Lisa Avron):** Session 1 at this table was comprised of Council members from CDE, CalOES, and CDSS. CalOES described current programs that serve individuals displaced by disasters and violent crime, including transitional aged youth, acknowledging that the department does not typically provide direct services but instead funds these initiatives. CDE shared additional information about the Community Schools program and liaison positions within school districts that connect students to wraparound services. The group also discussed ways to measure the success and long-term ramifications of prevention services.

Session 2 table was comprised of council members from HCD, CDCR, and CDA. CDCR shared that many individuals aging out of the carceral system are not released into situations that are housing stable. CDA discussed with CDCR about the needs of the aging population and the crossover work that can be done between departments. CDA shared that older adults were the only demographic that faced an increase in poverty rates in a previous year, calling a need for

further action. Councilmember Velasquez inquired about the HSPA program, a federal program that provides TA to braid sources of funding together, and if the Action Plan reflects the outcomes of this work.

**Table 4 (facilitated by Corrin Buchanan):** Session 1 table was comprised of Council members from CalVet, CDSS, and CDA. The groups discussion focused largely on prevention services, access to services, coordination, and a focus on creative and innovative solutions for individuals with complex needs. These innovative solutions included serving the aging and disabled population through home-share programs and PSH models where individual can “age in place.” The group also discussed the providing education about existing programs that departments and providers may not be aware of.

Session 2 table was comprised of Council Members from CHHS, CDPH, and CDSS. This group spoke to different spheres that departments can influence in an attempt to accomplish goals, prevention tactics, and what it means to keep focused on goals. The group focused on sharing individual expertise and replicating effective strategies to be used in housing and homeless programs.

**Table 5 (facilitated by Giselle Sanchez):** This group was comprised of Council members from CDPH, CWDB, and DSH. The group strategized ways in which individuals exiting state hospitals could enter employment services and how to increase the success rate of this transition. The group also discussed the need for outreach and connection on the local level, by finding opportunities within existing funding and resources to make these connections and committing liaisons to be involved in local situations.

The second group was comprised of Council members from CWDB and CalHFA. The two Councilmember departments shared additional information about their respective programs. CalHFA shared a desire to promote homelessness prevention through legal services and identifying housing coordinators for individuals. The group also discussed a need to connect with and provide resources to the local level and tribal communities.

**Public Comment:** Members of the public provided public comment to the Council about this agenda item.

**Ruth:** Recounted an experience when individuals living in her encampment were served by an Encampment Resolution Fund (ERF) program that provided a hotel for six months but ultimately returned to homelessness. Ruth stated that she attempted to advocate for these individuals and contended that similar hotel programs showed that individuals required more than six months to become successfully housed and that programs should implement these successful practices.

**Arian De La Daya:** Asked how Council members and their departments are going to counter barriers in housing programs due to policies, regulations, and red-tape.

## **VI. Action Plan Innovations**

Cody Zeger provided an overview of the overall purpose of the Action Plan, outlining what the plan does. This includes communicating the State’s vision for preventing and ending homelessness, creating and monitoring goals to achieve over the course of three years, and others. Zeger also provides insight on the limitations of the Action Plan and what it does not do.



This includes setting funding priorities, providing policy recommendations to the legislature, providing training and guidance, and others. The Council is asked to discuss the question: “What other groups, strategies, or policy decisions are needed in order to best support the Council’s implementation of the Action Plan to achieve our collective Goals and meet the vision of our LEAB?”

**Designee Ana Acton:** Asked how the Council is engaging with local partners that directly serve individuals experiencing homelessness and other outside partners including HUD and PHAs.

- **Cody Zeger:** Urged the Council to take this idea further and ask how their departments can ensure that this Action Plan is useful for these partners.

**Councilmember Tiena Johnson-Hall:** Also advocated for PHAs to be present during discussion with Council members since these organizations are so critical to the work and have resources like housing vouchers and supportive services.

**Councilmember Veronica Lewis:** Acknowledged that innovative and effective practices were implemented during COVID in an unprecedented way due to the declaration of a state of emergency and argued that this would be helpful on a state-wide scale.

**Designee for Councilmember Pereira, Sandy Nieves:** Asked if the State of California could announce a state of emergency pertaining to homelessness and if this would foster support from a higher level.

- **Meghan Marshall:** Stated that the declaration alone wouldn’t be sufficient but would instead require additional capacity and resources, as it has been shown in localities that have implemented a state of emergency regarding homelessness in their own jurisdictions.

**Meghan Marshall:** Highlighted ways in which this new iteration of the Action Plan would be different from years past due to a focus on the statutory requirements of Cal ICH. This included statutory requirements that would guide priorities in the Action Plan and serve as a way to measure success. The requirements were coordination of existing funding and applications, making policy and procedural recommendations to legislators and government entities, identifying and seeking funding opportunities for state entities that have programs to end homelessness, and compiling public financial data from all state-funded homelessness programs. Information about the Cal ICH statutory requirements can be found in the [meeting presentation](#) materials.

## **VII. General Public Comment**

Members of the public provided public comment to the Council for up to two minutes each.

**Ruth:** Described how many individuals, including herself, have difficulties accessing their own HMIS data, which could potentially help identify case manager assignment, voucher status, and other relevant information. Ruth also urged the Council to reflect upon the occurrence of a LEAB member becoming displaced during this meeting, citing that this is a common occurrence that disrupts their life, and that support must be provided in these instances.

## **IX. Final Remarks and Adjournment**

Director Cody Zeger expressed gratitude to the Council for their participation and acknowledged the urgency of this work, especially as expressed by the LEAB and by Council members. The next California Interagency Council on Homelessness Meeting will be held on September 5, 2024.

The meeting was adjourned at 4:19 p.m.