

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

**August 22, 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 1:09 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
- **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
- **Jennifer Hark Dietz**, Chief Executive Officer, PATH
- **Charles Helget**, Executive Director, California Association of Veteran Service Agencies
- **Jody Ketcheside**, Deputy Chief Operating Officer, Turning Point of Central CA
- **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
- **Alisa Orduña**, Founder & Executive Director, Florence Aliese Advancement Network
- **Sharon Rapport**, Director of California State Policy, Corporation for Supportive Housing
- **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:*

- **Dora Gallo**, President & Chief Executive Officer, A Community of Friends
- **Eric Harris**, Director of Public Policy, Disability Rights California
- **Janet Kelly**, Founder & Executive Director, Sanctuary of Hope
- **Chris Martin**, Policy Director, Housing California)
- **Janey Rountree**, Executive Director, California Policy Lab at UCLA
- **Emilio Salas**, Executive Director, Los Angeles County Development Authority
- **Miguel Santana**, Chief Executive Officer, Weingart Foundation
- **Doug Shoemaker**, President, Mercy Housing
- **Sean Spear**, President & Chief Executive Officer, Community HousingWorks
- **Roxanne Wilson**, Homeless Services Director, County of Monterey

## II. Consent Calendar

There was one item on the Consent Calendar: *Adoption of the [Meeting Summary from the May 21, 2024, Advisory Committee Meeting](#)*

**Ludmilla Bade:** Provided clarification on her comments regarding the Action Plan discussion as summarized in the meeting notes from May.

Ludmilla Bade made a motion to vote on the item and Jody Ketcheside seconds the motion. Motion passes to approve consent calendar

*Public Comment:* No Committee Members made comments.

**Vote:** The Committee voted to approve the Consent Calendar with 16 members voting yes, 1 member abstaining, and 14 members absent during the vote.

## III. Executive Officer Updates

**Meghan Marshall:** Provided an update regarding Governor's Executive Order 124, issued in response to the Supreme Court decision in Grant Pass v. Johnson. This order directs state departments to develop internal policies aimed at addressing encampments on state property in a humane and urgent manner.

**Alex Visotzky:** Stressed that the sustainable solution lies in connecting people to the services and housing they need. Highlighted the need for city, county, and state entities to collaborate rather than assign blame. Underscored the importance of keeping people at the center of conversations about encampments, noting that effective solutions take time—often longer than 48 to 72 hours. Believed that true progress in addressing homelessness will come from coordinated efforts across different levels of government.

## IV. Action Plan Core Elements Overview

### [Action Plan Core Elements Overview](#)

**Cody Zeger:** Presented the core elements of the Action Plan, summarizing progress made toward developing its goals. The revised mission emphasizes creating, “An equitable and just California in which homelessness is rare, brief, and never more than a one-time experience.” The guiding principles aim to equip Council members with tools to uphold commitments to equity and justice, particularly through a Housing First approach. Key goals include increasing housing availability, reducing the inflow of homelessness, assisting individuals in transitioning from unsheltered to sheltered living, and promoting movement into permanent housing. Data from the HDIS system, encompassing HMIS data from 44 CoCs, reveals racial and ethnic disparities in homelessness. The plan's goals include measuring the impact of initiatives, improving connections to health and social services, and addressing the needs of underrepresented communities, particularly Indigenous populations. Each goal is supported by specific indicators to track progress and ensure effective resource allocation.

**Reba Stevens:** As the numbers keep climbing, especially regarding the overrepresentation of Black people, we need to rethink our approach. We need to consider shifting our terminology from "homelessness" to "houselessness." If we truly want to talk about equity, we must increase access to resources for all Californians, particularly those disproportionately affected beyond

just the tribal community. To be honest about today's climate, we need to analyze the data and address areas that have long been ignored, particularly the issues facing Black people across California.

**Cody Zeger:** Focusing on data related to our goals, we are specifically highlighting the disparities faced by African American, Black, and Indigenous communities and plan to break down this data to better understand the existing disparities.

**Reba Stevens:** Emphasized the importance of the language we use, particularly regarding "homelessness," as it can be demeaning and stigmatizing.

**Cody Zeger:** Discussed the first goal is to create over 2.5 million homes by 2030, with at least one million for extremely low-income households, addressing inequities faced by Black and Indigenous communities. The second goal aims to reduce the inflow into homelessness by improving the ratio of people entering versus exiting homelessness, while analyzing racial inequities and access to prevention services. The third goal focuses on helping individuals leave unsheltered homelessness by increasing the number of people moving into emergency or permanent housing. The fourth goal is to facilitate more transitions to permanent housing, tracking racial disparities. The fifth goal seeks to improve connections to health and social services, ensuring access to benefits like medical care for those experiencing homelessness. Lastly, the sixth goal aims to prevent repeat homelessness, with a baseline showing that 91% of individuals who moved into permanent housing did not return to homelessness within six months. We acknowledge that data on Native American and Indigenous communities is likely undercounted, emphasizing the need for better data collection.

**Reba Stevens:** Questioned how accurate the input is that creates the data and whether all county systems are the same. She expressed concern that people are responsible for inputting this information, raising questions about whether the process itself is fair and equitable.

**Jody Ketcheside:** Stated the accuracy of the information depends on what people report since it's mostly self-reported. The HMIS administrator checks the data regularly. The systems aren't the same across the state; different software is used. While the data collected is consistent, systems can look and work differently.

**Cody Zeger:** Addressed Reba's point, if we tie our success to these systems, we need to provide the resources for accurate data input. Cal ICH is collaborating with local partners to clarify confusing data. It's important to note that people experiencing homelessness who aren't accessing services won't be included in the system, which means we may be missing important information. We need to acknowledge the limitations of our data and recognize that these numbers may not reflect the full picture.

**Moriah McGill:** Commented on the inclusion of the Native American population, as it feels inspiring and shows that we're doing a good job advocating for representation and equitable access to services in California. In the past, we struggled to secure funding for housing development, and accurate data from reservations and tribal communities. It's a misconception that every tribe is a gaming tribe with excess money. It took the passing of AB 110 for us to finally receive funding through HCD, even though we've been considered experienced developers. Point-in-time counts often don't include tribal lands, but I want to applaud Mendocino County for conducting a count on tribal lands.

**Jevon Wilkes:** Emphasized the importance of improving infrastructure for unhoused youth, especially unaccompanied and system-involved youth. The data shows 16,947 unaccompanied youth and over 70,000 in families experiencing homelessness, particularly affecting the Black community. Systems like education, juvenile justice, and foster care contribute to this issue.

**Cody Zeger:** Added that the research team can access demographic data in the HMIS, allowing goals to be analyzed by age, race, ethnicity, and gender. We can explore how these goals affect youth and young adults differently.

**Sharon Rapport:** Addressing the reasons behind the rise in homelessness is crucial despite state and local investments. Recognizing that the homeless response system alone isn't enough, we must consider how justice, child welfare, and healthcare systems disproportionately affect Black and Indigenous populations. Including data on exits from these systems into homelessness in our goals would be beneficial. Improving connections between health and social services and integrating data from systems like Medicaid can help us understand overlaps. **Emphasizing** that affordable housing is vital, we cannot rely solely on the homeless response system for prevention.

**Cody Zeger:** Clarified that the term "exploring" in the goal to reduce inflow reflects our ongoing discussions about how to frame this issue. We're not prioritizing prevention over exits; rather, we aim to reduce the ratio of people entering homelessness by both preventing homelessness and increasing the number of exits each year.

**Charlene Dimas-Peinado:** Stated it's crucial to understand why people return to unsheltered status so we can address that issue. Emphasized the importance of improving connections to health and social services. Right now, California's healthcare system is in crisis, with overcrowded emergency rooms and difficulty scheduling appointments. Proposition 35 is to enhance the healthcare system, as a potential solution to help connect unhoused individuals to necessary services.

**Cody Zeger:** Guiding our focus and energy in addressing homelessness, the goals emphasize celebrating the success rate of individuals moving into permanent housing, highlighting that housing and supportive services are key solutions. Investigating what isn't working for others is essential, including analyzing specific locations or types of housing.

**Ludmilla Bade:** Noticed that the percentages are not attached to the packet and would like those breakdowns in a form that can be shared and reviewed. It would be helpful to have a separate line for inflow and outflow, along with a total number of people experiencing homelessness. Lifted goal five, which focuses on improving connections to health and social services. While having more affordable housing is essential, we should track how many people are going to drop-in centers, connecting with social services, and accessing hospital services. It's vital to know not just who is receiving benefits but also who is showing up for additional services. Even imperfect numbers could be valuable in understanding how we can reduce homelessness and connect people with support.

**Cody Zeger:** Raising important questions, these high-level goals invite further exploration. Focusing on goal five, we're interested in understanding the types of interventions and social services people are accessing. Identifying the lack of information on drop-in centers, we need to investigate how to obtain that data.

**Alex Visotzky:** Highlighted the importance of stable funding sources and effective system models for improving permanent housing placements and Medi-Cal enrollments, noting frustration when state actions deviate from best practices. Emphasized that this advisory committee is the right venue for those discussions, as webinars may lack the needed depth.

**Megan Van Sant:** Questioned the accuracy of data on Medi-Cal enrollment, noting misalignments in data systems and the lack of enrollment questions during data entry. She suggested that policy changes, such as extending Medi-Cal eligibility to three years and expanding CalWORKs eligibility for families who don't meet HUD definitions, would be more effective in preventing homelessness than simply tracking data.

**Cody Zeger:** Clarified we're currently working to connect HMIS with Medi-Cal and CalWORKs databases to improve data accuracy and understanding. However, the accuracy of this data is still uncertain. It's worth discussing whether the existing benefits are sufficient, and if people feel this isn't a significant issue, we might reconsider the need for goal five and focus on other measurable aspects.

**Megan Van Sant:** Stated most homeless individuals we engage are enrolled in Medi-Cal, especially those more stable in the community. A three-year enrollment period could improve access.

**Cody Zeger:** Stated we will gain more clarity with better data. If these are our goals, the Advisory Committee can explore what's needed to achieve them, including the policy changes suggested for goal five.

**Philip Mangano:** Raised questions about the high exits to permanent housing, asking if it includes self-resolved cases or those using rapid rehousing with temporary support. He inquired whether the number accessing housing includes time-limited subsidies and self-resolved exits, and how households versus individuals are counted. He also sought comparisons of these numbers to other states and parts of California, clarifying that the discussion of permanent housing refers to individuals, not households, and that the 349,000 figure reflects individuals.

**Cody Zeger:** Mentioned regarding permanent housing, we are discussing the number of individuals, not households, who moved into permanent housing.

**Philip Mangano:** Expressed concerns about the reliability of numbers related to people who self-resolve their housing situations. He noted that the claim of 20% of those accessing services moving into permanent housing seems high, especially compared to Los Angeles, which reported around 15,000 exits. He felt that the 70,000 figure appears inflated and emphasized the importance of comparing these numbers with the upcoming national AHAR report. If the 73,000 figure is inaccurate, it could lead to unrealistic goals.

**Reba Stevens:** Stated there are critical elements missing, particularly regarding empowerment. Reba emphasized the importance of empowering individuals to avoid returning to homelessness and connect with health and social services. She suggested that homelessness should be viewed as a brief experience and that individuals entering temporary spaces should gain skills to thrive in their communities. She expressed a desire to understand what services look like across California, not just in Los Angeles, and whether these services genuinely empower individuals to grow and succeed.

**Cody Zeger:** Highlighted we need to dive deeper into people's experiences and how we report that data.

**Vitka Eisen:** Highlighted challenges of Medi-Cal enrollment for people experiencing homelessness, especially those who are transient. Many individuals are enrolled in Medi-Cal services in one county but struggle to access care when moving to another county, indicating a systemic issue with social service enrollment rather than just coverage. She emphasized the need to improve these systems so that relocation doesn't hinder access to necessary care. Regarding emergency shelter and housing options for the unsheltered, she noted significant issues and stressed the importance of evaluating where people are offered to go and the effectiveness of those options.

**Al Ballesteros:** Raised the issue of creating more housing, specifically the plan for over 2.5 million homes. He suggested providing education on how this plan will be implemented and whether it will primarily rely on private sector investment. He emphasized the need to break down where these homes will be created across the state, as there are frequent inquiries about how this development works. He proposed adding this topic to a future discussion agenda.

**Cody Zeger:** Mentioned Cal ICH is working with the Department of Housing and Community Development to clarify housing goals and measurements, particularly by income level. He noted that at least one million homes should serve lower-income households by 2030.

## **V. State Funding and Programs Working Group Project Overview**

**Cody Zeger:** Noted in late 2022, Cal ICH members sought input from the Advisory Committee on coordinating state funding and programs. In September 2023, the Committee provided recommendations in a memo, and after Council questions, Cal ICH staff proposed action steps. One key recommendation was to reduce administrative burdens by requesting the State Funding and Programs Working Group to standardize funding application questions, reporting requirements, outcomes, and definitions.

**Sarah Poss, Co-chair of the State Funding Working Group (SFP):** Focused on streamlining state funding deployment, creating clearer standards for housing and service interventions, and addressing challenges for smaller communities in securing state funding. Grantees have raised concerns about the administrative burden from complex reporting requirements, varying definitions, and insufficient administrative allocations. The group is focusing on specific program elements to streamline the process, with the aim to apply recommendations across multiple funding programs using existing resources.

**Cody Zeger:** Seeking input on additional survey elements, specific programs for review, and recommendations for adjusting the timeline or next steps. Suggestions for partner input are also welcome.

**Alex Visotzky:** Suggested including an education component for legislative budget staff to address barriers from statutory requirements. He highlighted the surprise over new monthly reporting requirements for HHAP 6, showing the need to educate legislators to prevent future administrative burdens.

**Sharon Rapport:** Suggested that collaborating with the legislature is key to keeping them informed, and a table listing funding sources and uses for local grantees would help HCD

understand community coordination, identify gaps, and provide insights into funding distribution and needs across programs.

**Cody Zeger:** Explained that the survey aims to gather information to update the strategic spending guide, which details key state and federal funding sources for housing and homelessness and their potential uses.

**Ludmilla Bade:** Expressed concern about grouping all eligible activities together, which could lead to missed opportunities for specific funding uses. She suggested separating general activities from project-specific ones to reduce confusion and improve clarity. A clear breakdown of what each funding stream covers, such as capital expenditures or outreach, would save time and help providers better align with funding priorities, especially for areas like health or permanent supportive housing.

**Cody Zeger:** Clarified that the goal is not to make all programs the same but to streamline processes and reduce the administrative burden on recipients while allowing each program to fulfill its intended purpose.

## **VI. General Public Comment**

**Muriel Strand, activist in Sacramento:** Started focusing on homelessness early in COVID. Observed that when local jurisdictions receive funding, a significant portion often goes toward staff costs instead of direct services for the homeless, who need essentials like water, food, and stability.

**Arlene Hipp, Oakland, California:** Stated while there's a mention of valuing lived experiences in program design, there were no references to implementing those suggestions. The focus on "housing first" is insufficient, as not everyone is ready to move into an apartment; we need multiple layers of support for the unhoused. Asked if workforce development is part of the discussions on supportive housing, considering the diverse needs across California's counties.

## **VII. Final Remarks and Adjournment**

**Cody Zeger:**

Next Council Meeting: December 3, 2024, at 1:00pm

Next Advisory Committee meeting: November 12, 2024, at 1:00 pm

Adjourned the meeting at 3:03pm