

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

November 12, 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 1:10 pm.

Advisory Committee Members Present:

- **Ludmilla Bade**, Homelessness Advocate
- **Al Ballesteros**, Chief Executive Officer, JWCH Institute
- **Samantha Batko**, Principal Research Associate, Urban Institute
- **Joe Colletti**, Chief Executive Officer, Hub for Urban Initiatives
- **Jennifer Hark Dietz**, Chief Executive Officer, PATH
- **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
- **Moriah McGill**, Housing Development Construction Manager, Northern Circle Indian Housing Authority
- **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
- **Jevon Wilkes**, Executive Director, California Coalition for Youth
- **Roxanne Wilson**, Homeless Services Director, County of Monterey

Advisory Committee Members Not Present:

- **Doug Bond**, President & Chief Executive Officer, Amity Foundation
- **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
- **Dora Gallo**, President & Chief Executive Officer, A Community of Friends
- **Eric Harris**, Director of Public Policy, Disability Rights California
- **Philip Mangano**, President & Chief Executive Officer, American Round Table to Abolish Homelessness
- **Luana Murphy**, President & Chief Executive Officer, Exodus Recovery
- **Janey Rountree**, Executive Director, California Policy Lab at UCLA
- **Miguel Santana**, Chief Executive Officer, Weingart Foundation
- **Sean Spear**, President & Chief Executive Officer, Community HousingWorks

II. Consent Calendar

There was one item on the Consent Calendar: *Adoption of the [Meeting Summary from the August 22, 2024, Advisory Committee Meeting.](#)*

Jody Ketcheside made a motion to vote on the item and Jevon Wilkes seconded the motion. Motion passed to approve consent calendar.

Public Comment: No public comments made.

Vote: The Committee voted to approve the Consent Calendar with 13 members voting yes, 1 member abstaining, and 15 members absent during the vote.

Note: Upon review the Advisory Committee did not have quorum during the vote. The August 22nd meeting summary will be included in the February 5th meeting consent calendar.

III. Executive Officer Updates

Director Cody Zeger informed the Committee that Cal ICH Executive Officer, Megan Marshall, is not present, so there will be no executive officer updates. The new Cal ICH Director of External Affairs, Erica Costa, introduced herself to the Committee and stated that she will oversee communications and legislative work on behalf of Cal ICH moving forward. Director Costa described her previous background in the State legislature and how her expertise will be used to develop a strategy to strengthen Cal ICH's relationships with the legislature, State departments, and the public.

IV. Local Initiatives Division: Strengthening Connections Through Resources and Innovation

Courtney Tacker announced her new position as the Cal ICH Director of Policy and Innovation. Two projects developed by the Cal ICH Local Initiatives team were showcased to collect feedback on how to promote these resources and ensure the resources are relevant for local communities. These two projects, the Cal ICH Resource Library and the STEP-UP HEART, are described in [the presentation here](#).

Reba Stevens: Emphasized the importance of the language we use, particularly regarding "emergency disaster preparedness." Encouraged ensuring messaging around this idea is reaching the intended subpopulations effectively.

Courtney Tacker: Agreed these are important considerations in messaging of the toolkit as Cal ICH finalizes and distributes this resource.

Cody Zeger: Explained how the presented resources tie into the Action Plan and acknowledged that the goal of preventing and ending homelessness should be center to these resources.

Jody Ketcheside: Suggested trying to post the STEP-UP toolkit onto the HUD exchange website, California State department websites, and to Public Housing Authorities (PHAs) websites across the state.

Janet Kelly (in chat): Asked if the feedback incorporated when developing these resources were informed by people with lived experience living in rural areas, indigenous communities, and people living with disabilities.

Courtney Tacker: Shared that feedback was provided by the Cal ICH Lived Experience Advisory Board (LEAB), whose members represent a wide variety of perspectives.

Cody Zeger: Reminded the group that this is only the first step in the publication of these resources, so Cal ICH is open to incorporating feedback that could address other populations not covered by these resources thus far.

Jevon Wilkes: Asked if the department of Housing and Community Development (HCD) and the Department of Health Care Services (DHCS) collaborated with the STEP-UP group to develop these resources.

Courtney Tacker: Shared that Cal ICH staff are currently working with HCD to join the STEP-UP group.

Emilio Salas: Reflected on experiences during previous emergency disasters that led to contact with individuals experiencing homelessness specifically by disaster response teams, rather than typical housing navigators. Salas recommended providing these resources and guides to disaster response teams so they can be better equipped to serve the unhoused population.

Courtney Tacker: Agreed and verified that this is intended to be a resource for local emergency managers and leadership within homelessness and housing space.

Joe Colletti: Asked Cal ICH staff if they have considered promoting materials by podcast.

Courtney Tacker: Shared that Cal ICH staff are always open to suggestions or additional ideas such as this.

Moriah McGill: Suggested adding information about the Tribal Resource hub.

Courtney Tacker: Confirmed that Cal ICH intends to include tribes in future iterations as STEP-UP continues to expand this document and develop additional resources.

V. Action Plan

Director Zeger announced that the updated Action Plan to Prevent and End Homelessness is near completion and Cal ICH staff seeks to present this updated draft for adoption during the next Council meeting. Director Zeger shared an overview of the Plan that included a development timeline, vision statement, guiding principles, racial equity framework, five specific goals, investments and leveraged funding sources, and an implementation plan.

Advisory Committee members were asked to discuss how Cal ICH can ensure the Plan is shared with and utilized by all sectors that members represent and how the Council can best ensure effective implementation.

Sharon Rapport: Provided feedback pertaining to the first goal of the Action Plan, suggesting that extremely low and acutely low-income households are at the highest risk of homelessness and should be prioritized rather than low and very low-income households. Rapport also recommended revising the fifth goal to ensure that people who are moved into permanent housing don't exit back into homelessness in at least two years, rather than the currently stated six months.

Cody Zeger: Explained that the language and income levels used to assess households in the first goal was determined by metrics used in Housing Elements and that the data collected to measure this goal will assess the creation of housing units impacting households of all income levels.

Alex Visotzky: Expressed agreement with Rapport's comment regarding goal five and explained that the way rapid rehousing and other programs are structured, retaining permanent housing for only six months might not be a good indicator of success. Visotzky recommended a two-year look-back on housing retention, similar to evaluations done in Los Angeles County under Measure A.

Cody Zeger: Confirmed that data used to track progress towards these goals can be disaggregated to determine specific metrics, thus allowing this type of look-back.

Reba Stevens: Asked what the current percentage of people experiencing homelessness enrolled in Medi-Cal and CalWORKS, in reference to goal four. Stevens also inquired about the methods that will be used to achieve goal five.

Cody Zeger: Explained that the current percentage of this population referenced by goal four has not yet been determined because it requires the combination of two separate data sets across State departments, which is still being integrated. Stated that goal five is intended to be achieved by following the activities in the Action Plan.

Samantha Batko: Asked if the population referenced by the second goal will be only individuals who have been engaged in street outreach, considering that there is no current method to accurately capture the number of all people experiencing unsheltered homelessness.

Cody Zeger: Confirmed that all data captured to assess these metrics come from service utilization, so only individuals interacting with the homeless response system can be measured. Agreed to explore ways in which the language of this goal can be revised to explain this assessment.

Megan Van Sant: Asked for further clarity regarding this second goal, specifically if housing status of the unsheltered individual will be determined within a year of interaction.

Cody Zeger: Verified that individuals will be counted towards this goal if they were unsheltered at the time or unsheltered immediately before interaction with housing services and resolved in a positive way.

Al Ballesteros: Recommended the addition of sub-goals under goal four, which could measure and ensure that a certain percentage of individuals exiting homelessness into permanent housing are connected to services like Medi-Cal and CalWORKs. Emphasized the importance of connecting these individuals with support services and case management because that often leads to positive housing outcomes and retention.

Reba Stevens: Asked how the racial equity framework and goals are going to be safeguarded against any changes that may be implemented by future state and federal administrations. Stevens expressed frustration in the need to routinely emphasize the demand for racial equity initiatives because intervention is necessary immediately but does not seem to be happening. Stevens emphasized the negative outcomes suffered by the Black/African American population across the country.

Cody Zeger: Acknowledged that it can be frustrating when these important strategies seem to always be in the planning stage rather than implementing immediate change. Assured the committee that the racial equity work framework will be used to guide Council departments as they implement the actions in the Plan and will not be put off for several years. Mentioned that the Cal ICH Racial Equity Working Group is currently preparing to provide technical assistance to these departments to guide the implementation of programs in a way that will impact the people most disproportionately affected by homelessness.

Ludmilla Bade: Suggested that the implementation plan should indicate specific dates.

Alex Visotzky: Stated that the incoming federal administration plans an approach to address homelessness that is directly contradictory to the principals in this Action Plan. Visotzky urged that the Council should think about ways to defend elements of the Plan, including the protection of Housing First policy, data and documentation, racial equity, DEI, and the rights of people who are transgender.

Cody Zeger: Confirmed that Cal ICH staff intends to discuss this matter with the Council.

Ludmilla Bade: Asked if there were any identified areas of policy overlap between this Action Plan and the plans of the incoming federal administration, for the purpose of implementing these strategies with greater ease. Bade also recommended that strategies should be implemented on the local level to ensure that they are impactful.

Jevon Wilkes: Advocated for additional data regarding encampments, especially considering the Grants Pass decision and the recent executive order from the California Governor's office. Wilkes added an emphasis on high school graduation rate data, citing that young people without high school diplomas experience homelessness at higher rates. Wilkes also warned about a resulting risk to Point-in-Time Count data accuracy, which may affect future funding allocations.

Cody Zeger: Acknowledged the desire to integrate data from the California Department of Education (CDE) and confirmed that the Action Plan describes differences between HDIS data and McKinney-Vento data.

Ludmilla Bade: Described an issue in some local communities where local code enforcement officers declare RVs and other vehicles unsafe so that the vehicle can be subject to removal by the Governor's executive order.

Cody Zeger: Acknowledged comments in the chat around presenting the plan to faith-based networks and regional convenings.

VI. General Public Comment

Ruth: Expressed skepticism that Homekey is creating units and instead has eliminated units that people experiencing homelessness used to rent from previous hotel owners. Ruth suggested that non-profit owners and the housing authority in Los Angeles have acquired units that were previously rent controlled and now seem to be sitting vacant.

Brendan Dixon: Introduced themselves as a member of the newly formed Cal ICH Youth and Young Adult Working Group and commended the open discussion about sensitive topics. Dixon also expressed appreciation about the conversation around the incoming federal administration and urged the support of elected leaders that are aligned the goals of this group.

Ayako Utsumi: Expressed curiosity regarding the equity goals of the Action Plan considering that many State-funded programs like Medi-Cal and CalAIM have regulations regarding the prioritization of people based on race and ethnicity.

VII. Final Remarks and Adjournment

Director Zeger closed the meeting and informed the group that the next Council Meeting will be held on December 3, 2024, while the next Advisory Committee meeting will be held on February 5, 2025.

The Cal ICH Advisory Committee Meeting was adjourned at 3:06 pm.